



May 13, 2020

Dear RPSA Families,

Welcome to another edition of our weekly newsletter. This is actually newsletter number nine as we are in our 9th week of our school building closure. In all of the uncertainty surrounding our world today, one thing is for sure. The Renaissance community is alive and learning. Last week's survey question indicated that over 75% of our families believe their RPSA student is engaging in learning activities that are "right on track" for the current situation. Another 19% felt their students could handle more challenging work, while 6% indicated feeling overwhelmed with the work or other factors outside of school learning. Our plans are to continue to offer engaging learning opportunities and projects through Seesaw as we have since March 16. In addition, we will work with those looking for a deeper challenge to enrich the project experience. And finally, we will continue to reach out and partner with families who are struggling. If you need us, if you have questions or even if things are simply going as planned we are here for you and your children.

This week we want to again ask a single question to help us shape our plans moving forward and planning for the 20/21 school year. There are many unanswered questions regarding how schools will open their buildings next school year. In the past we have offered Rams Camp for students during the summer months. This summer that will not be possible due to factors beyond our control. However, we want to keep learning alive and are curious how many families would be interested in maintaining a connection to school over the summer months. Please take a moment to complete this [week's survey question about summer learning](#).

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

We know you have many questions and ideas about next school year. Families will be invited to share those ideas and pose those questions in the upcoming weeks through survey questions. In the meantime, parents and guardians with questions or ideas can always email Mrs. Bergman at lbergman@renaissancepsa.com or join her on her office hours each week though clicking the appropriate link below or calling her Google Voice number, (786) 352-8438, during these office hours.

[**Wednesday, May 13 from 3:00 – 4:00pm**](#)

[**Friday, May 15 from 9:00 – 10:00am**](#)

[**Monday, May 18 from 12:00 – 1:00pm**](#)

In cases where your child needs immediate assistance or the matter is confidential, we have set up a phone line specifically to meet those needs. You may contact Mrs. Anderson, our Dean of Students and School Social Worker, by leaving a detailed message at 989-492-8328. Mrs. Anderson will return your call as soon as possible.

Please continue to call the school phone at 989-773-9889 for all non-emergency, school-related questions. Miss Tina will be available weekdays to answer the phone and get messages to the appropriate staff members.

WHAT SETS RENAISSANCE APART

There is no denying that school is different right now. In March our lives changed and how teachers and students interact was forever changed. When we created the learning plan for our students our goal was to keep our mission and vision alive. That meant finding different ways to do projects and keep LEARNING alive. This visual created by George Couros illustrates our efforts. At Renaissance our focus will continue to be on LEARNING regardless of if that learning is at home or in our school building.

School vs Learning

School	Learning
 Promotes starting by looking for answers	 Promotes starting with questions
 Is about consuming	 Is about creating
 Is about finding information on something that is prescribed for you	 Is about exploring your passions and interests
 Is about teaching compliance	 Is about challenging perceived norms
 Is scheduled at certain times	 Can happen anytime, all of the time
 Often is dates	 Often is social
 Is standardized	 Is personal
 Teaches us to obtain information from certain people	 Promotes that everyone is a teacher and everyone is a learner
 Is about giving you information	 Is about making your own connections
 Is sequential	 Is random and non-linear
 Promotes surface-level thinking	 Is about deep exploration



Be sure to check out the RPSA Facebook page ***Renaissance Public School Academy-Mount Pleasant*** for daily updates on things happening across our school community. We enjoy seeing comments and pictures shared.

In Partnership,
The RPSA Staff