



## Hybrid Learning at Otter Valley Union Middle and High School

October 2, 2020

On October 12th we will be shifting from our current remote learning model to a hybrid model of instruction. The hybrid model of learning is a combination of synchronized remote and in-person learning experiences for learners. It provides face-to-face learning opportunities for students, while incorporating remote learning to reduce the overall number of students in the building at any one time. To better balance our classes, we needed to split each grade level at different places in the alphabet. We will do our best to group students' with family members with differing last names, and will consider requests for changes due to extenuating circumstances.

Students will be split into two groups, Blue & White. **The Blue group will meet in-person on Mondays and Thursdays. The White group will meet in-person on Tuesdays and Fridays.** On the days that students are not on-campus, they will be learning remotely. It is critical that families impress upon their students the importance of consistently attending classes on the remote learning days. Attendance will be taken.

Wednesdays will be reserved for asynchronous learning and is considered a school day for all students. Therefore, students should expect to complete work for each class. To be counted present for that day, students will be required to log in with their Advisory Teacher through either Google Classroom or Google Meets at a time designated by the Advisor, **but** prior to 10:00 am

Grade	Blue	White
7th	A - K	L - Z
8th	A - L	M - Z
9th	A - K	L - Z
10th	A - L	M - Z
11th	A - K	L - Z
12th	A - M	N - Z



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### OV Master Schedule 2020-2021

(times may be adjusted based upon student enrollment)

7th	8th	9-12th
8:00-8:20 Advisory	8:00-8:20 Advisory	8:00-8:15 advisory
8:20-8:25 passing	8:20-8:25 passing	8:15--8:20 passing
8:25-9:35 Block 1	8:25-9:35 Block 1	8:20-9:35 Block 1
9:35-9:40 passing	9:35-9:40 passing	9:35-9:40 passing
9:40-10:50 Block 2	9:40-10:50 Block 2	9:45-10:55 Block 2
10:52-10:55 passing	10:50-10:55 passing	10:55-11:00 passing
10:55-11:10 Lunch A	10:55-11:35 Flextime	11:00-12:15 Block 3
11:10-11:15 passing	11:35-11:40 passing	12:20-12:35 Lunch C 12:40-1:10 Flextime
11:15-11:55 Flextime	11:40-11:55 Lunch B	
11:55-12:00 passing	11:55-12:00 passing	12:20-12:50 Flextime 12:55-1:10 Lunch D
12:00-1:10 Block 3	12:00-1:10 Block 3	
1:10-1:15 passing	1:10-1:15 passing	1:10-1:15 passing
1:15-2:30 Block 4	1:15-2:30 Block 4	1:15-2:30 Block 4

**Students will report to their Advisory during Flextime.**

**Fully Remote Option:** In addition to the hybrid model, families can also opt to have their child participate in fully remote learning from home. Please complete this form linked below by **October 7th** if your student will remain in remote learning. The decision to remain in remote learning will be in effect until the end of the semester at which time changes can be made to this learning opportunity.

[Students Who Are Remaining Remote Learners](#)



## Hybrid Learning at Otter Valley Union Middle and High School

### General Expectations

One of the most important expectations of our hybrid and remote learning plan is for students to become independent learners. The hybrid and remote environment has been very different this fall than last spring, but ultimately, students will need to take responsibility for their work and learn how to advocate for themselves. In order for students to do so, and in order for us to provide continuing educational support for meaningful and relevant learning experiences, students are expected to:

- Advocate for their learning by contacting teachers, guidance counselors, and administrators for help;
- Maintain academic integrity by submitting work that reflects their own efforts and learning;
- Engage in Google Classrooms and check RNESU email daily;
- Attend remote synchronous learning;
- Meet daily expectations in each course for check ins and engaging in course work;
- Be available for teacher contact during the traditional school day hours;
- Respond to teacher emails within one school day;
- Schedule time during teachers' remote learning office hours if they have questions or need additional support;
- Bring their chromebooks, earbuds and power cords to school on their in-person school days;
- Charge their chromebooks nightly in order to reduce the need to charge their chromebooks at school;
- Communicate regularly using Google Classroom to submit work. Students can use Google Stream, Google Chat, Google Assignments and your RNESU email account to communicate/share and ask questions;
- Follow the expectations set by the teacher for group and individual assignments;
- Regularly update their Chromebooks and contact tech support at, [support@rnesu.org](mailto:support@rnesu.org), within 24 hours if they have a technology issue;
- Due to the limitations caused by COVID-19, students will remain in their Advisories during Flex Time unless they have prior approval from a faculty member.

### Daily Health Screenings

#### **Before Arrival**

All students/their families should conduct daily monitoring for COVID-19 exposure and symptoms.

If a child or adult meets any of the following conditions, that individual **must STAY HOME and contact their primary care provider:**



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1. Anyone who has **had exposure**\* with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
2. Anyone who is **currently quarantining** with COVID-like symptoms.
3. Anyone who **has two or more signs/symptoms** listed below or is feeling generally unwell:
  - Cough
  - Fever (100.4 or greater)
  - Shortness of breath
  - Chills
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle pain or body aches
  - Headache
  - Sore throat
  - Loss of taste or smell
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea (diarrhea is defined as frequent loose or watery stools compared to child's normal pattern)

*\*Based on the VDH's current knowledge, a **close contact** is someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness onset until the time the patient is isolated.*

If a student is staying home due to quarantining or illness, parents/guardians need to notify the school to report the absence. School staff may then ask follow-up questions regarding symptoms and exposure.

### **Healthy students and staff with the following symptoms/conditions are not excluded from in-person school activities:**

- *Allergy symptoms* (with no fever) that cause coughing and *clear runny nose* may stay if they have medically diagnosed allergies and follow medical treatment plans.
- *Well-controlled asthma*
  - Students with documented allergies or well-controlled asthma do NOT require a medical clearance note from a healthcare provider to enter school. However, a child with a new diagnosis of asthma during the school year does require written confirmation from the student's healthcare provider.



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### Upon Arrival

Health screenings will need to be completed for all students and staff on entrance to the school building. Health screening includes answering a health questionnaire, having a temperature reading with a touchless thermometer and hand sanitizing.

All students are strongly encouraged to fill out online health screening questions each morning before arrival to school, this includes students arriving by bus, driving, or parent/guardian drop-off. **Parents are asked to complete the form to expedite the screening process.**

[RNESU Student Daily Health Screening](#)

[RNESU Health Screening Form](#)

Students who have COVID-19 exposure, or signs/symptoms of COVID-19 must not come to school or will be returned to their parent/guardian as soon as possible.

### **If above signs and symptoms begin while at school:**

The student must be sent home as soon as possible. Students will be assessed and isolated from well students, with limited staff contact, as much as reasonably possible, while ensuring the safety and supervision of the sick student(s) until they leave. The student will be given a surgical mask to wear while in the isolation room.

To maintain safety precautions, at this time, only staff and students are permitted in the schools, unless there is a scheduled appointment.

### **Buses and Transportation**

1. Daily Health Checks will be conducted on all students and staff. Any student that does not pass the Daily Health Check should not ride the bus and parents will be required to pick their child up from school.
2. Every student entering the bus will use the hand sanitizer provided.
3. Masks are required on the bus at all times for all students and staff, per order of the Governor and Agency of Education. Consequences for refusing to wear a mask will result in having bus privileges revoked immediately. If and when the student is willing to comply with mandatory mask wearing requirements, they will be allowed back on the bus. If a student has a second offense to the mandatory mask requirement, they will be suspended from the bus for a prolonged or indefinite length of time.
4. Assigned seating will be required. Students in the same family unit and grade span may be required to sit together. Otherwise, students will sit by age group on the bus (younger students in the front, middle-age students in the middle, older students in the back)
5. Physical distancing practices between students will be required on the bus and at the bus stop (when applicable).



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6. Staggered drop off and loading times will be implemented to ensure that students can continuously practice safe physical distancing.
  7. All students are required to follow the Bus Driver's and Bus Monitor's directions immediately; students will remain completely seated, facing forward, with their full body out of the aisle.
  8. Students will use quiet, acceptable language only and respect other people, their space, possessions, and all equipment.
- **(NEW)** [Safety and Health Guidance for Reopening Schools, Fall 2020](#) (Co-issued with Vermont Department of Health 6/17)

*School bus transportation is a privilege available to students across the SU.*

## Physical Distancing and Modified Layouts

- Student desks will be spaced apart in the classroom.
- Marks may be placed where students will need to line up to indicate physical distancing.
- There will be markings on the walls/floors to show travel flow and distance.
- Traffic patterns will be established and scheduling modifications will be made that provide for maximum physical distancing among groups and allow for one-way travel in corridors.
- Sharing of materials will be limited.
- Lockers will not be available for use until further notice. Students should be prepared to organize their materials with backpacks, and families should contact the school if one is needed or if there are extenuating circumstances. Teachers will share information about shared materials such as lab equipment, physical education equipment, art supplies and tools, etc. Frequently used materials and equipment will be disinfected regularly according to AOE and VDH guidelines.
- Student supplies will be assigned to a single student (art supplies, lab equipment, computer equipment) or cleaned in-between use.

## Early Dismissals

Early pickup procedure for Parent/Guardians:

- Please contact the main office to notify staff that you will be picking up your child.
- Parents/guardians will not enter the building for pick-up.
- Students will be escorted from class to the school's main entrance for release to parent/guardian upon parent/guardian arrival.
- Students will be released using the main entrance.



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### Entering the Building

Students are required to use hand sanitizer located at the entrances of the building upon arrival.

### Entering Classroom Spaces

Use the hand sanitizer, located inside the classrooms and other work spaces.

### When in the Classroom

Use hand sanitizer. Sanitizers can quickly reduce the number of germs on hands in many situations.

However, sanitizer:

- does not get rid of all types of germs.
- may not be as effective when hands are visibly dirty or greasy.
- might not remove harmful chemicals from hands like pesticides and heavy metals.
- does not remove food proteins (of common food allergens).

### Facial Coverings and Personal Protective Equipment

Per the “Strong and Healthy Start” AOE guidelines:

*All staff and students are required to wear facial coverings while in the building, as well as outside where physical distancing cannot be maintained. CDC recommends facial coverings in settings where other physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.*

- ★ Instructions for making, wearing and washing facial coverings can be found on the [CDC](#) and [VDH websites](#).

Cloth facial coverings or masks will be provided to any student who needs one. Students and staff can provide their own cloth facial coverings or masks as long as it covers their nose, mouth, and chin. **Bandanas, gaiters and buffs are not acceptable.**

### The following stipulations are for students, as well as staff, where applicable:

- Students must exit their vehicle or bus wearing a facial covering.
- Adults doing drop-off and pick-up should wear facial coverings.
- It is recommended that students have at least two facial coverings at school each day.
- Facial coverings may be removed during outdoor activities where students and staff can maintain physical distancing and have ready access to put them back on as needed when activity stops.
- Staff will teach about and reinforce the use of cloth facial coverings among each other and students.
- AOE guidelines indicate that students should not wear face shields, however a face shield may be used as a second option if a facial covering is not tolerated. This option can be



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explored with the school team.

### **Facial Covering Refusal/Exemption:**

As stated in the AOE guidelines, [A Strong and Healthy Start](#), “Students who have a medical or behavioral reason for not wearing a facial covering should not be required to wear one. These decisions should be made in partnership with the health care provider and school nurse.”  
*Please contact the school nurse prior to coming to school.*

- ★ There will be a few students, who for medical and/or behavioral/sensory reasons, will be unable to wear a facial covering. While these instances will be rare, school personnel will strive to ensure that appropriate safety measures/health considerations for all students and staff involved are considered.
- ★ While we will have to keep each situation confidential, please know that stigma, discrimination, or bullying will be addressed if these harmful or inappropriate behaviors are directed towards those (wearing or) not wearing a facial covering.

**Meals** - At the start of our hybrid model, lunch will be “grab and go” in the cafeterias. The kitchen/lunch line portion of the cafeteria will not be open for students. Desks have been set up in the cafeterias so that students will remain six feet apart during the lunch period. We will adjust this process as further guidance is received from the VT Agency of Education and the VT Department of Health. Sanitation of the lunch rooms will occur between lunch sessions.

**Breaks** - Teachers are also encouraged to take classes outside so instruction can occur without masks, though with appropriate distancing.

**Restrooms** - No more than two students will be allowed in restrooms at any time. Staff will monitor restrooms to ensure no more than two students at a time are using the restrooms. Restrooms will be sanitized during each block.

**Water Fountains** - Water fountains will be disconnected with the exception of the water bottle fillers. Students are encouraged to use a water bottle throughout the day to stay hydrated. Students should wash and sanitize their hands prior to and after use of fountains.

**Field Trips** - In-state field trips will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with specific regard to the ability of the venue to accommodate students in a safe manner in accordance with AOE and VDH guidance. In order for field trips to occur, all health guidance as well as guidance from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development must be followed. Out-of-state field trips are postponed until further notice.

**Building Use & Visitors**- Public use of school grounds is permitted; however, public use of the building is not permitted. All requests must be made through Steven Keith, Activities Director.





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**Arrival and Dismissal-** Procedures for arrival and dismissal will be more complex and restrictive than previous years and may change based on guidance.

- Students arriving by bus will be discharged on the south side of the school at the large cafeteria exterior door or at the entrance to the science / music hallway. Lines should form outside of the building, on the walkway, and students will use the OV emblems as guidelines for social distancing. All students will have their temperatures checked by a staff member. All students will be asked to use hand sanitizer upon arrival at the school. Hand sanitizer stations will be set up at entryways and exits.
- Student drivers or students dropped off by parents will access the screening process by entering the building through the lobby doors, at the front of the school. Students will need to maintain social distancing while awaiting screening. After they have their temperatures checked by a staff member, all students will be asked to use hand sanitizer.
- Students will be expected to leave the building at the conclusion of the school day, unless they are under the supervision of a coach or teacher, as cleaning and sanitation of the school building will take place in the afternoon. Sports and activities will begin later in the afternoon and students cannot remain in the building.

**Cleaning and Disinfecting** - Students and staff will be asked to do what they can to keep our learning community safe. This includes, but is not limited to: washing hands frequently, wiping down desks, sanitizing hands, and wearing a mask. Students will not be required to sanitize desks in the classrooms.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we move to this next phase of teaching and learning.

*James Avery*

James Avery  
Principal

*Kristine Evarts*

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Sp. Ed. Coordinator

*Geoff Lawrence*

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