

rawson  saunders

**Reopening**

**Rawson Saunders:**

Strategies for 2020-2021

**Rawson Saunders School** is committed to protecting the **health and safety** of all members of our community at the same time as we provide the **extraordinary, multi-sensory learning experience** that so effectively meets our students' **academic, physical, and social-emotional needs.**

# Our Plan for Fall

Over the last several weeks, the Rawson Saunders leadership team, in consultation with space planners, architects, health and human performance experts, and health professionals, has been carefully working out re-entry plans in preparation for the 2020-21 school year.

**In the following pages, we outline three scenarios for the 2020-21 school year that will accommodate any eventuality that may arise.**

Unquestionably, in-person, on-campus learning is the optimal environment for our students' specific learning needs, and **we plan to begin the next school year on campus in September.**

# THE PLAN AT A GLANCE

- Start date is September 1
- We plan to start in person, following Scenario 2 (described below)
- Daily health checks for students, faculty, staff, administration, and visitors
- Masks and social distancing required
- Supervised hand-washing, routine sanitizing of spaces and surfaces
- [Revised academic-year calendar](#)
- No October break, shortened Winter and Spring breaks
- **Online learning - RSS@Home** - from November 30 through December 17
- Monday-Thursday classes during **RSS@Home**
- Prepared for **RSS@Home** at any time



# Readiness for 2020-21

While COVID-19 will continue to pose a threat until a vaccine becomes widely available, we understand that proper protocols, vigilantly followed, can allow us as a school—and as a society—to mitigate the risks of contracting or spreading infection in any scenario.

**At the same time**, we are equally prepared to shift to an online format in the event—and at any time—a shift in format becomes advisable.

*Whether we are on or off campus, we will continue to count on all members of our community's careful adherence to guidelines established by the Center for Disease Control, the World Health Organization, the Texas Education Agency, the state of Texas, local health authorities, and the city of Austin.*

# What is **certain** in times of uncertainty . . .

**Our mission continues to be critical: to provide an essential, extraordinary education for our students, all learners with dyslexia.**

- The ideal learning environment for our students is an in-person learning environment.
- The health, safety and academic needs of our students and faculty will drive our decision making.
- Our expertise and experience will ensure we continue to meet our high standards of instruction in any scenario.
- Our uniquely small class sizes and open-air campus setup—outdoor cafeteria/lunch space, playgrounds, and outdoor gym—allow for ample social distancing in an on-campus scenario.
- Our one-to-one technology program means our students are prepared for learning in any environment, and never share tech equipment, whether on campus or at home.
- **Informed by our success with our Spring 2020 online learning program, we are fully prepared to respond to less than ideal circumstances with a robust, fully structured remote learning program.**



# Learning Scenario Solutions in Uncertain Times

Flexibility is KEY. We are prepared to shift between scenarios as advisable and as dictated by Austin Public Health's COVID-19 Risk-Based Guidelines

## Scenario 1

Normal Operations  
Some Restrictions

## Scenario 2

On Campus Learning  
Social Distancing,  
More Restrictions,  
Revised Calendar

## Scenario 3

Online Learning  
RSS@Home,  
Revised Calendar

STAGE  
ONE

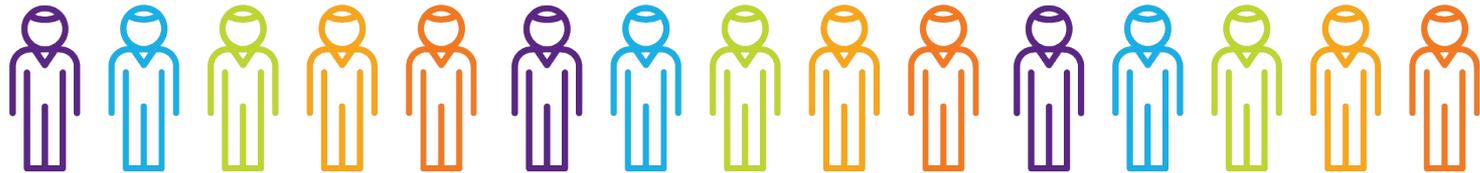
STAGES  
TWO, THREE, and FOUR

STAGE  
FIVE

# Scenario 1: Normal Operations

**When community spread of the virus is no longer a concern:**

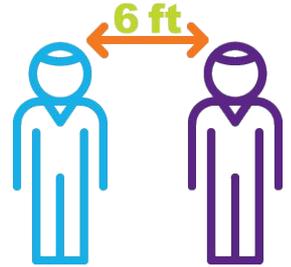
- The school resumes pre-COVID operations
- Best practices in hygiene and cleanliness continue
- Students are provided individual supplies and share no electronic devices
- A revised attendance/sick policy remains in effect



# Scenario 2: On Campus Learning with Restrictions

This scenario calls for enforced social distancing practices and includes a revised calendar and rotating afternoon advisory schedule to minimize social contact.

- A revised **academic year calendar** reflects changes to match Austin's newly extended stay-at-home order. First day of school is **September 1**. First two days are half days.
- Students are explicitly taught about social distancing protocols and visual aids are added throughout the school as reminders (6 ft distance).
- Furniture is rearranged in all classrooms to allow for ample distance among students.
- Students, faculty, staff, and visitors are screened for illness upon their arrival to campus.
- Hand sanitizing stations are at every entrance, students are supervised washing hands on a consistent schedule, and masks will be required for teachers and students as advisable. Protocols for a student's return to campus following illness or exposure to illness are enforced.



*\*Continues on next slide - part 1 of 2*

# Scenario 2: On Campus Learning with Restrictions

This scenario calls for enforced social distancing practices and includes a revised calendar and a slightly earlier daily release to minimize social contact.

- No large group assemblies, rotating schedule for afternoon advisory, no after school enrichment programs, limited aftercare and athletics.
- Students are provided individual supplies and share no electronic devices.
- Parents and guests on campus are limited to essential visits.
- Barnison Catering lunches are available boxed only.
- Students shift to **RSS@Home** after Thanksgiving Break, November 30 through December 17. On campus learning resumes after the New Year. *Care options may be available for children of essential workers.*



*\*Continued from previous slide - part 2 of 2*

# What you can expect from **RSS** in **Scenario 2**

We are committed to adopting every possible strategy to keep our community safe.

- **Health Protocols**

- Daily temperature checks for students, faculty, staff, administration, and visitors
- Enforced attendance/sick policy
- School-wide quarantine for 14 days before school

- **Contact Protocols**

- Restricted athletics
- Field trips postponed until a COVID-19 vaccine is widely available
- Staggered dismissal for all students
- Rotating schedule for afternoon advisories
- Social distancing of students during lunch times and recesses
- Non essential visitors restricted

- **Sanitation Protocols**

- Supervised hand-washing/hand-sanitizing
- Masks/face shields required for students *and* faculty on the playground, during special area classes, and during small group instruction, at the very least
- Sanitizing high-touch surfaces after every class
- Mid-day wipe down of all public surfaces
- End of day cleaning of all facilities using EPA approved disinfectant

- **Education Protocols**

- For preparedness, explicit instruction in effective online learning, including parent orientations, training, and support
- Expanded social and emotional learning focus

# What we ask of **you** in **Scenario 2**

Help us to keep our community healthy:

- **All families are asked to quarantine for 14 days prior to the start of school.**
- Children's temperatures should be taken daily before school. Any child with a temperature higher than 99.4°F should not attend school, and the school nurse should be notified.
- Children should be equipped with a supply of masks and personal hand sanitizer, which can be stored in the student's backpack. All students should be supplied with sanitizing wipes to be stored in their advisory classroom.
- Families should commit to closely adhering to [CDC guidelines for healthy habits](#) at home.
- *Those students with elevated risk for severe COVID-19 complications can submit a written request to participate in online learning.*

# ATTENDANCE POLICY in the time of COVID-19

Help us to keep students safe by adhering to **our revised student attendance policy**:

- Students with a temperature above 99.4°F should not attend school.
- A student presenting with COVID-19 [symptoms](#) will be sent home by the school nurse.
- Any student or family member **who tests positive** for COVID-19 is required to notify the school and will be asked to quarantine for 14 days and provide negative test results before returning to school.
- Any student **who has been exposed** to COVID-19 will be asked to quarantine for 14 days and provide negative test results before returning to school.
- Any student **with a housemate** who has contracted COVID-19 will be asked to quarantine for 14 days and provide negative test results before returning to school.
- *Students who are quarantining will be assigned daily classwork and may be able to participate in classes remotely.*

# Our response to a confirmed case of COVID-19

**In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in our school community, Rawson Saunders will mitigate and we will communicate. We will:**

- Contact local health officials and follow the most up-to-date guidance available
- Immediately shift to RSS@Home for at least 2-5 days
- Discourage students and staff from participating in social gatherings
- Communicate to faculty and parents the presence of a confirmed case of COVID-19
- Conduct a deep cleaning of all areas
- Provide updates as appropriate



# Scenario 3: RSS@Home

This scenario, a response to a requirement by the State of Texas or another regulatory body calling for closing schools, is a shift to online learning only.

- The daily schedule is adjusted to allow for transitions from class to class
- Class periods are reduced to 40 minutes
- School days are Monday through Thursday only
- Lunch and recess times are unsupervised
- [House Rules](#) and [ABCs of RSS@Home](#) apply
- The school and parents partner to ensure optimal student engagement in less than ideal circumstances
- **The academic-year calendar may be revisited in the event of a prolonged Scenario 3**



# We are here to help

As always, please contact us with questions at [questions@rawsonsaunders.org](mailto:questions@rawsonsaunders.org)

## For general policy and attendance questions:

- Laura Steinbach, Head of School - [lsteinbach@rawsonsaunders.org](mailto:lsteinbach@rawsonsaunders.org)
- Emily Vitris, Assistant Head of School - [evitris@rawsonsaunders.org](mailto:evitris@rawsonsaunders.org)
- Billy Austin, Dean of Students - [baustin@rawsonsaunders.org](mailto:baustin@rawsonsaunders.org)

## For health concerns:

- Lori Lord, RN - [llord@rawsonsaunders.org](mailto:llord@rawsonsaunders.org)

## For financial concerns:

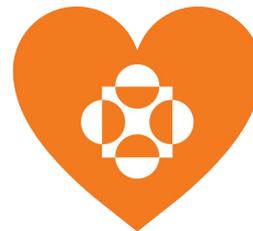
- Bea Swasey, Accounts Manager - [bswasey@rawsonsaunders.org](mailto:bswasey@rawsonsaunders.org)



# Better Together

Though we now know the days ahead are uncertain, **our children's** education is non-negotiable. **They are the future.** As a school, we are committed to meeting our students wherever they are, and meeting the needs of our community in relation to COVID-19. **This, too, shall pass.**

Until it does, **Rawson Saunders** will be supporting students in every way possible to develop their extraordinary potential.



**We remain proud and grateful for our partnership with the parents of Rawson Saunders School!**