



Teaching in the languages of our community: English, español, Português

October 1, 2020

Dear ICS Families:

I hope this finds you and your family well. I am writing to provide an update on our reopening plans.

Unless there are unforeseen events—such as a significant uptick in Covid cases in our communities—I anticipate that we will partially reopen in person on Monday, October 26 and will continue with the remote learning until that time. I will provide details of what went into this decision.

We are committed to bringing students and staff back to our building as soon as it is safe to do so in this time of a pandemic.

Community Spread

Community spread of Covid determines how we reopen. For the [week of 9/20-9/26](#), the rate of spread of Covid in three communities that many ICS families live in were all above 100/100,000 over a seven day period (Providence—123, Pawtucket—154, and Central Falls—181). A rate of fewer than 100/100,000 over a 7 day period is the threshold that the Governor has set for schools to return in full, in person. The current rate of spread contributes to our decision of a partial return at this time. We will continue to monitor these rates.

Ventilation

One key element to a safe reopening is adequate ventilation. You may recall that we learned about the standards for adequate ventilation during the pandemic on August 7. We are grateful that RIDE made us aware of ventilation standards to ensure the safety of our community, but learning of this at that time delayed us and schools across RI from being able to open our buildings before conducting inspections and conducting necessary renovations. Schools across the state began trying to get engineers and HVAC companies to assess and improve their ventilation systems causing delays. On Wednesday, 9/30 we had another walk-through with Steven Wilkinson of Wilkinson Engineering and Douglas Ainley of Mercury Tec to assess the capacity of our ventilation system to open school in a safe manner. Modifications for the overall system and to the isolation room are underway and they are confident that they can complete all of the improvements necessary by the week of October 19.

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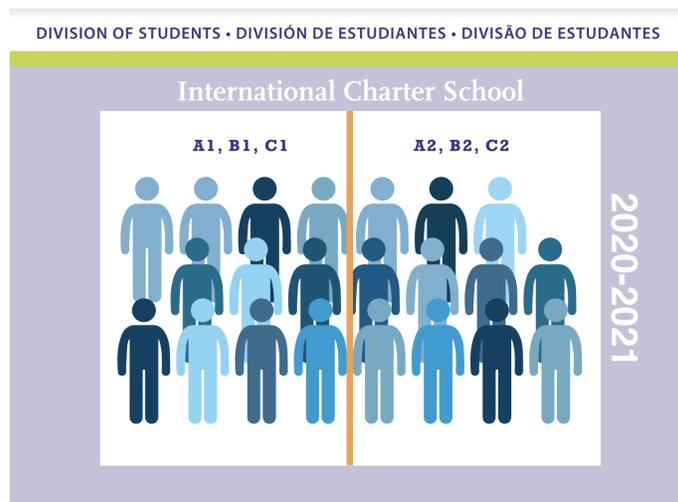


Social Distancing: Physical Space

In order to operate in the current facility, we require more space and modified furniture with social distancing requirements. We have purchased and renovated three properties which will give us more interior and exterior space and have undertaken significant renovations at 334 Pleasant St. We transformed a classroom into an isolation room—a requirement from the department of education—added two bathrooms and it’s own ventilation system to this room, and added an additional bathroom on the second floor. We have also worked with Mayor Grebien and Pawtucket officials to block off Tower St. to increase outdoor space. All of these renovations and street closure are on target to be completed by mid-October.

Social Distancing: # of Students

Being able to safely return requires having enough distance between students and staff in the building. To bring students back while being able to socially distance at 6 ft. we have divided our classes of 22 students into smaller groups of 11 so we can place tables and desks 6ft. apart.





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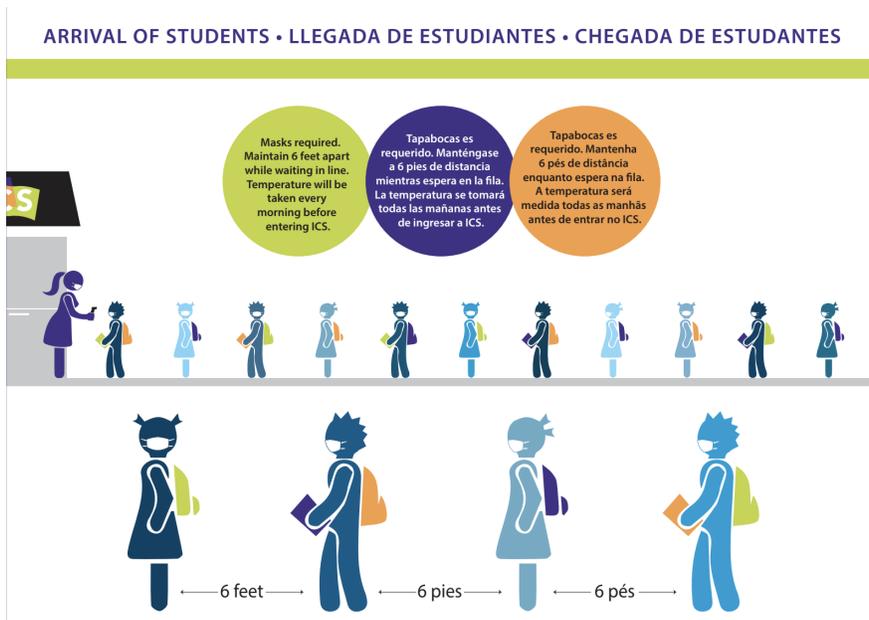
We created and have already been following the classroom-teacher focused/specials, social and emotional learning and technology teacher-focused schedule with groups 1 and 2 for this reason. We will continue to follow that schedule in the hybrid model when we return. That is, most students will spend one week physically at ICS and one week learning specials, social and emotional learning and technology from home.

Schedule

We know that there are some families that have chosen to have their children learn through distance learning even when we come back in person and that there are other students who will need to be in school as much as possible. In the coming couple of weeks we will be confirming student and family needs and providing you with details about your child’s individual schedule. We are also planning to bring our kindergarten students in to get oriented to the school before we bring other grades in. We will let you know the schedule for their return soon.

New Systems

We want to be sure that everyone is very familiar with the new systems—such as arrival, dismissal, and moving within the building. These have been developed and we will be providing you with details of our new systems in the coming weeks.





We can't wait to see your children!

We just ended the first full week of students meeting remotely with their teachers for full school days and we are witnessing many moments of joy with them. It is an understatement to say that we are very eager to bring students back.

I have scheduled an open question and answer Zoom meeting on Tuesday, October 6 from 6-7 pm for families. The link is [here](#).

And please stay safe: wear a mask, stay 6 ft. apart, and avoid large gatherings.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Julie Nora, Ph.D.

Director

C: Board of Trustees
Staff