



December 4, 2020

Good Afternoon RMCA Families,

We wanted to provide you with an update for our anticipated return to in-person learning. Our school leadership has been in consultation these last few days with several staff members at El Paso County Health for additional guidance on re-opening. Through these discussions, we have determined that we have the ability to reopen K-8 safely for in-person learning on Monday, December 7th.

In an abundance of caution, we are asking for very close monitoring of students and staff before coming to school each day.

Please refer to this symptom screener and **keep your student home** if ANY of the following symptoms are present:

- Loss of taste or smell (Critical symptom)
- Feeling feverish, having chills, or a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher (Major)
- New or unexplained persistent cough (Major)
- Shortness of breath (Major)
- Difficulty breathing (Major)
- Fatigue (Minor)
- Muscle aches (Minor)
- Headache (Minor)
- Sore throat (Minor)
- Nausea or vomiting (Minor)
- Diarrhea (Minor)
- Runny nose or congestion (Minor)

If students exhibit symptoms while at school, they will be isolated and sent home.

Due to the heightened status of our community, our guidelines for returning a student from isolation have also changed. Please refer to the attached guidelines below for a student to return if they are experiencing one or more of the above symptoms. One of the most impactful new guidelines is if the student is able to return, but symptoms took longer than 24 hours to resolve, they will be required to wear a mask until the isolation period (10 days from symptom onset) ends if they are over the age of 3. We also are highly encouraging all students who can safely wear a mask to do so.

We also want to reiterate the importance of communication. We ask that parents continue to stay in close contact with the school. If there is any illness in your households, please partner with us and let us know what is happening. The only way we are able to keep students in their classrooms for in-person learning is if we are in this together. The more information we have, the better exclusion and closure decisions leadership can make. We want as many students here every day as possible, but cannot do it without your help.

Please know that we do not make these decisions lightly and without extensive analysis. Your students' health and safety are our number one priority. Over Thanksgiving Break extensive school wide cleaning took place as well as air quality and touchable surfaces tests, which resulted in extremely positive results. As always, please provide us grace and patience as we walk through this together. Thank you and we look forward to seeing students back in the building next week.

Sincerely,
Cullen McDowell
Executive Principal



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Front Office Hours

7:30— 4:00

Attendance email

Nancetta Westcott
nwestcott@rmcacs.org

Front Office: 719-622-8000

Fax 719-622-8004

Return to Learn: guidance following a positive COVID-19 Symptom Screen (R2)

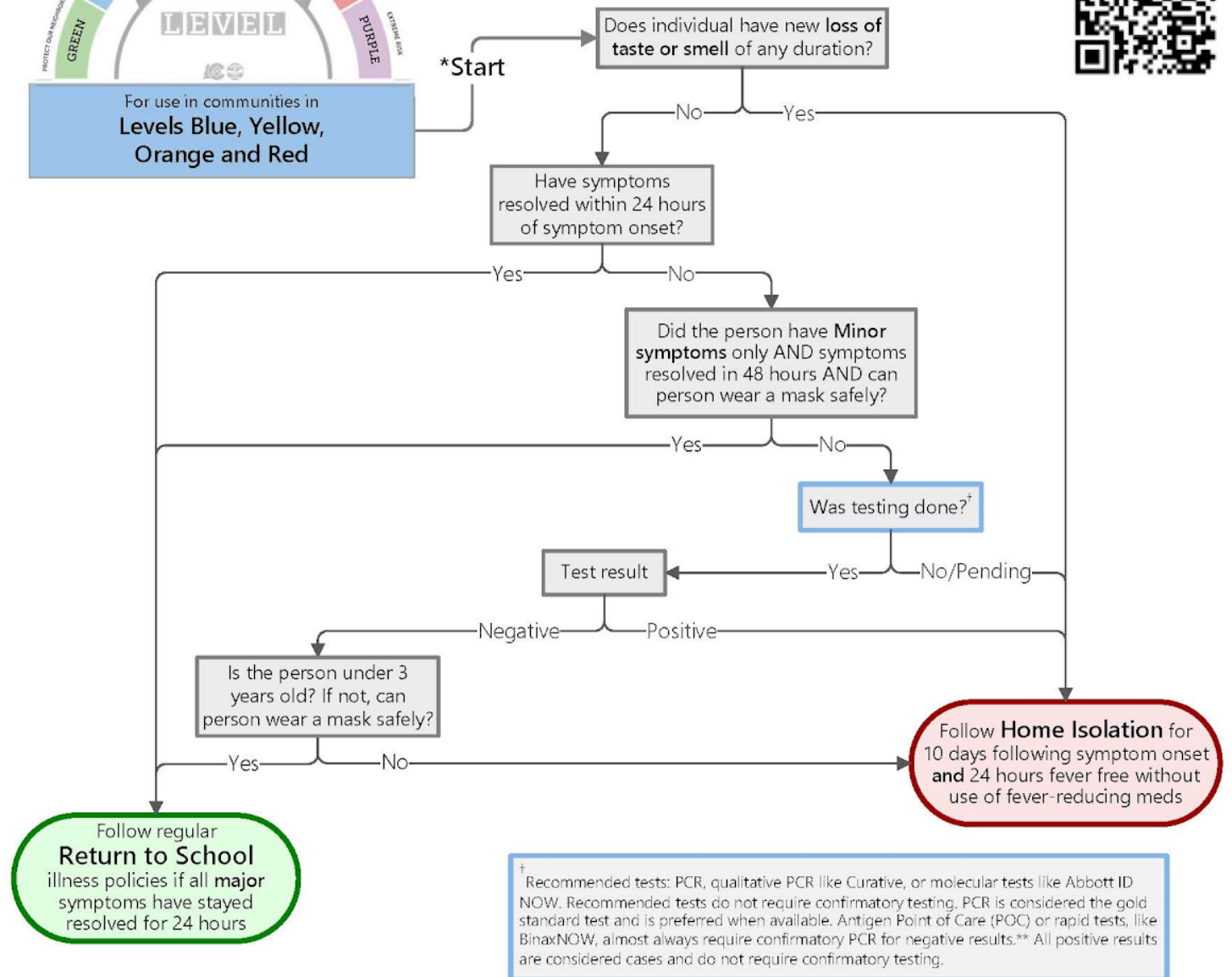


This decision tool is NOT intended for cases or close contacts of COVID-19.

A confirmed COVID-19 case or close contact should follow public health isolation or quarantine instructions for return to school/work. No test result can end an individual's *isolation* or *quarantine* period early.

*All students/staff with symptoms of COVID-19 should be tested as soon as possible.

To request assistance or provide feedback:
<https://tinyurl.com/COP12Feedback>



Critical Symptom	Major Symptoms	Minor Symptoms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of taste or smell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeling feverish, having chills, temperature of 100.4°F or greater New or worsening cough Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sore throat Runny nose or congestion Muscle or body aches Headache Fatigue Nausea, vomiting Diarrhea

If **all of the following conditions are met, confirmation of a negative antigen test with PCR is not needed (in all other circumstances, a negative must be confirmed with PCR.)

- No known exposure to a person with known or suspected COVID-19 (or part of an outbreak)
- No travel to an area with high incidence of COVID-19
- Lives/works/attends school in a community with 2-week incidence <50 cases per 100,000 (this information can be located at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/data> under Incidence and Epi Curves)
- Experiencing minor symptoms only (sore throat, runny nose or congestion, muscle or body aches, headache, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea)

November 2020



ST Math.

What is ST Math? Can a game change how you feel about math? We believe every student has the potential to deeply understand, and truly love math. ST Math is a visual instructional program that uses puzzles to teach math and develop problem-solving skills while having fun. ST Math is carefully designed to be effective and challenging. Puzzles start out simple and get harder as your student progresses. To help your student solve problems, ask your student what is happening in the games and have them explain their thinking. Research shows that love of math (and test scores) increase with more time spent in ST Math.

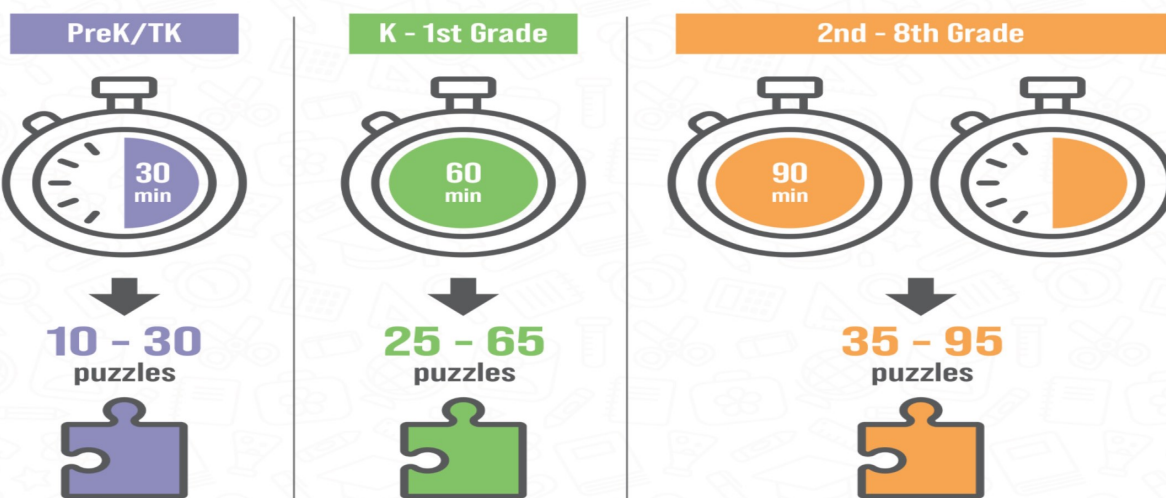
ST Math starts by teaching the foundational concepts visually, then connects the ideas to the symbols and language. With visual learning, students are better equipped to tackle unfamiliar math problems, recognize patterns, and build conceptual understanding. Without language barriers, the problem is accessible to all students, regardless of skill level or language background. ST Math uses a spatial-temporal visual learning approach so students are better equipped to tackle unfamiliar math problems, recognize patterns, and build conceptual understanding. Each student has their own personalized journey and takes as long as they need to achieve mastery. This ensures that students are building and demonstrating a strong conceptual foundation understanding.



ST Math.

Time on ST Math is Time Spent Learning!

Research shows that student test scores increase with more time in ST Math. To ensure that students problem-solve all year long, and to cover the critical areas of their grade level, aim for these recommended weekly goals:



ST Math is self-paced so students can persist to mastery - while distance learning, in the classroom, or at home.



FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION

In response to COVID-19, distributions will be drive-up style. Please remain in your car and follow traffic instructions from volunteers when you arrive. Guests who walk or take the bus will have a separate line to receive food.

EVERY OTHER THURSDAY:

November 5th
November 19th
December 3rd
December 17th
December 31st

**NEW TIME:
12-2PM**

**Mitchell High School
1205 Potter Dr**



Drive-up distribution! Stay in your car!

Important Information

K-5 Testing Day

We are going to hold our K-5 testing day on **December 11th**. There will be no school on that day for grades K-5.

Students will be participating in a reading assessment benchmark for our middle of the year progress. Middle school will be in session.

In order to facilitate timing during this testing day, please be on the lookout for a sign-up email from your student's teacher. From the sign-up you will be able to secure a time window for testing.

We ask that parents park in the East main parking lot to wait for their student to test. Younger students may be walked up to the front door where we will have staff members present to lead your student back to their classroom. We unfortunately will not be able to have parents waiting for their student in the welcome center due to the number of parents present in the same time slot.

Please arrive promptly for your student's testing time and allow a few minutes prior so that they have enough time to make it to their classroom.

Thank you for your support and partnership!

COVID-19 Attendance

If your child has to be out of school for a COVID-19 related absence, you can contact your child's teacher for daily work. If your child is keeping up with their daily work and you are communicating with the teacher on a daily basis, the absences will not count against your child's total number of absences. This can apply if your child has to be out of school for a COVID-19 exposure or if they test positive for COVID-19 and are able to do school work.

Lost and Found

Please have your student (s) check lost and found. Since we do not have a lot of space to host these items, lost and found are donated at the end of each quarter. Parents may come at 3:45 if you want to look for student items.

Holiday Ornaments

As a classical school, sustaining an exemplary arts program is one of the cornerstones of our mission and vision. With the challenges that COVID has presented, we were not able to celebrate our students' artwork through the Original Works fundraiser. However, our student leaders in middle school are partnering with their art teacher, Jackie Cirbo, to bring you our Holiday Ornaments as our 2020 art program fundraiser. We encourage you to purchase our handmade clay ornaments on our online school store to support Rocky Mountain Classical Academy while decorating your home or giving a gift to a loved one.

<https://www.shoprmcacs.org/product-page/holiday-ornaments>



Important Information Cont'

Uniforms

Uniforms make it easier for students to focus in class and promote a safe student culture not focused on style, brands, and fashion trends. Please make sure your student's shorts and skirts are long enough to meet the uniform policy guidelines. Shorts and skirts should be no shorter than 2" above the knee when sitting. You may use this link for further information on the [RMCA Uniform Policy](#). Students may "dress up" on occasions when special events are scheduled, ie: music programs, game days for athletes, picture days, etc. Rules for modesty and dress code still apply on these days. Skirts must be of school appropriate length, no strapless or spaghetti strapped tops, no tight or low-cut clothing, no heels greater than 1", etc. Thank you for helping us by having your child follow this policy!

Masks

We will continue to follow the state recommendations for students and staff members on wearing masks and facial coverings. Students ten and younger may wear masks and facial coverings. Students eleven years and older and staff members must wear masks or a facial covering. We ask that students wear masks and facial coverings without words or images that could be scary for our younger students.

Cell Phones and Smart Watches

Students need to have their cell phones turned off and put in their backpacks before they enter the building in the morning. If students have their cell phones out of their backpacks the phone will be sent to the office. Smart watches may be worn if used as watches. If smart watches are used to take pictures, record, text, or place a phone call they will be taken to the office. Parents will be called and will need to pick the phone or smart watch up from the front office.

Water Bottles

Please send your child with a water bottle each day. The drinking fountains have been turned off and covered for student safety. We have a touchless water bottle filling station available near the gym if students need to refill their water bottle through the day. Parents have donated some water bottles for students who have forgotten to bring one.

Cold Weather

Colorado is known for its crazy weather! Be sure to watch the weather forecast and send warm coats for students on colder days. If it is too cold we will keep students in for inside recess, but want to give kids the opportunity to be outside and get their wiggles out as much as possible.

Rocky Mountain Classical Academy

Encore Updates December 2020

Mark your
Calendar



ART



Greetings from Ms. Parrish in the Art Studio!

I am excited to share the awesome learning and creativity happening now in each grade level! All lessons uphold our wonderful and rich Core Knowledge curriculum as well as the Colorado state standards for Visual Art. Lessons also help to support and strengthen the Literacy and when applicable, the math and science of Core Knowledge and of the Colorado state standards. This is a snapshot of how wonderfully cross curricular the Core Knowledge curriculum can be! **Grade K**, is learning about sculpture and what makes an object three dimensional. The children then create their own unique sculpture! **Grade 1**, is completing their lesson in Spatial Awareness and has also begun the fascinating study of early art / cave art! **Grade 2**, has completed their study of Spatial Awareness and has now begun learning of the beautiful and symbolic art of Ancient Greece! has completed the study of Spatial Awareness in conjunction with learning of directional line - creating 3-D shapes! Now, 3rd, will begin with the study of Ancient Rome and the incredible artistry of that time. I am delighted to share that my **4th graders** have completed their pre - Covid artworks, specifically, their wonderful ceramic Viking Longboats! My amazing 4th graders have also begun studies of the Middle Ages and are currently working on Illuminated Manuscripts, a most spectacular artform of the time period. **5th grade** as well, while when in the study of Africa, has had the opportunity to complete smashing beautiful, wax batiks, an artform of long ago Indonesia - this sensational project began pre-Covid. Additionally, 5th grade has entered into the magnificent study of the Renaissance time period! Emphasis of this study is currently placed on the incredible Gothic Cathedrals that span across all of Europe. On display, I have a superb blend of artworks that showcase the artistry, excitement and creative knowledge and understanding of the Visual Arts ~ through this are the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design. To say that I am proud of my many artists, is not nearly enough! The dedication, joy and effort put into each personal expression, truly comes through in all that they do! It is a total joy to have the opportunity to journey with your child(ren) through the never ending splendor of Visual Art

Warmly,
Ms. Parrish
RMCA Art Director / K - 5 Art Teacher.
cparrish@rmcacs.org



PE

In Physical Education students are running for the mileage club. Be on the lookout for new charms to add to students' mileage club necklace. Each charm signifies that students have accumulated running 2 miles in PE class.

Please be sure to send students to school with non-marking running shoes on their PE day. (You are welcome to send an extra pair of shoes for students to keep in their classroom.) Please also bring a water bottle; the drinking fountains are closed.

Kindergarten and 1st have been following directions with a parachute and will practice catching and throwing, then Soccer, and Basketball. 2nd thru 5th are rotating between Bowling, Volleyball, Hide out, Dodgeball (with soft foam balls), and Hockey.

I look forward to passing along a love of exercise to your students.

Coach Wil Winter
Elementary Physical Education Teacher
wwinter@rmcacs.org

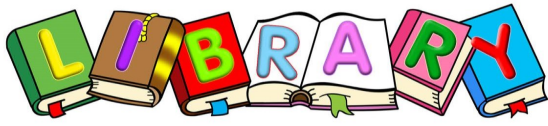


LATIN

Salvete, omnes! It's hard to believe that it's already December, but this has been one crazy year. In Kindergarten, we are going to practice our reading skills by reading the story "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" with extra Latin words put in. We have done this with the story of Cinderella as well, and it is great practice for the youngest students to use their Latin words. First Grade has been learning about animals, and we are going to play Pictionary as our way to enrich them. Second Grade is finishing up our unit about Roman Gods & Goddesses and will present the deity that they created. The students worked really hard and created their own backstories and appearances for their gods/goddesses, and I cannot wait to see them.

Third Grade will be continuing their unit about Chariot Races by drawing and labelling a diagram of the Circus Maximus with all of the Latin words included. Fourth Grade will be continuing their unit about gladiators, specifically discussing the different types of gladiators and why the fights were so popular. And 5th Grade will be entering into a new unit focusing on the Roman Army. The Roman Army was essential to Rome's Empire, and I'm excited to discuss this aspect of history with the students.

Hope everyone has safe and enjoyable holidays! Sincerely, Mr. Booth jbooth@rmcacs.org



Hello RMCA Families!

Due to the inconveniences of COVID-19 I have not been in the Library since November 12th. During my absence, there have been canceled Library days and days with Guest Teachers; This makes for many chances for book system errors. I realize that many students may have overdue books and that is okay. I will do my best to get everyone back on track over the next few weeks.

Please continue to make sure your student's Library book is kept in a safe place, away from younger siblings and pets. Also, please be mindful of leaky water bottles in backpacks. They can ruin books and other belongings rather quickly! Ziploc bags work great!

If you need to pay a Library fine for a lost or damaged book, please use this link:

<https://www.shoprncacs.org/product-page/library-fees>

Please remind your student to come to library prepared with their Library book(s), yellow folder, and pencil bag* every week!

*To limit the spread of illness, students are now required to bring their own supplies, including: 2 sharpened pencils, crayons or colored pencils, scissors, and a glue stick.

Books we are reading in the Library are:

Kindergarten: *Bear Snores On*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and other winter stories!

1st Grade: *Dinosaurs Before Dark*

2nd Grade: *The Marvelous Journey of Edward Tulane*

3rd Grade: *Warriors in Winter*

4th Grade: *The Hatchet*

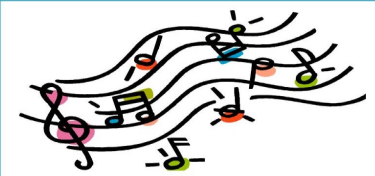
5th Grade: Finishing *The Hatchet* starting *Brian's Winter*

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Kamrine Finney

kfinney@rmcacs.org

Music



It is amazing to see how far our student musicians have come since the beginning of the year! As we begin this second quarter we look forward even more exciting progress!

Kindergarten has done a wonderful job identifying musical opposites like High and Low, Loud and Soft and Fast and Slow. We will continue to apply these concepts as we practice folk songs and incorporate more classroom percussion instruments like rhythm sticks, shakers and hand drums.

1st Graders are orchestra experts as they applied their understanding of instrument families to the musical themes and characters in Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*. As we get closer to the holidays we will listen, move and respond to another classic from the Core Knowledge Music Treasury, Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*.

2nd Graders learned about our National Anthem and its historical context set in the War of 1812. We will take our knowledge of our patriotic music and compare it to other folk songs from different parts of the world. These songs are great for storytelling, movement and rhythmic instrument accompaniment!

3rd Graders are becoming expert music readers in the treble staff. We will continue to practice reading basic patterns on the staff both by singing and playing classroom instruments!

4th Graders are beginning to review rhythmic concepts and patterns. We will be composing and performing original rhythms alone and in groups.

5th Graders are reviewing advanced rhythmic concepts and patterns that will hopefully translate to successful strumming practice as we begin our ukulele unit after the holidays!

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to email me at drafoth@rmcacs.org.

Thank you for supporting our young musicians at RMCA!

Miss Rafoth



SAFE SPACES FOR KIDS TO E-LEARN

Free, full-day options available for November/December

YMCA OF THE PIKES PEAK REGION

Locations: Garden Ranch YMCA, 2380 Montebello Drive W.

Southeast YMCA, 2190 Jet Wing Drive

Westside Community Center, 1628 W. Bijou St.

To register, call 719-329-7289 or email childcare@ppymca.org. For more information, visit ppymca.org/adventure-academy.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF THE PIKES PEAK REGION

Locations: El Pomar Club, 805 Praderia Ave.

E.A. Tutt Club, 1455 S. Chelton Ave.

To register or for more information, visit bgcppr.org/enrollment-process.

THE SALVATION ARMY COLORADO SPRINGS CORPS

Location: 908 Yuma St.

To register or for more information, call 719-636-3891.

HILLSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER

Location: 925 S. Institute St.

To register, call 719-385-7900 or email hillside.center@coloradosprings.gov.



« Yearbooks on **SALE!**

Order
ONLINE

INTER-STATE.COM/ORDER



Order code 53180E

Nurse Notes

"If you have not yet completed your students health history form in PowerSchool, please do so. The health room needs all pertinent health information to best care for your student. Also, if you have not submitted an updated immunization record of your child's, please provide a copy for the health room. These can be brought in by your student or emailed directly to the nurse at kgriffiths@rmcacs.org. Please feel free to contact the

Stop the Spread of COVID-19



WASH YOUR HANDS
often with soap and
water for 20 seconds.



USE HAND SANITIZER
with at least 60% ethyl
alcohol or 70% isopropyl
alcohol when handwashing
is not available.



WEAR A MASK
or fabric face covering.



**STAY AT LEAST
6 FEET APART.**



**STAY HOME IF
YOU'RE SICK.**



Asthma and Allergy
Foundation of America

aaafa.org/covid19

IS IT COVID-19, THE FLU, A COLD OR ALLERGIES?

Symptoms	Coronavirus* (COVID-19) Symptoms range from mild to severe	Cold Gradual onset of symptoms	Flu Abrupt onset of symptoms	Seasonal Allergies Abrupt onset of symptoms
Length of symptoms	7-25 days	Less than 14 days	7-14 days	Several weeks
Cough	Common (usually dry)	Common (mild)	Common (usually dry)	Rare (usually dry unless it triggers asthma)
Shortness of breath	Sometimes	No**	No**	No**
Sneezing	No	Common	No	Common
Runny or stuffy nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common
Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes	Sometimes (usually mild)
Fever	Common	Short fever period	Common	No
Feeling tired and weak	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
Headaches	Sometimes	Rare	Common	Sometimes (related to sinus pain)
Body aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common	No
Diarrhea	Sometimes	No	Sometimes for children	No
Chills/repeated shaking	Sometimes	No	Sometimes	No
Loss of taste or smell	Sometimes	Rare	Rare	Rare

Your symptoms may vary. *Information is still evolving. **Allergies, colds and flus can all trigger asthma, which can lead to shortness of breath. COVID-19 is the only one associated with shortness of breath on its own.

Sources: Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, edited 4/29/20 • aaafa.org/covid19

FALCON PEAK HEALTH CENTER

SERVICES

Physical Health and Sick Child Care
Athletic Physicals
Behavioral Health Care and Counseling
Dental Referrals
Medicaid, CHP+, CACP, Sliding Scale Enrollment

Access to services for all students attending any
D-49 school, Head Start, Early Head Start,
and their siblings aged 0-21 years of age.



CONTACT US

To make an appointment or to enroll,
please call **(719) 344-6247**
or visit **peakvista.org**.

HOURS

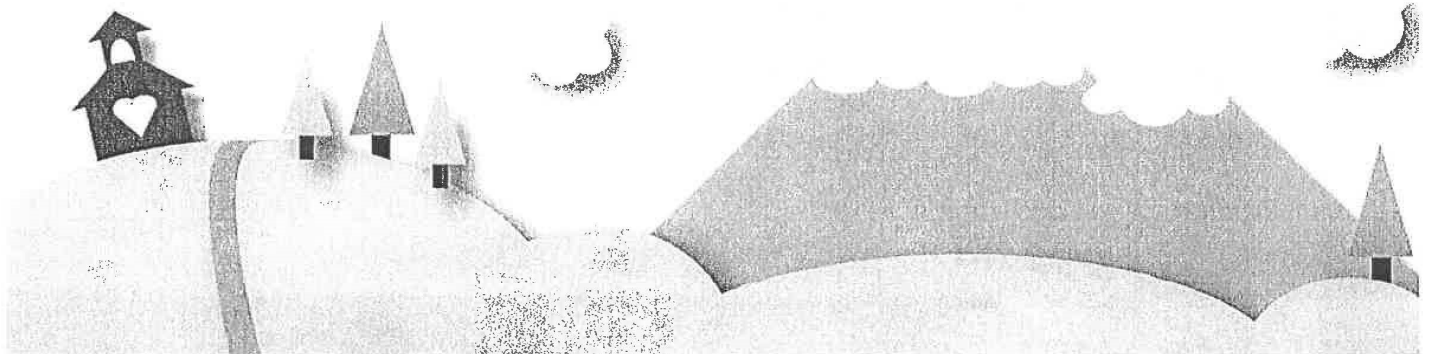
Monday Wednesday Friday

8:00am to 12:00pm

Tuesday and Thursday 12:00pm-4:00pm

LOCATION

Falcon Elementary School
12050 Falcon Highway
Peyton, CO 80831



**Submit an
Anonymous
Report**

safe²tell Colorado

Make a Report. Make a Difference.



1-877-542-7233



Anonymously report anything that concerns or threatens you, your friends, your family or your community.
We are open 24/7, 365 to take reports.

Parents are key players in creating safer schools and communities. Safe2Tell Colorado provides the only anonymous way for students, parents and community members to report unsafe and risky behaviors before they grow out of control. Each year, Safe2Tell Colorado receives thousands of reports on bullying, cyber-bullying, suicide threats, mental health concerns, child abuse, substance abuse, violence, planned school attacks, and other concerning behaviors. Each concern reported to Safe2Tell Colorado allows for caring, concerned adults to effectively intervene in the life of a child or youth who is struggling.

Safe2Tell Colorado wants everyone to know - telling isn't "snitching." Telling is when you need to keep yourself or someone you know safe from threats, harmful behaviors or dangerous situations.

Not sure if you should use Safe2Tell? If you don't, who will? We need your help to improve your school and community. By calling, you can help stop a friend from committing suicide, get another student off drugs, or stop a bully from making other people miserable. If you have information about the following topics, please call. To make a report, call 1-877-542-7233 from anywhere, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The call is free. You may also make a report by clicking on the yellow conversation box adjacent to this paragraph that reads Submit a Tip or download the Safe2Tell mobile app on the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#). Remember, your identity is safe. No one will ask for your name or number. There is no caller id., no call tracing, no call recording and no call forwarding. We only want to hear your concern and try to help.

The anonymity of all Safe2Tell Colorado reports is protected by C.R.S. 07-197. This means the reporting party remains UNKNOWN by Colorado State Law.

Lunch



My Kid's Lunch

All meals are free to students until the end of the school year.

All Meals: Fresh Fruit, Milk and Entrée

At RMCA we are invested in our students' health and are committed to offer healthy food to our students.

Extra Milk \$.60

Lunch \$2.95

Breakfast \$3.00

Adults \$3.70

Monday 12/07/20	Tuesday 12/8/20	Wednesday 12/9/20	Thursday 12/10/20	Friday 12/11/20
Cinnamon Raisin Bagel Cream Cheese Whole Apple	French Toast, Syrup 100% Juice	Vanilla Yogurt Honey Granola Sliced Peaches	Cereal Craisins	Banana Bread String Cheese Dried Fruit
Chicken Soft Tacos Cheddar Cheese Tortillas Sliced Peaches Crisp Pinto Beans	Penne Beef Meat Sauce Cinnamon Apples Steamed Broccoli	Waffles Chicken Nuggets Home Fries Syrup Side Fruit	Beef Sloppy Joe Bun Steamed Corn Whole Fruit	Grilled Cheese Sliced Pears Diced Carrots

Volunteers

If you have not done so, please make sure you have completed the volunteer application. You must complete an application to volunteer or receive volunteer hours.

Click on the following link

<https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/MzEzMTplbi1VUw==>

Due to COVID-19, please contact your teacher for work-at home projects.

Volunteer Hours

Donations are accepted for volunteer hours. Please bring item (s) to the front office with a receipt. Hours will be logged accordingly.