



August 13, 2020

Dear RPSA Families,

This week our entire staff returned to the building to make preparations for the upcoming school year. As you can imagine, information and guidance is constantly changing. There's a lot going on, to say the least. In this newsletter we hope to offer you the information you need to begin to plan for the first day of school on Tuesday, August 25th. Regardless of what the year ahead brings or the format in which we all learn, we are excited and honored to be on this journey with you, your family and your children.

**"IN SCHOOL" LEARNERS RETURN TO SCHOOL CALENDAR**

	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY Early Release Day @ 2:00</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
<b>8/24</b> <b>Hybrid Week #1</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</b>  Possible "MOVE IN DAY" TBD  SCHEDULED VISITS ONLY	TEAM BLUE IN SCHOOL  TEAM GREY AT HOME LEARNING DAY	TEAM GREY IN SCHOOL  TEAM BLUE AT HOME LEARNING DAY	TEAM BLUE IN SCHOOL  TEAM GREY AT HOME LEARNING DAY	TEAM GREY IN SCHOOL  TEAM BLUE AT HOME LEARNING DAY
<b>8/31</b> <b>Hybrid Week #2</b>	TEAM BLUE IN SCHOOL  TEAM GREY AT HOME LEARNING DAY	TEAM GREY IN SCHOOL  TEAM BLUE AT HOME LEARNING DAY	TEAM BLUE IN SCHOOL  TEAM GREY AT HOME LEARNING DAY	TEAM GREY IN SCHOOL  TEAM BLUE AT HOME LEARNING DAY	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>  <b>LABOR DAY WEEKEND</b>
<b>9/7</b> <b>Hybrid Week #3</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>  <b>LABOR DAY</b>	TEAM BLUE IN SCHOOL  TEAM GREY AT HOME LEARNING DAY	TEAM GREY IN SCHOOL  TEAM BLUE AT HOME LEARNING DAY	TEAM BLUE IN SCHOOL  TEAM GREY AT HOME LEARNING DAY	TEAM GREY IN SCHOOL  TEAM BLUE AT HOME LEARNING DAY
<b>9/14</b> <b>Blended Week #1</b>	ALL IN SCHOOL STUDENTS ATTEND TOGETHER BEGINNING TODAY		Virtual day for all in school students		

9/21  Blended Week #2			Virtual day for all in school students		
9/28  Blended Week #3			Virtual day for all in school students		
10/5 First 5 Day week for all "IN SCHOOL" learners					

**HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE FIRST SIX WEEKS CALENDAR FOR IN SCHOOL STUDENTS**

- **What is a Hybrid Week?** We use the term “hybrid” to mean some learning at school and some at home. Half of the In School students come on a scheduled day while the other half of the In School students learn from home on that day. This allows for school and classroom procedures to be learned and practiced to ensure safety for all.
- **What do In School students do at home on the days they are not at school?** All In School students will have required learning to complete on their at home learning days. Teachers and students will not be in contact virtually on days they are at home the first three weeks as the teacher will be working face to face that day with their In School students who are at the school that day. Evidence of the work done at home will be required the next day the student is in school.
- **What are Team Blue and Team Grey?** We have split classes in half to ensure safety and practice procedures the first three weeks. In School learners will be on either Team Blue or Team Grey for the first three weeks. We will also use the team concept if we are required by the state to move to a hybrid approach at any time during the school year.
  - TEAM BLUE is last names A-L in most instances.
  - TEAM GREY is last names M-Z in most instances.
  - Classroom teachers will confirm this when they call to set up virtual family visits.
  - In a case where siblings have different last names, the *in school days* for all children in a family will be based on the last name of the oldest sibling.
- **What is a Blended Week?** Weeks #3, #4 and #5 are blended weeks. All In School students will come to school on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. All In

School students will stay home on those three Wednesdays and be expected to login to distance learning with their teacher and their classmates on those days. This allows everyone to practice procedures and ensure connectivity in case we are required to close the school building at any time during the year.

- **When do Distance Learning students begin?** All students who are signed up for Distance Learning begin on Tuesday, August 25th and have school every day of the week beginning immediately. Students will be expected to login daily, attend class meetings and presentations and complete all assignments. There are no “off days” for Distance Learning students. A daily and weekly schedule will be shared with Distance Learning students and their families during virtual family visits the week of August 17.

**OTHER COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

- **Who is my child’s teacher this year?** Based on the FINAL choice made for each student in the survey we had made staffing adjustments to accommodate 50% of our students in school and 50% of our students learning from a distance (at home). This means we have had to adjust our staffing on some of our teams.

	IN SCHOOL TEACHERS	DISTANCE LEARNING TEACHERS
<b>KINDERGARTEN</b> <i>Mr. Wilson and Mrs. Biedenbender will have a combination of in school and distance learners. Information will be communicated to all kindergarten families in a phone call from the child’s teacher.</i>	Mrs. B and Mr. Wilson with support from Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Cline	Mrs. B and Mr. Wilson with support from Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Cline
<b>VOYAGERS</b>	Mrs. Moore Mrs. Robinson Mrs. Assmann	Mrs. Schaar
<b>ISLANDERS</b>	Mrs. Brandeberry Mr. Neyer	Mrs. Lindsey Mrs. Schwartz
<b>TRAILBLAZERS</b>	Mrs. Nix Mrs. Snyder	Mrs. Papenfus Miss Kennedy
<b>MIDDLE SCHOOL</b>	Mr. Buzard Mr. Whitman	Mr. McCausey Mr. Koster

- **When will we know our child’s teacher?** Class lists have been finalized based on the choices made in the final survey of all families. Teachers have started to make phone calls to all families and will be setting up virtual family visits. Please DO NOT call the

office regarding classroom teacher information. Families will receive a phone call from the teacher shortly.

- **What is a virtual family visit?** In lieu of a face to face, individual meeting with each student and their family, the classroom teachers will hold virtual meetings with all students and their families this year. This will take place via Google Hangout, Zoom or Facetime depending on what works for the family. Our goal is to see every student, both In School students and Distance Learning students, by August 21. We will not be able to host our annual Hot Diggity Dog Night this year due to current health recommendations. Plans for a “Move In” Day and/or learning materials distribution are being considered for Monday, August 24th.
- **What about drop off and pick up?** Students should be dropped off in the drop off lane with their mask on. Adults are asked to remain in their cars and not park to walk their students to the door. Each team will be assigned an entrance and exit to ensure social distancing. Those entrances will be clearly marked with a yard sign upon arrival.
- **What are the school hours for In School students?** The school doors will open at 7:45. This is a change from last year. Students must remain in cars until the school doors open. Students may not exit cars before the staff member at each door is visible and opens the door. Students must wait in line outside the school to be checked in at the door. Adults may not wait in line with their student to eliminate congestion and group gatherings. The school day begins at 8:00 am for all students, both In School and Distance Learning.
- **Are visitors allowed in the building?** Until our school is in Phase 6, no outside visitors or parents will be allowed in the school beyond the lobby during the school day, including drop off and pick up. Visitors may enter the lobby from 9:00-2:00 most days and are asked to call ahead.
- **What about PEAK?** We are working with the City of Mt. Pleasant in the hopes of offering after school PEAK beginning sometime in October. Until that time students must be picked up from school at the end of the day which will be approximately 3:30 on all days except Wednesdays, when Early Release begins at 2:00.
- **What about breakfast and lunch?** Our food service program will be similar to last year with breakfast and lunch available in the classrooms. The cost for breakfast is \$2.00 for full price and .30 is the reduced rate. The cost of lunch is \$3.50 and .40 is the reduced lunch rate. Paperwork to determine if a family qualifies for free or reduced meals for the 20/21 school year will be sent home the first week of school. Families who qualified in the 19/20 school year remain eligible the first week of school to allow for new paperwork to be completed. We are also working on plans to offer weekly meals to Distance Learning students. More information will come from classroom teachers through Seesaw.
- **How do we pay for breakfast and lunch?** Visitors may enter the main lobby of the building from 9:00am-2:00pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays to make payments. A check may also be sent with a student to school in an envelope clearly marked with the student’s first and last name as well as the amount enclosed.

- **What if a student becomes ill or shows symptoms?** There is a designated waiting room for sick or symptomatic students in the lobby but not in the office area to eliminate contact with other students or staff. An adult must come to the school immediately to pick up a student once notified by the school.
- **What if we have other questions?** Please email a member of the school leadership team and someone will reply as soon as possible.
  - Executive Director, Mrs. Bergman at [lbergman@renaissancepsa.com](mailto:lbergman@renaissancepsa.com)
  - Dean of Instruction, Mr. Mayer at [hmayer@renaissancepsa.com](mailto:hmayer@renaissancepsa.com)
  - Dean of Students, Mrs. Anderson at [sanderson@renaissancepsa.com](mailto:sanderson@renaissancepsa.com)
  - Business Manager, Mrs. Reihl at [breihl@renaissancepsa.com](mailto:breihl@renaissancepsa.com)

Thank you to the entire RPSA community for your patience and constant support throughout these challenging times. Your commitment to your children and our school is greatly appreciated and makes it all worthwhile.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Lisa Bergman  
Executive Director, Renaissance Public School Academy