

October 7, 6:00pm Eblast

Good evening McKinley families,

With the recent excitement of rain, I am reaching out to inform you of McKinley's plan for inclement weather in relation to COVID safety protocols. If rain were to occur during the school day, much of the traditional pre-COVID "rainy day schedule" format remains the same, with a few minor adjustments to maximize safety during the pandemic.

On rainy days students will have recess indoors in their classroom. Recess will be free time play such as watching a movie, reading, drawing, or playing games. In order to increase social distancing while eating snacks unmasked, teachers will implement a variety of strategies such as rotating groups of students between eating and playing, or utilizing adjacent spaces like hallways for eating.

Instruction and enrichment will continue indoors. Theater, STEM, Visual Arts, and Music will all be in classrooms. And when possible, PE will be in large spaces like the Auditorium and Room 100. Our regular COVID mitigation strategies will be in place: masks, windows and doors open when possible, HVAC circulation, and frequent hand washing and sanitation.

On rainy days eating lunch outside will not be possible, so all grade levels will be eating inside, either in the Cafeteria or the Auditorium. Because the outdoor tables are unavailable, 4 to 6 classes at a time will be sharing an indoor space. While this will result in some reduced social distancing, we will continue to emphasize stable groups with each class having an assigned seating area. Intermingling due to movement between spaces will be limited as classes will eat their lunch, and watch a movie during lunch recess, in the same space.

Administration monitors the rain throughout the day, so as soon as the rain stops and the ground is reasonably dry, the school will return to the regular schedule. This rainy day schedule plan also applies to other inclement weather such as an excessive heat days.

So McKinley is ready for a safe and happy school experience, rain or shine! Go Lions!

Dr. Benjamin