



May 20, 2020

Dear RPSA Families,

It is hard to believe that we are so close to the close of our school year. Upon the conclusion of this week, only three weeks of distance learning will remain. Our scheduled last day for students is Thursday, June 11. We want to share some exciting end of year ideas that are in the works for students and their families.

WE ARE PLANNING A PARADE, OF SORTS

In the last week of school we will be doing a second distribution of care packages. As an added bonus during package pick up (and maybe a bit of surprise for students) we will be hosting a reverse parade of sorts to send students off into summer. Teachers will line the parking lot with music and surprises as families arrive by car to pick up their care package. Families will be invited to join the fun and decorate their cars as part of the fun. Mark your calendars and look for more details to come on our RPSA Summer Send Off Parade being planned for June 9 and 10.

In addition to the parade and package pick up on those days,

- Students will receive a final progress report of sorts from their classroom teacher. Obviously this progress report will look and feel much different from those in the past. It is our intention to send every student feedback on their year as well as share our hope for the future.
- Students will also receive the contents of their drawers and cubbies that have been at the school since March, along with any other personal items still at the school. Staff are currently working to collect and label every student's individual items still in the classroom.
- Any school items such as library books or borrowed chromebooks with chargers should be returned to the school.
- A final food distribution will take place for anyone in need. We have plenty of food for families who want to take some home.

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

Our last day of distance learning will be on Thursday, June 11. We are planning for virtual connections with classmates for that day. Teachers and teams will communicate plans within the coming weeks. For now, we want to be sure everyone keeps that day open.

SURVEY RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK SHOW SUPPORT FOR SUMMER CONNECTIONS

Last week's survey question for families asked if there was interest in maintaining learning connections over the summer. 51% of families indicated they would be interested in maintaining their child's

connection to school over the summer. Knowing we have a large amount of interest we are working to develop summer distance learning opportunities for our students. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

THIS WEEK'S FAMILY SURVEY QUESTION

We want to thank our families for their input over the past two weeks. We want to keep our questions short yet informative. This week we are interested in beginning to shape the conversation about next school year. There are countless unanswered questions and uncertainties. We hesitate to ask too many questions for fear of increasing anxieties or not being able to follow through as more information becomes available. So we ask that families take [this week's survey](#) with the understanding that we simply do not know what options we will be able to offer next year. For now, we want to see what options you would be most comfortable with for your child.

FINANCIAL CHALLENGES THAT LIE AHEAD

We would be remiss if we didn't share our honest concerns about the financial outlook for the remainder of this current year and the next two. The COVID-19 pandemic sent the world into economic turmoil. Two of the main funding sources for schools in Michigan are sales tax and income tax. The state's sales tax collection has plummeted due to the lack of normal spending by residents during a stay-at-home order. Additionally, thousands of Michigan residents have lost their jobs through lay-off's and furloughs, thereby reducing family income, thereby reducing next year's income tax collections. Combine the impact of these two factors and economic experts predict the state's School Aid Fund will see a reduction of \$1.09 billion for this current year (2019-20). Next year's (2020-21) revenue is predicted to be down by \$1.14 billion. This shortfall on paper equates to a cut of more than \$860 per pupil from our current \$8,111 per pupil Foundation Allowance. However, the School Aid Act outlines how a proration (reduction yet this current year) would work which means we will likely see a reduction still this school year to our final payments that come in the summer. Thus the cut is predicted to be closer to \$650-700 per pupil for next year. Both of these amounts do not take into account any changes to current spending in the state's budget or federal dollars that might be supplied/used to offset that deficit. Long story short, this is not good news. Based upon the best information we have at hand we are working to build our 2020-21 budget scenarios on a loss of \$750 per student. Without significant support to schools from the Federal government we will face some very challenging decisions as an RPSA school community, as will all other public schools across our state.

SO WHAT CAN YOU DO?

We don't want to end our weekly newsletter with the challenges that lie ahead but rather with a simple request for our families. We ask that you take the time to ask your child at least one of these three questions each day. We ask that you find those small moments to connect with your child and listen to what they have to say. Even when we do return to the structure and predictable world of a school schedule (which we will someday), it is important to take the time to listen and learn from your child.

3 Questions to Ask Your Child Every Day

By Megan Conley @_megconley
bit.ly/3QuestionsToAsk

Instead of: "How was your day today?"

Try: ① "How were you brave today?"



② "How were you kind today?"



③ "How did you fail today?"



(Note: Ask yourself these three questions, too!)

@sylvia.duckworth

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

- Remember the school office is open from 9-3 weekdays to take phone calls and answer questions. You can call ahead if you need to drop off or pick up something from the office. Please remember that Miss Tina cannot allow students or guests into the building quite yet. As soon as we can open the doors, Miss Tina will be there waiting to see you face to face.
- You can reach Mrs. Anderson for personal needs or assistance in a crisis by leaving a detailed message at 989-492-8328. Mrs. Anderson will return your call as soon as possible.
- Mrs. Bergman can be reached during her office hours each week by clicking the appropriate link below or calling her Google Voice number, (786) 352-8438, during these office hours.

[Wednesdays from 3:00 – 4:00pm](#)

[Fridays from 9:00 – 10:00am](#)

[Mondays from 12:00 – 1:00pm](#)

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