



# Renaissance Report

MARCH 4, 2020

## **It is time for Student-led Conferences!**

**To sign-up, simply click on the following link:  
[SignUpGenius](#)**

**\*Once on the [SignUpGenius](#) site, be sure to find the appropriate teacher name among the tabs to sign up for a conference.**



March 4, 2020

Dear RPSA Families, I want to begin by thanking those who completed our annual school improvement survey. Your input is always welcome and this survey yielded some very impactful feedback. From that feedback we have compiled a list of common questions or suggestions and plan to address those ideas in upcoming newsletters.

The concerns over our lack of an art teacher this year was evident in the survey comments from families, staff and students. Upon reviewing the surveys, I instantly realized I needed to share our plans for art moving forward so everyone understands why we do not have an art teacher this year and our hopes to bring back art for future school years.

Last summer when our art teacher relocated, we did not have applicants who we believed were a good fit for our school community. The teacher shortage across our country and the even greater lack of teachers in the arts makes hiring a qualified candidate difficult. Instead we chose to add a different Specials class (Movement Lab) into our rotation to increase physical activity for our students. Special thanks to Mrs. Bartell for stepping into that position.

Just last week we resumed our search for an art teacher to begin working with our students in the fall. Our mission and vision as a school assumes that the arts are an integral part of a student's experience at Renaissance.

Thank you to those who completed the family survey. We will be extending the opportunity to complete the survey through March 13 and hope that all those who were not yet able to complete it will be able to offer input. Please use the following link to complete the family survey:

<http://bit.ly/RPSA2020>

In Partnership,  
Mrs. Bergman

# Renaissance Public School Academy invites you to swim into our school for kindergarten Round-up!



Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>  
5:30-7:00 PM

We are looking for all little guppies who will  
be five on or before September 1, 2020

## What to expect:

- Informational meeting for adult family members
- Student activities in kindergarten classrooms
- Meet the teachers
- Tour the school
- Learn what makes Renaissance unique

Call (989) 773-9889 to attend with your child.



\*Free transportation if needed to and from round up. Simply  
schedule while making your appointment.

\*Childcare available for siblings during round up. Please  
register in advance when you call.



-K-8, tuition free  
Michigan public  
school academy

-Multi-age classes

-Focus on  
pursuing student  
passions and  
exploration.

-Enrichment  
classes include  
music, physical  
education,  
movement,  
STEAM and library  
on a weekly basis

-Free before  
school supervision  
beginning daily at  
7:30 AM

-PEAK program  
available until  
6 PM each school  
day

# Spring pictures let you be you!

Order before Picture Day on: [mylifetouch.com](http://mylifetouch.com)



Tuesday, March 10, 2020  
Renaissance Public School Academy

- 1 Visit: [mylifetouch.com](http://mylifetouch.com)
- 2 Enter your Picture Day ID: LMB49052Y0
- 3 Order your perfect package—  
and don't worry about returning  
anything on Picture Day!

Lifetouch  
**REWARDS** Order online and receive exclusive  
offers from Lifetouch Rewards.

Only students who return the attached form on picture day will be photographed.

[Click here to order!](#)

Questions? Please contact Customer Service at 800-736-4753.  
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**Lifetouch.**

# Order your yearbook today

Encarga hoy tu anuario.

[ybpay.lifetouch.com](http://ybpay.lifetouch.com)

Order Deadline:

Fecha Tope Para el Pedido:

March 20, 2020

Yearbook ID Code:

Código ID del anuario:

13009820

School Name:

Nombre de escuela:

Renaissance Public School Academy

Yearbook

Annuario

\$12



Don't miss this year's school memories

No te pierdas los recuerdos escolares de este año.

\*Yearbook design varies by school. \*El diseño del anuario varía según la escuela.

Yearbook Includes:

- Sturdy soft cover with protective coating
- All-color pages that vibrantly capture your memories throughout the school year
- Durable binding that keeps the yearbook intact through wear and tear

**El anuario incluye:**

- Cubierta blanda resistente con revestimiento protector
- Todas las páginas a color, que captan de manera vibrante tus recuerdos durante el año escolar
- Encuadernación cosida a caballo duradera, que mantiene el anuario intacto contra el desgaste natural

[Click here to order!](#)

Prices include sales tax where applicable. When you pay by check, you authorize us to process the payment as a check transaction, or to use information from your check to make a direct debit from your checking account. A service fee may be charged on returned checks. Post dated checks are not accepted. By completing and submitting this order form, you are agreeing to all of Lifetouch's terms and conditions located at [www.lifetouch.com/terms-conditions](http://www.lifetouch.com/terms-conditions) and to our privacy policy located at [www.lifetouch.com/privacy](http://www.lifetouch.com/privacy).

En precios incluyen impuesto a las ventas cuando corresponde. Cuando pague con cheque, nos autoriza a procesar el pago como una transacción mediante cheque o a usar la información de su cheque para realizar una transferencia electrónica de fondos desde su cuenta de cheques por depósito. Por cheques postdatados no se aceptan. Al completar y enviar este formulario de pedidos, acepta todas las condiciones de Lifetouch ubicadas en [www.lifetouch.com/terms-conditions](http://www.lifetouch.com/terms-conditions) y nuestra política de privacidad ubicada en [www.lifetouch.com/privacy](http://www.lifetouch.com/privacy).

# Brushes and Brunch

Come to a morning of art, brunch, and fundraising, where you can learn to paint in a easy-to-follow lesson taught by students Sarah Wilson and Ellie Daum on the 7th of March, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. Admission is \$7 a canvas, and all profits will go to Water for South Sudan. Donations are accepted.

Muffins, juice and coffee will be provided but feel free to bring your favorite brunchy food.

To sign up please contact Mrs. Snyder at [nsnyder@renaissancpsa.com](mailto:nsnyder@renaissancpsa.com)

**\*There are only 20 available canvas\***

# Classroom News:



## Kindergarten News

### Literacy

This week is a Sight Word Review week. Here they are: for, go, will, be, this, is, how, are  
**March is Reading Month!**  
*Check out the calendar in this newsletter.*

### Math

We are continuing some simple addition this week. We will use some different strategies for adding things together.

### Writing

We are writing in our journals and sharing information like authors do in books.

### Social Studies

We are finishing up our Needs and Wants unit this week.

### \*Reminders & Events\*

Dates to remember:  
Student Led Conferences are coming up March 16, 17, 18.  
Watch for sign up on Genius soon.  
March 26, Kindergarten "Moosical" 8:30 am  
Spring Break - March 27-April 3  
No school - April 10 and April 13



## Voyager Newsletter



### Academics:

In math, our students continue to work on Fact Families w/ missing addends. Also, students continue to work with non-standard and standard measurement.

In reading, our students continue to work on answering who, what, when, where, and why. Also, students will be learning about text features and the importance in text.

In science, our students will finish projects for states of matter. Students will begin learning about needs, wants, scarcity, goods and services. Throughout this project students will learn about what it takes to create a product and sell it to make profit while creating Itty Bitty City.  
Please be watching for future info on this amazing project.

In writing, students will be finishing their informational writing. Also, students will be practicing for their upcoming SLC, so they may confidently present their bird trifold.

### Parents,

Please ensure your child comes to school with their winter gear. Voyagers must have boots and snow pants when going outside for recess.

A friendly reminder, students need to eat breakfast at home or eat the school provided breakfast. Please don't send them with breakfast from home-thank you!

As always, if you need to contact us, please use Seesaw and we will respond to you during non-instructional time throughout the day-thanks.

### Dates to remember:

March 5, 2020  
Voyager Field trip to Ponder Coffee

March 25, 2020  
Voyager Field trip to Texas Roadhouse

March 12, 2020  
Kindergarten Round-up 5:30-7:00

March 27 - April 3, 2020  
Spring Break  
Enjoy your spring break and we will see everyone back on Monday, April 6, 2020.

Week of March 14th  
Student Led Conferences  
Watch for sign-ups



# News and Events

## OUR CURRENT PBL DRIVING QUESTION:

How can studying stories of immigration throughout history help us build empathy, respect, understanding, and compassion for others?

**GENIUS HOUR PROJECT PRESENTATIONS ARE HAPPENING THIS WEEK.**

<b>MATH</b>	Probability, measurement conversions within a system, Line plots, Ratios and rates, Percents- ask your child which one they're working on.
<b>PBL</b>	<p><b>Humanities - Immigration Studies</b> - D2.Geo.4.6-8. Explain how cultural patterns and economic decisions influence environments and the daily lives of people in both nearby and distant places.</p> <p>D2.Geo.11.9-12. Evaluate how economic globalization and the expanding use of scarce resources contribute to conflict and cooperation within and among countries.</p> <p>D2.Geo.12.9-12. Evaluate the consequences of human-made and natural catastrophes on global trade, politics, and human migration.</p>
<b>LITERACY</b>	Literature Circles
<b>WRITING</b>	<b>Narrative Writing</b> - Write a personal narrative about a moment when your life changed in an important way. These will be turned into a podcast!



Remember: If your child is not feeling well, it is recommended that they stay home until they are 24 hour fever/vomit/diarrhea-free to lessen the spread of illnesses

## Middle School Happenings March 5 - March 11

### Study Lab Tuesday and Thursday

Math	English/ Language Arts	Science	Social Studies
<p>Mr. Buzard's math classes are continuing to work on slope and equations for lines in slope intercept form. We will be assessing soon.</p> <p>Mr. McCausey's classes are going to be assessing Sampling Processes this week.</p> <p>Resource math works on objectives tailored to each student.</p>	<p>Ms. Hunter's ELA classes are learning about methods of persuasion and the structure of an academic debate. This week we are doing a practice debate centered around voting rights.</p> <p>Resource writing will be continuing our unit on social media. We will be discussing how words can hurt others online and what constitutes Cyberbullying.</p>	<p>Science classes should be finishing up Electromagnetic Spectrum work. They will be learning about Waves for the next few weeks before beginning their next big project - Rube Goldberg!</p>	<p>Mr. Buzard's classes are just getting started on writing our Chapter 7 Essays.</p> <p>Ms. Hunter's class is uploading ch. 6 essays to digital portfolios. We have begun reading chapter 7 about consequences of Westward Expansion and the Industrial Revolution.</p>

	3/5 (Th)	3/6 (Fri)	3/9 (Mon)	3/10 (Tue)	3/11 (Wed)
<b>Major Assignment, Assessments, and Events</b>	Study Lab			Study Lab Ms. Hunter's Room	

# RAMS Athletics:



## ATHLETICS

### *UPCOMING GIRLS BASKETBALL*

**Girls "A/B" Basketball MMSL Tournament  
March 14, 2020  
The tournament is set to begin at 10:00 AM**

**Details will be announced soon.**



## ATHLETICS

### *Basketball Pictures are in!*

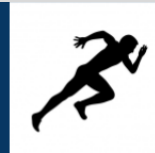
**Pictures will be delivered at the banquet on the 24th. If you would like your pictures before that date, you may pick them up from Mr. McCausey. He has them in his classroom. If you would like them sent home with your child, please send Mr. McCausey an email or SeeSaw message. The athletic department is not responsible for damages to pictures once sent home with a child.**



## ATHLETICS Track & Field

**Informational Meeting - March 23rd - 5:15 PM  
Mr. McCausey's Classroom**

**Interested boys and girls in grades 7 & 8 are encouraged to attend, along with their families. Important new program information will be given, details of the rollout, policies discussed, coaches introduced, and a Q&A session to wrap everything up. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. McCausey**





## ATHLETICS BANQUET Cheer Team & Girls Basketball



March 24  
5:30 - 7:00 PM  
School Cafeteria



Cheer Team and A/B Girls Basketball players and their families are invited to attend. Celebrate with awards. Dinner is provided.



## ATHLETICS

### Little Rams Basketball Camp: Year 2

Be on the lookout...soon...for upcoming information!



## ATHLETICS

Our home event athletic schedule has come to a conclusion. Therefore, all unfulfilled scholarship obligations will become due in full. Notices will be sent out soon. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. McCausey.

# Spotlight on Specials!








## March is Reading Month!

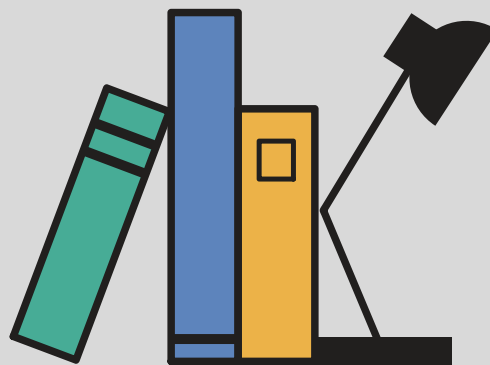


Renaissance Reading Month: March 2020

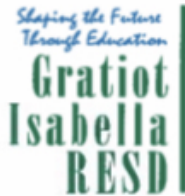
### Pop Open a Good Book!



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>2 <b>Show Your School Spirit</b> Wear your favorite school gear</p> <p>Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!</p>	<p>3 Find your favorite place at home to read!</p>	<p>4  <b>Wordy Wednesday!</b> Read a shirt day</p>	<p>5 Read to a stuffed animal or pet at home!</p>	<p>6 <b>Flashlight Friday</b> Curl up with a flashlight and enjoy a great book!</p>
<p>9 Decorate your locker with your favorite book!</p>	<p>10 Read to a family member at home!</p>	<p>11  <b>Be a Reading "Jean-ius"</b> Read in your Jeans!</p>	<p>12 Read a joke to your class day!</p> 	<p>13 <b>Hats Off to Reading!</b>  Wear your favorite hat.</p>
<p>16 Read your favorite book at school! Bring one from home if you want.</p>	<p>17 <b>Happy St. Patrick's Day!</b>  Wear as much green as you can.</p>	<p>18 <b>Sock it to me!</b> Wear your crazy socks.</p>	<p>19 Have a teacher read you one of their favorite books!</p>	<p>20 <b>Be a Reading Rainbow!</b>  Wear as many colors as you can. (All-Star Dads)</p>
<p>23  Listen to someone read to you at home!</p>	<p>24 Make a fort at home and read in it!</p>	<p>25 <b>Cuddle Up With a Good Book!</b> Wear pajamas to school.</p>	<p>26 <b>Read a book to a friend!</b> Kindergarten Musical and Learning Celebration beginning at 8:30 a.m.</p>	<p>27 <b>No School Spring Break Begins!</b></p>



# Flashlight Friday is this Friday!



## Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District Millage Election

*March 10, 2020*

Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District (GIRESD) is seeking the approval of a Headlee Restoration Millage at the March 10, 2020 election. The restoration millage will only affect the Special Education tax levy.

GIRESD was authorized by taxpayers to levy 4.2000 mills but that amount has been rolled back over the years to the current rate of 4.0345 mills due to Headlee.

Headlee is a Michigan law that limits the growth in a tax levy to the rate of inflation. If the levy grows by more than the rate of inflation in a given year, the millage rate is permanently rolled back to limit the growth to the rate of inflation. In those years when the levy grows by less than the rate of inflation, the rate is not adjusted back up to the authorized millage (hence, permanently reduced). Therefore, the GIRESD Board of Education has approved an election to restore the .1655 mills (4.200 – 4.0345) that was reduced due to Headlee roll backs.

To understand the cost to the individual homeowner, please refer to the following chart:

<u>Home/Property Value</u>	<u>Taxable Value</u>	<u>Annual Increase in Tax</u>
\$ 50,000	\$25,000	\$ 4.14
\$ 75,000	\$37,500	\$ 6.21
\$100,000	\$50,000	\$ 8.28
\$125,000	\$62,500	\$10.34
\$150,000	\$75,000	\$12.41

If you have further questions, please contact Dr. Jan Amsterburg, Superintendent, [jamsterburg@giresd.net](mailto:jamsterburg@giresd.net) or Kevin Kolb, Finance Director, [kkolb@giresd.net](mailto:kkolb@giresd.net).

1131 East Center Street • P.O. Box 310 • Ithaca, Michigan 48847-0310  
(989) 875-5101 • Fax (989) 875-2858 • TDD (989) 875-8720

GIRESD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.  
Auxiliary aids & services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.



# Central Michigan District Health Department

*Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities*



Jennifer Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP  
Medical Director

Steve Hall, RS, MS  
Health Officer

March 3, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you are likely aware, a new strain of coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2 has been causing more and more cases of an illness referred to as COVID-19 in many places of the world. For most, it is like a common cold; however, some have been much sicker and a small percentage have died. So far, no cases have occurred in Michigan, but we are preparing and watching the situation very closely. Your school district is working closely with us at the local health department, as well as the state health department, their local Regional Education Service District/Intermediate School District, and the Michigan Department of Education to be prepared in case this situation worsens.

At this time, the risk of COVID-19 to the general public in Michigan is very low. It is still important to practice everyday illness prevention to help us all stay healthy.

**The everyday prevention recommendations are:**

- Stay at home when you are sick.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, especially with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
  - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
  - Use your sleeve or inner elbow if a tissue isn't available.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a household disinfectant spray or wipe, or a mixture of 2 Tbs. bleach in a gallon of water.

Washing hands often and covering coughs and sneezes can help prevent the spread of illness. Please encourage your children and family members to practice these habits as they truly are important.

Further updates will be provided as the situation changes. Additional resources can be found at <https://www.cmdhd.org/novel-coronavirus> as well as [www.michigan.gov/coronavirus](http://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus) and [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

To Your Health,

Jennifer Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP  
Medical Director

Central Michigan District Health Department

*Please visit us at our website [www.cmdhd.org](http://www.cmdhd.org)*