



Randolph Central School Corporation

November 18, 2020

Dear Randolph Central Parents/Guardians,

As all of you know the COVID-19 Pandemic has created many disruptions in your lives, in the community, and in our schools. I am sending this letter to explain and to inform parents and students of the two changes that will take effect on November 30, 2020, after the Thanksgiving holiday.

First: While most of the students are physically present in the classroom there have been significant numbers of students out of school in quarantine. Teachers are being required to provide quality instruction to the students in front of them as well as those in quarantine, but do not have the time they need to create eLearning lessons, to communicate with students and parents at home in quarantine, and to create assessments that work well for both students in quarantine and in the classroom.

To provide the necessary time for teachers to meet the needs of all students, in-school and quarantined, the Board of School Trustees took action tonight to adjust the start and dismissal of all five schools which will provide for an early dismissal (39 minutes) across the district as indicated in the chart below. While this may create some difficulties for families, the Board and administration felt this was the option that created the least disruption but still meets the needs of all our students, K-12.

NEW START AND DISMISSAL TIME FOR EACH SCHOOL

SCHOOL	START TIME	DISMISSAL TIME
Winchester Community High School (Doors Open at 7:50 AM)	8:08 AM	2:36 PM
Lee L. Driver Middle School (Doors Open at 7:50 AM)	8:08 AM	2:36 PM
Willard Elementary School (Doors Open at 8:00 AM)	8:25 AM	2:21 PM
O.R. Baker Elementary School (Doors Open at 7:45 AM)	8:20 AM	2:10 PM Bus Rider Dismissal 2:20 PM Kindergarten Pick-up 2:25 PM 1st & 2nd Pick-up
Deerfield Elementary School (Doors Open at 8:00 AM)	8:10 AM	2:16 PM

IMPACT ON BUS ROUTES:

1. **MORNING:** There are a few morning routes that will need to pick students up 10 minutes earlier to accommodate the high school and middle school start time being moved earlier. The bus driver will call to inform parents if a change in pick-up time is required. Other buses can accommodate this change by adjusting the order in which they drop students off at each school building.
2. **AFTERNOON:** All bus routes will arrive at each bus stop approximately 39 minutes earlier than before the Thanksgiving break.

Second: The number of close contact quarantines generated in-school at WCHS and DMS combined have averaged 114 per day from 11/2/20 to 11/16/20. The emotional toll on students when someone comes to the classroom to get them and send them home is significant. Many of these students have been quarantined three times. Once quarantined they have to secure their classwork through eLearning exclusively for the next 14 days. While we cannot affect the out-of-school caused quarantines we can impact these in-school generated quarantines by reducing the occupancy of the building thus allowing for more effective social distancing in the classroom and in the hallways. The recent surge of COVID-19 active positive cases in Randolph County has served to make this issue more severe.

The Board of School Trustees took action this evening to change Randolph Central School Corporation's level on the district's Reopening Plan from Plan A to Plan B effective November 30, 2020 and extending to December 18, 2020.

This means that all K-5 students (Baker, Deerfield, & Willard) will continue to attend brick and mortar school five days per week. The 6-12 students (WCHS & DMS) will shift to a hybrid model. Students will be designated in group A or B. Group A students will attend brick and mortar school on Monday & Wednesday. Group B students will attend brick and mortar school on Tuesday & Thursday. All 6-12 students will be eLearning on the weekdays they are not in brick and mortar school with both A & B groups eLearning on Friday. In other words, each 6-12 student will be in brick and mortar school 2 days per week and eLearning 3 days per week.

It is the desire of the Board of School Trustees and the Administration to inform you as soon as possible to provide time for each of your families to plan for these adjustments. These are not easy decisions and the Board knows these decisions will impact all of our families, some more than others. We believe these two adjustments will provide for continuity of quality instruction and keep our schools open during these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Rolland Abraham
Superintendent of Schools