

# roots & wings COMMUNITY SCHOOL



September 11, 2020

Dear RWCS Community,

Wow! Who would have thought that when I came to school on Tuesday morning wearing a pair of shorts and a short-sleeve shirt, that I would leave school that evening in a thundering snowstorm and the temperature was 34 degrees! We got a couple of inches of snow here at the school from the storm.

**Just a reminder that this Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> is a NO School Wednesday. Enjoy the mid-week break!** This would also be a good day for students who are behind in any of their work to get caught up!

So PED and the State have thrown some confusion into the school community. A list of schools was released late last week after the Governors press conference that identified schools that were eligible to move into the Hybrid model based on being located in a county identified as “green” meaning low COVID numbers and had submitted the proper plans to move forward. Roots & Wings school is on that list as Taos county meets the criteria, and we had submitted our required plans and paperwork. PED then later released a set of official guidelines (we had been working off the draft guidelines) and they added a fairly restrictive additional requirement that hadn’t previously been discussed. It was good that we were planning on evaluating our move to the Hybrid model after Labor Day as we would have had to change and NOT move into the Hybrid model as we didn’t meet this new requirement, and neither do many schools in NM. So we have been forced into a hold, and I can confidently say we won’t be moving into the Hybrid model anytime soon. I am trying to get additional information from PED on these new requirements and we will be discussing this matter at our Governing Council meeting on Tuesday evening. We are looking at being in the Remote/Online learning mode through **at least the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter at this point**. I will keep everyone updated through these weekly emails. The good news is due to our wonderful and dedicated teachers, the students have settled into the Remote/Online learning and great education is happening in the classes. Also, our art and music classes began this week. A Special, Thank You, goes out to all the parents/guardians who are helping their students to continue to learn and grow from home!!

PED is requiring that even during the Remote/Online learning if a student tests positive for COVID-19 that must be immediately reported to the school. The school should also be notified if a household member tests positive. A positive test is one that has been confirmed with a lab test.

*Jon Orris, Director*  
*Veronica Garcia, Office Manager*

35 La Lama Rd.  
HC 81 Box 22, Questa, NM 87556  
575-586-2076/fax 575-586-2087

# roots & wings COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Just so families know what our definition of Hybrid Education will look like. First, of all only K-5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> students are currently eligible to return in a Hybrid model. At a date to be released later, Middle School students will be allowed to return in the Hybrid model, until then, those students will remain on a fully Remote/Online model. The K-2 and 3-5 students will be split into 2 groups each (A and B), with group A attending class in person on Monday and Tuesday, and B coming to school on Thursday and Friday. On the three days' students aren't in-person they will be required to be attending class online. So the reality is all students will only receive two days in-person learning and three days will still be Remote/Online. For the students meeting in-person, there will still be strict, mask and face shield, requirements along with required 6ft social distancing (no hugging or close play), and frequent handwashing. All students will be temperature screened upon arrival and monitored throughout the day. The school will be following strict protocols if a potential or confirmed COVID case occurs which will require closing part or all of the school and those students/staff affected or in close contact having to quarantine. Students or families that do not follow these requirements will be required to have your student return to the fully Remote/Online learning model. Additionally, at this time, the blue bus can only carry 5 people by reservation. So parents will need to be transporting students to and from school. I wanted to outline this so everyone understands that even moving to the Hybrid model will still require students to be online for a majority of the week.

Thank you to all of those who have submitted their registration forms and immunization forms. If you haven't completed those yet, please do so ASAP. If you are submitting an immunization exemption form, those also need to be completed as well. These forms MUST be redone each year, just like the registration forms.

School office hours will continue 9:00 am – 5:00 pm on school days and we can be reached at (575) 586-2076.

Sincerely,

*Jon Orris*

Jon Orris, Director

*Jon Orris, Director  
Veronica Garcia, Office Manager*

35 La Lama Rd.  
HC 81 Box 22, Questa, NM 87556  
575-586-2076/fax 575-586-2087