



July 23, 2020

Dear RPSA Families,

We believe that in person, face to face learning among our students and with our staff is the ideal for the mission and vision of our school to come alive. We also believe that during the school closure last school year the RPSA community shined. Students continued to find joy in learning, teachers found purpose in their work and our families supported the process by constantly staying connected.

The 20/21 school year is full of countless uncertainties. We know that in order to fully realize the potential for our students everyone, students, staff and families, needs to feel safe and trust in the plan moving forward. As we write plans for the school year to come, we are striving to not only be compliant but go above and beyond to ensure everyone feels safe and then in turn can learn.

Here is what we know as of this newsletter:

- We are gaging the interest in two different options to begin the school year. Those options are five days a week, in school or a distance learning option outside of the school building. **It is essential that a preliminary choice is made for every student by Wednesday, July 29. Please see the survey below.**
- Masks will be required of 5-8 students and staff at all times other than during meals until we are in Phase 6. The State's roadmap allows for some flexibility for students K-4 and that flexibility is being fully investigated at this time. Wearing masks allows for the greatest amount of flexibility and age appropriate interactions throughout the school day. All decisions regarding masks will be made on a team by team (grade level) basis and not on an individual classroom basis.
- Classrooms will all be set up in a similar fashion to ensure the greatest amount of social distancing possible while also allowing for genuine learning and interactions to take place. Classroom configurations will be set by the school and not on a room by room basis as in the past to ensure safety in all classrooms.
- Visitors will not be allowed in the building until we are in Phase 6. Visitors will not be allowed in the school building while in Phases 4 or 5. This means that parents will need

to drop off and pick up from their cars. Since strong communication during drop off and pick up has always been a hallmark of our school community we are working on ways to ensure connections with families on a daily basis that ensure everyone's safety.

- A set of health protocols is being developed by our state and local health departments. Those protocols will be shared with all families and implemented completely at Renaissance.

Some things you can count on as an RPSA family:

- The first day of school will be Tuesday, August 25th regardless of what phase we are in at that time. Here is the [2020-21 Calendar](#).
- Once class lists are finalized, we will hold virtual "Family Visits" with every single family in early August. This is a tradition we hold dear to our values as a school and one which we simply need to do from afar this year.
- We are looking into innovative ways to have a virtual family picnic. Not only do we miss our students, but we also miss seeing our students' family's. Keep Wednesday, August 19th open for a return to school event.
- There is no school on Friday, September 4 or Monday, September 7. Our first three weeks of school are four day weeks.
- Wednesdays will continue to be early release days for students who opt for the in school, face to face experience. Plan on the usual Wednesday pick up around 2:00 each week.
- School supply lists will be VERY specific this year. Please do not buy classroom supplies before seeing the supply list that will be provided in August. As always, we will provide all necessary supplies to all who need them. Right now, look for tennis shoes, good boots and several masks that your child can get on and off themselves.

Here is the [SURVEY LINK](#) that is necessary at this time. Please fill one out for every child who is currently enrolled for the 20/21 school year. We recognize you are being asked to make a very big decision with what seems like very limited information. As we know more, it will be shared with you. If new developments require us to rethink our offerings or change your family's decisions, we will work with you to ensure your child is in the best possible learning environment for their individual needs.

Again, thank you for continuing to trust us and for choosing Renaissance Public School Academy.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lisa Bergman

Executive Director