



August 3, 2020

Dear RPSA Families,

As our world continues to navigate through such an uncertain time, one thing remains very constant for me. Daily I am reminded how grateful I am to be on this journey with the families, staff and students of Renaissance. The words of support shared by so many families is greatly appreciated. Our staff realizes we have some very big challenges ahead and take our responsibility seriously.

With that being said, we need to make some decisions to allow us to move forward towards our first day of learning on August 25. On Thursday, July 30th the RPSA School Board approved our [COVID-19 Preparedness & Response Plan](#) which has now been sent to our authorizers at Central Michigan University. We hope to outline the details of that plan today and in turn ask that a decision be made for each currently enrolled RPSA student no later than this Thursday, August 6th at 9:00am.

Every family must complete [a new survey](#) for each child in their household. This is your final decision to begin the school year and requires that you complete the new survey to secure your spot. We appreciate your patience and willingness to complete a second survey. The first survey was for planning purposes and cannot be used as your final decision. Any questions should be directed to Lisa Bergman at lbergman@renaissancepsa.com.

Here is the timeline we plan to follow.

Monday, August 3	Survey sent to families.
Thursday, August 6 by 9:00 a.m.	Survey completed by all families.
Monday, August 10	A calendar detailing the first six weeks of school's "blended" plan for in school students will be shared with all families
Week of August 10	Class lists completed and calls to families by classroom teachers to set up virtual family visits.
Week of August 17	Virtual Family Visits for all learners and their families with their classroom teacher.

Wednesday, August 19	SAVE THE DATE for a possible open house and/or technology distribution day. More details to come after final surveys are completed.
Tuesday, August 25	The first day of learning for ALL RPSA students.

ELEMENTS OF THE LEARNING PLAN FOR RPSA STUDENTS

This is the information we have available as of Monday, August 3, 2020. Please watch your email for further updates throughout the month of August as the recommendations and regulations are constantly being updated

What are the choices for student learning at RPSA this year?	We will offer in school learning five days a week or a distance learning option.
Can a student switch between choices during the school year?	Students may be able to switch choices during the school year after the holiday break in January. The board approved plan states that no more than 60% of the student body will be enrolled in the "in school" option at any given time. If more than 60% of our student population wishes to enroll in the "in school" option the plan will be reviewed to ensure the safety of students and staff.
What will the start of the school year look like for distance learning students?	Students in distance learning will visit on August 19 for technology distribution (if necessary), and will begin distance learning with their teacher on August 25th. All distance learning students must check in with their teacher and participate daily. The first three weeks of school are four days each (due to the Labor Day holiday). Beginning Monday, September 14th, distance learning students will be required to connect and participate five days a week following the school year calendar. In September, distance learning students may have a regularly scheduled time to visit the school (one on one), meet with their teacher, turn in work and gather learning supplies for future weeks. This schedule will be determined based on the needs of the family and an individual plan for each student.
What will the start of the school year look like for students who are learning in school?	Based on the recommendations of the RPSA school Board to ensure a safe and predictable start to the school year, the first three weeks of school will be "blended" for all students choosing the in school option. This means approximately half the students will come one day and half will do learning at home that same day. The day of at home learning will involve required work to be completed and returned the next school day. Both in

	<p>school and at home learning days count for attendance and are counted as school days for that student. Beginning Monday, September 14th all in school learners will come to school on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for three weeks. Wednesdays will be a distance learning day where students login from home to ensure connectivity for all families and practice distance learning procedures. Wednesday September 16, 23 and 30 will be distance learning days for all students choosing the in school option. These days will require the student to participate in learning online and be counted for attendance. Beginning the week of October 5th, in school learners will finally come to school five days a week for the remainder of the year following the adopted school calendar.</p>
<p>How will students be placed in classrooms?</p>	<p>Students returning to team for in school learning will be placed with their team teacher from last year to keep with our looping rotation. Students new to a team (year one) or in the distance learning teacher's class last year who choose in school learning will make up the balance of each of the three in school classrooms based on the environment that suits their individual learning style best.</p> <p>All students on a team choosing the distance learning option will be placed with a teacher and classmates from that team. One teacher on each team will be the distance learning teacher for the school year.</p> <p>Students choosing to move from distance learning to in school learning in January will be placed into one of the three in school classrooms for their team based on availability of seats in each classroom. Switching mid year will mean a student has a different teacher and new classmates for the remainder of the school year.</p>
<p>Who are the distant learning teachers for the school year?</p>	<p>Voyagers - Mrs. Schaar Islanders - Mrs. Lindsay Trailblazers - Mrs. Papenfus Middle School - Mr. McCausey</p>
<p>Why are all students (K-8) required to wear a mask?</p>	<p>Masks offer a greater level of safety as well as flexibility to ensure students can move within the classroom in a more age appropriate manner than simply requiring them to remain seated in the same seat for the entire day. We are making plans to allow classes to go outside as much as possible and take a break from wearing their masks while social distancing.</p>
<p>What kind of mask does</p>	<p>Cloth masks that the child can take on and off independently are</p>

<p>my child need to wear?</p>	<p>necessary. A disposable mask will be given to students whose mask becomes soiled during the day. A student must have a clean mask on properly when exiting the vehicle each morning in order to enter the building. Families should plan to have several masks for each child to allow worn masks to be laundered after each school day. Extra masks may be stored in lockers. Masks must follow the school dress code and should not distract from the learning environment.</p>
<p>Will students wear masks outside?</p>	<p>All in school students on a team will have three recesses a day, together as a team. Though social distancing is encouraged at recess, it cannot be guaranteed so masks will be expected. We are working on creating places and spaces on the playground where students can social distance and take a break from their masks during recesses.</p>
<p>What is the plan for students who show symptoms of Covid-19 vs just a cold or allergies?</p>	<p>We will be following the most up to date recommendations from our local health department. A flow chart of scenarios will be provided to parents closer to August 25th and as revisions are made throughout the year.</p> <p>Please note that a family member must come to school to pick up a sick or symptomatic student immediately. We will not be able to allow students who are sick or symptomatic to remain at school.</p>
<p>Will we symptom check at the start of each school day?</p>	<p>Families will be required to symptom check prior to coming to school using this checklist provided by the health department. Students who come to school must be symptom free and be wearing a mask when they exit the vehicle at drop off.</p>
<p>What about crowded hallways?</p>	<p>We are developing a staggered start and end time for each team to prevent hallway congestion. Transitions throughout the day will be timed to lessen classes passing in the hall or going to lockers at similar times. Each team of students will be assigned a different door of the building to enter each day so only students on that team enter through the assigned door. Details will be shared prior to the August 19th Move In Day.</p>
<p>What about breakfast and lunch for students?</p>	<p>We established procedures for breakfast and lunch in classrooms last year so this year will see a continuation of those procedures with which students are already familiar.</p>
<p>What about cleaning and sanitizing?</p>	<p>We will follow all health department requirements and purchase cleaning products that work effectively and are student safe. We have assigned additional staff to cleaning and sanitizing roles.</p>

<p>What about visitors and parents in the school building?</p>	<p>Until we are in Phase 6, only students and staff will be allowed in the school beyond the lobby. Visitors, parents and guests who need to visit the office may do so through the main doors after 9:00am each day. Parents are asked to NOT visit the office before 9:00am as the main doors will be the designated entrance for the Voyager students only. Anyone needing to visit the office may do so between 9am and 2:30pm. Visitors are asked to call ahead of coming into the school. A health screening questionnaire will be required.</p>
<p>How will families stay connected to their child's teacher?</p>	<p>Teachers will communicate with families daily via the Seesaw app. Teachers will also record regular video messages, have weekly office hours and set up phone/video calls with all families on a set schedule. Our lines of communication will be open and we will work to stay connected. We will be doing all we can to keep the RPSA connections strong.</p>
<p>Are Wednesdays still early release?</p>	<p>Yes. On Wednesdays the school day will end at or near 2:00pm each week as it has in the past.</p>