

ROSSLYN ACADEMY A GUIDE TO REOPENING



2020-2021 STARTING THE YEAR

We are already looking forward to the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

Thanks to the recent government announcements, we are confident that, with key safety measures in

place, we will be able to start on-campus learning on **Tuesday, September 1.**

One silver lining to the COVID-19 cloud has been the wealth of ideas and practices that have been developed by international schools like Rosslyn in areas that have already begun returning to school. As we have developed plans for the start of the 2020-2021 school year, we are grateful to be building on the lessons and successful practices of others, and it is these practices that have informed the plans that will be laid out in this document and the information that will be available on our website prior to the start of the school year.



Key Principles Guiding Our Planning

There goes one long cry from the heart of the artist: Give me leave to do my utmost. ~Isak Dine



- An ongoing commitment to our distinctly Christian and holistic educational mission,
- The safety of our students, teachers, and families,
- Full compliance with Kenyan government guidelines,
- Data-informed decisions (relying on the most trustworthy and recent scientific data),
- Nimble planning capable of effectively responding to changing circumstances, and
- Harnessing of lessons from the recent past as we move forward.

LEARNING

What will learning look like when we start in September?

The best learning happens in relationships. Teacher-student and student-student interaction are where we learn to problem-solve and collaborate, and where we can get meaningful and instant feedback that pushes us to grow. It is also a big part of what makes learning fun and life-giving. Our classrooms will require appropriate physical distancing but will be restructured to maximize this rich, relational, and holistic education that is our trademark. The use of outdoor learning spaces will also be maximized and class scheduling and movement patterns will be adapted to emphasize safety while maintaining a vibrant atmosphere.





What happens if some families are not able to get back into the country prior to the beginning of the school year and/or our family is not yet comfortable to begin on-campus learning?

We know that the government and the airlines are currently working to develop protocols that will allow for the reopening of flights. We would be surprised if at least limited international travel does not resume in advance of the new school year. However, in this event, we will be working with families to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that they can start the year with us (albeit from a distance) and will be able to transition back into the Rosslyn school year when flights allow for their physical return. We anticipate offering these dual online and in-person learning options for the first week or two of the school year, until our students are able to re-enter Kenya.





What happens if schools are required to close temporarily during the year?

We have learned a lot from the two months of using the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Some things we did very well, but in some areas we found things that we think we can improve upon, should we ever need to return to VLE. In particular we see opportunities for improvement through creating additional opportunities for live teacher-student face time, increasing levels of feedback and accountability, and providing a more structured learning schedule for students. We also suggest that each Rosslyn family take a personal technology inventory this summer, including the number of devices at home and consistent internet. This will aid in supporting the more robust VLE program and augment the improved technology tools that our teachers have acquired over the past several months.

What are Rosslyn's protocols for specific school functions (food services, transportation, janitorial services, IT, security, entry, etc.)?

The school already has, or is in the process of developing, detailed COVID protocols for each of its key functions. We expect to place these on our dedicated webpage as we get closer to the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.





SAFETY

As time goes on, we are learning more and more about the virus, and as we do, medical advice becomes more trustworthy. Our current plans spelled out below are based on the best data we have currently through the CDC, WHO, governments who are already reopening schools and the guidelines of the Government of Kenya. However, we will be updating our safety measures again closer to the start of school. We are planning for the following:



Staff Training

Every Rosslyn staff member (academic and operations) will be a part of a comprehensive health training during our staff orientation weeks prior to the start of the year.

Revised Entry Protocols

Everyone entering campus will be required to go through our health screening, practice physical distancing, and apply hand sanitizer. Please note that there is currently contradictory medical advice on the use of masks with some European countries returning to classes NOT recommending the use of masks. We will be monitoring the scientific findings during the summer and will make a decision on the use of masks closer to the reopening of schools.



Transportation

Our bus program will be in place with heightened safety protocols and in line with government transportation protocols. All requirements related to the entry to campus will be applied to entry onto the bus each morning. Our bus drivers and conductors will undergo health screening each morning and afternoon prior to the bus service. The conductors will be trained in taking temperatures and will do so for each child before they are allowed onto the bus. Bus seating that meets or exceeds the government guidelines will be applied.



Health Screening

This will include temperatures being taken, the application of hand sanitizer, and a general screening for symptoms. If your child is at a higher risk of severe illness with COVID-19 due to an underlying medical condition, please reach out to the health team on health@rosslynacademy.com.



Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

We will be waiting until we have more information from the government before finalizing changes to the Drop-Off and Pick-Up procedures.



Physical Distancing

Both inside and outside of the classroom, learning environments will be designed to maintain social distancing in practical and age-appropriate ways.



Parent Access

This will be determined closer to the beginning of the school year based on the most recent government health guidelines and our own responsibility for the safety of our community.



Food Services

To ensure that each child is safe, our food services team has developed an extensive set of protocols that meet or exceed the Government of Kenya's protocols for restaurants. These will be placed on our website prior to the beginning of the school year.

Sanitization Measures

Heightened cleaning protocols initiated at the end of the third quarter of 2019-2020 will be applied. This includes cleaning and sanitization of frequently-touched areas a minimum of three times a day (including playground equipment, bathrooms, classroom door handles, etc.). Computer keyboards and mice in the school's IT labs will be sanitized after each class. Developmentally-appropriate hygiene training will also be given to all students during the first days of classes and reviewed periodically.

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!



***Rosslyn is grateful for the thoughtful reopening plans available online or that have been shared by our peer schools in AISA (Association of International Schools of Africa). These include, among others, the plans developed by Dalian International School in China, Lincoln International School, the International School of Kenya, and suggestions from the American International School of Monrovia.**