



Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Dear RPSA Families,

Our first all school distance learning day went very smoothly for many of our students and staff. We will review our successes and troubleshoot around our challenges today to make next Wednesday even more meaningful.

Our first two days of full, in school learning also went very well. Students continue to do an exceptional job following safety procedures and taking it all in stride. Our biggest challenge so far has been at drop off and pick up. In order to ensure the safety of our students, staff and family members in vehicles, please read the following expectations carefully.

- Please be patient. We ask that everyone pay close attention and refrain from any cell phone use in the parking lot while driving your vehicle.
- Remain in the drop off/pick up line and **MOVE ALL THE WAY FORWARD TO FILL IN ALL OF THE SPACES. Please do not stop along the sidewalk until all spaces are filled.** We will direct your child to their team door once they exit the vehicle.
- PLEASE DO NOT CUT THROUGH THE PARKING LOT OR CUT IN LINE TO FILL IN AN OPEN SPACE. For your own safety it is essential that all vehicles move in the same direction in a single line.
- In the mornings, it is most congested from 7:45-7:55. Come a bit later if at all possible. We will have staff at the main entrance for drop off until 8:15 each morning.
- We provide a 35 minute window for pick up after school from 3:25-4:00. Please come later rather than earlier. Families are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED NOT TO ARRIVE BEFORE 3:25 UNLESS IT IS TO PICK UP ONLY A KINDERGARTEN STUDENT.**
 - Please do not arrive before 3:20 and park in the pick up line unless you are picking up only a kindergarten student. It is unsafe to have vehicles backed up onto Isabella Road.
- Family members may NOT get out of their vehicles at drop off and pick up. Please DO NOT approach staff at this time. Our plan does not allow for any visitors or guests outside of their vehicles.
 - The office is open to visitors from 9:00-2:00 daily. Please only come during those times.

FALL TESTING

Classroom teachers use a variety of assessment practices to determine each student's current understanding of a topic and guide their instruction. Most of these assessments are integrated

into daily lessons and projects. At the beginning, middle and end of the year we use the NWEA MAP Growth benchmark test. This is an adaptive assessment that gives teachers a snapshot of each student's current achievement in reading and math. Conducting this multiple times each year helps us to measure trends in student growth. NWEA testing will begin next week for both on site and virtual students.

For virtual students, the testing will be very similar to our past practices of testing in person. Students will log in to the platform, and their classroom teacher will be available during the test session to provide support, especially for technical difficulties. The teacher will monitor the student's pacing and will encourage them to take their time and work carefully.

The adaptive nature of this test means that test questions are given to students based in part on their performance during the test. The level of complexity of each question changes to try to determine the student's particular level of understanding. When this process is working, it is expected that students will not answer every question correctly. They are progressing appropriately as long as they are giving their best effort. It is crucial that they do not have outside assistance in answering the questions. Please encourage your child to work through the questions on their own. A suggested response is to say, "Do what you think is best." Their teacher will be available to provide support and encouragement, but they also will not be able to assist students with specific test questions.

Your child's teacher will let you know the specific days and times they will be testing. There will be two separate times scheduled, one for reading and one for math. Results will be shared with families when the test window has closed. We anticipate fall results may look different from past years, and we are committed to making the best use of this information to help students grow in their learning over the course of the whole school year.

RAMS CARDS SALES AND PTO CONTACT INFORMATION

Thanks for a great start to our Rams Cards sales! We know it is a little trickier than the last couple of years, making your participation all the more appreciated! You might be asking, "*How is the money for Rams Cards used?*"

In previous years, the proceeds from Rams Cards and other fundraisers (Spring Raffle, shirt sales, etc.) have helped to provide the following:

- **Classroom supplies and student support**
We purchase gift cards for teachers to use toward classroom supplies as well as supply granola bars to be used for supplemental nutrition as needed.
- **Contribute to the music program**
- **Contribute to the athletics program**
- **Teacher and staff appreciation and support** We provide a monthly coffee/treat cart, birthday gifts for staff, books for staff development, and special treats, prizes, and meals during teacher appreciation week.
- **Student and family involvement** We support numerous family events including Morning with Mom, All Star Dads, Halloween and middle school dances, Spring Carnival, and Field Day.

YOUR help is very much appreciated! For your Rams Cards, please email renaissanceramspto@gmail.com to arrange delivery, or stop by the office daily between 9-2. Cards are available for \$10 each or 10 cards for \$90. Prizes are awarded to the top 10 sellers (calculated by family). [See the school website for details.](#)

We'd love to hear from you! To join the PTO, receive our emails, or provide feedback, email renaissanceramspto@gmail.com.

WEEKLY FAMILY SURVEY QUESTION

The world of school looks a lot different this year. Our goal remains to offer a joyful and personalized experience based on strong relationships with our students. As the parent or guardian, please rate your level of satisfaction with your child's learning experience so far this school year. We want to know how we are doing! This week's one question survey is linked [HERE](#).

We hope all of our families are settling into a routine and finding joy in the learning their children are doing at RPSA. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher or a member of the RPSA Leadership Team at

- Executive Director, Mrs. Bergman at lbergman@renaissancepsa.com
- Dean of Instruction, Mr. Mayer at hmayer@renaissancepsa.com
- Dean of Students, Mrs. Anderson at sanderson@renaissancepsa.com
- Business Manager, Mrs. Reihl at breihl@renaissancepsa.com

And don't forget to follow us on Facebook for your daily dose of all the wonderful things happening at school and from a distance.

In Partnership,
The RPSA Staff