

— WELCOME —  
BACK TO SCHOOL



**Ryder Elementary School**  
**PreK-2nd Grade**  
**2020-2021**



# COBLESKILL-RICHMONDVILLE

## CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the  
Ryder Elementary Principal

Jessie Westfall  
Principal

September 4, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope that you are enjoying your summer with your families and have had the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful weather we've had! The summer is quickly coming to an end with only 1 week before we welcome back students for the 2020-2021 school year.

**The first day for all students will be Monday, September 14, 2020. The Ryder school day for students in Kindergarten - 2nd grade will start at 8:00 a.m. and end at 2:00 p.m. Students in our PreK program will start their day at 8:00 a.m. and end at 12:00 p.m.** We are very excited to welcome our students back to Ryder for another exciting year of learning and growth. The building is in fantastic shape and the hallways and classrooms are sparkly clean and looking ready for staff and students.

The administration and staff at Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School District have spent countless hours this summer preparing, modifying, updating, changing, and researching best practices and protocols related to COVID-19 and the health and safety of all students and staff members. As we approach a school year unlike any other, I wanted to let you know of a few additions and changes that are necessary for this school year:

- **Classrooms:** Students will be cohorts of 11-16 students in each classroom. They will have recess daily and students in Kindergarten-2nd grade will also have a special area class daily.
- **Birthday Treats:** All classroom and birthday treats need to be store bought (not homemade), individually wrapped and prepackaged.
- **Water Bottles:** We encourage you to send in a reusable, filled water bottle (labeled with your child's name), on a daily basis for your child to use. We will not be using the water fountains in our building this year.
- **Masks:** Each student will be provided with 2 cloth masks and 1 lanyard for them to use at school. We will also have back-up surgical masks for students to use if they forget theirs at home. We understand that the first week or two of school will involve teaching and learning about our new safety procedures, including wearing masks. Please note that if after this learning period, a child does not have a mask on, they will be offered one to wear. If they refuse to wear the one that is offered expect a call from the principal and it is likely that your child will need to be sent home for the day.

- **Mask Breaks:** Teachers will facilitate short (2-3 minute) mask breaks in elementary classrooms/cohorts at least twice each day: one at mid-morning and once at mid-afternoon. During mask breaks, students should engage in solitary work/activities and should not socialize with other students. Mask breaks will be afforded to students in the same classroom on a “rolling basis,” with no more than one-half of the students in the room unmasked at any given time.
- **Supply Lists:** The supply lists for students in grades PreK-2 can be found on our district website at: [www.crcsd.org](http://www.crcsd.org).
- **Student Cubbies and Lockers:** Students in PreK-2 will have either a cubby or locker to use this year. These will be assigned to them, spaced out every other one. In addition, only 1 or 2 students will be allowed to use them at a time. Please only send in necessary and essential items with your child, as we want to limit and avoid students' belongings being intermingled.
- **Absence Notes:** If your child is absent from school for illness or any other reason, please call the Attendance Office (518-234-2585 ext. 2016) by 8:30 a.m. on the day your child is absent. If a phone call is not received, the attendance clerk will call the parents to inquire why the child is absent from school. Please send a note explaining the absence upon your child's return to school. If a written excuse is not received within 3 school days of a student's return, the absence will be recorded as an unexcused absence.
- **Visitors:** At this time, no outside visitors or guests will be permitted inside the Ryder building. Please contact the main office if you need assistance.

I want to thank you for your patience in allowing us to organize our reopening. The start of this school year certainly has been unlike any other. Normally you would know your child's teacher and details about the year much earlier than this, but with recreating the school day it has required us to utilize as much time as possible this summer. **The name of your child's teacher for the 2020-2021 school year is written on their name tag and you are also receiving a letter from them in this packet as well.**

**Please understand that if enrollment changes occur over the next two weeks, I may need to adjust class lists. This may result in your child's teacher changing prior to the first day of school.** I will contact you prior to the start of school if this is the case.

I look forward to meeting you all soon! I hope that you have a fun, safe, and healthy Labor Day weekend with your family and friends! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at: 518-234-2585.

Sincerely,

*Jessie Westfall*

Jessie Westfall

## Arrival & Dismissal Procedures for Ryder Elementary School 2020-2021



- **Buses:**

- Bus pick-up and drop-off times for students depend upon individual bus schedules. If you have questions about this, please contact the Transportation Office at 518-234-7491 to speak with the transportation secretary or transportation supervisor. Every effort is made to keep buses on schedule. PLEASE have your child ready and waiting to board the school bus when it arrives.
- All students must wear masks on the bus. Students will be seated socially distanced, except for siblings who will be sitting together.
- Buses will be using the main office entrance circle this year.
- **No daily bus changes will be accepted this year, due to the strategic routing necessary for social distancing purposes.**
- **Arrival:** Buses will arrive at Ryder one or two at a time, between 7:50-8:10 a.m. Staff will unload students by bus and then students will be escorted by grade level to their classrooms. **Please make sure that your child is wearing their name tag (included in this packet), on a daily basis to assist the adults in bringing your child to their classroom.**
- **Dismissal:** Students will be called to board their buses, one bus at a time, starting at 1:30 p.m.. Staff will escort students from each hallway, one bus at a time, to their bus.



- **Parent Drop-Off & Pick-Up:**

- **Arrival:** Parent drop-off will occur by door A12, past the main entrance circle (where the bus drop-off and pick-up area used to be) between **8:10-8:30 a.m.** **Please do not arrive earlier than 8:10 a.m.** Staff will assist with unloading students from cars and then students will be escorted by grade level to their classrooms. **Please make sure that your child is wearing their name tag (included in this packet), on a daily basis to assist the adults in bringing your child to their classroom.**
  - **Please remain in your vehicle at all times.**
  - Please remember to have your child exit from the passenger side of the vehicle. Do not have your child exit the driver side; this creates a dangerous situation for your child and other vehicles dropping children off.
  - Be mindful of other drivers and children when pulling away from the curb.
  - **If you are dropping your child off after 8:30 a.m., they are considered late and the procedure is different. Please drive to the main entrance, bring your child to the door, and ring the doorbell. You will need to sign your child in at that time.**
- **Dismissal:** Classroom teachers will be bringing parent pick-up students to the parent pick-up area (by door A12) at the following times:
  - **Kindergarten: 1:50 p.m.**
  - **1st Grade: 2:00 p.m.**
  - **2nd Grade & All parents with more than one child at Ryder: 2:10 p.m.**
  - It is very important that you arrive on time at your child's designated grade level pick-up time.
  - Please bring your ID every day. **Staff members will come to your vehicle for you to sign-out your child. Please remain in your vehicle at all times.**
- If you need to pick your child up early from school for an appointment, please send a note in with your child to school. The note gives your permission for the change and must include: the reason, the date, usual bus number, who will be picking up the child, etc. We MUST have written permission from you on the morning of the day the change will occur. The District policy does not permit phone calls to the school for transportation changes. When you arrive, please ring the doorbell at the main entrance and your child will be brought outside to you for you to sign them out.
  - **Sample Transportation Note:** *"10/19/20 - Dear Classroom Teacher: I will pick up my son, William Blank, at 1:00 p.m. today to go to the dentist. He will not ride bus 13. Thank you, Mrs. Blank (Be sure to include first and last names.)"*

## Cafeteria Information 2020-2021



- **School Lunch/Breakfast Program:**

- **BREAKING NEWS!!!** The USDA has extended its breakfast and lunch program for schools through December 31st. Therefore, there will be **NO CHARGE** for breakfast and lunch for all students in grades PreK-2 until 12/31/20.
- Applications for free and reduced price meals for children will be sent home the first day or two of school. Please take the time to complete the form and return it to school with your child during the first week of school, even though there is no charge for the breakfast and lunch program currently to start the school year. Only one application needs to be completed by the parent/guardian per family, be sure to include all children in your household.
- Breakfast and lunch will be served and eaten in your child's classroom this year.
- We are unable to offer snack milk and juice options this year for students in grades K-2. However, you can still send in a snack for your child to eat at their designated classroom's snack time.
- Students will not be able to purchase ice cream this year.
- If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact the cafeteria at 518-234-2585 ext. 5011.