



January 12, 2022

Dear RPSA Families,

We recognize you are receiving a larger number of text messages and emails from school lately. In an effort to keep everyone as up to date as possible on occasion you may receive more than one message a week. Please take a few minutes to read each since changes often happen quickly. That being said, we hope everyone received the letter last night regarding our plans to keep learning face to face at Renaissance. In situations such as weather related closures and emergency events there are lines of communication so all schools in our area make consistent decisions. However, each school district must make independent decisions when closures are related to staffing and positive case counts in their individual schools.

#### **EMAIL AND TEXT ALERTS**

RPSA utilizes the same text and email service as other area schools. As a result, families with students at more than one area school will receive text/email notifications from the same number. Each text a family receives will have the name of the sending school at the start of the text. If you are not receiving text and email updates, please call Miss Tina in the office at 989-773-9889 to update your phone number and email address.

#### **HOW DO WE MAKE WEATHER RELATED DELAY AND CLOSURE DECISIONS?**

RPSA staff communicate with the other area schools in our county to determine delays and closures related to weather. The team is also in contact with local and state law enforcement and the county emergency management team who has access to multiple sources of weather related information. A call to delay or close school is typically made by 5:30 a.m. Once a decision to close or delay is made a text message is sent to all RPSA families. As a general rule of thumb RPSA will delay and/or close **due to weather** based on the consensus of our surrounding schools. Our ultimate goal is to keep our families and students safe in their travels to and from school based on the best available weather information in the early morning hours.

#### **WINTER WEATHER CLOTHING AND OUTSIDE RECESS PARAMETERS**

Winter has arrived and Mother Nature has reminded us what the combination of cold temperatures and strong winds can feel like. **Please send your child to school each day with a warm jacket, snow pants, boots, hat and mittens.** We would even recommend two pairs of mittens since most get wet after the first recess. Our parameters for deciding if we go outside are pretty simple.

- Our goal is for students to go outside at least two times a day. We want to see kids playing outside every single day. As a school we are going to embrace the outdoors and do all we can to ensure every kid plays outside every day. Recess is essential.

- If it is 1°F or above students will go outside.
- Regardless of the actual temperature, if the FEEL LIKE temperature is 0°F or below students will not go outside.

**UPCOMING SCHOOL CALENDAR EVENTS**

- Monday, January 17 - NO SCHOOL - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Monday, February 7 - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS - Staff PD Day

## **Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Volunteers Needed!!!**

Are you looking for a way to earn some extra cash??? Would you like to help the children or older adults in your community? Are you 55 years of age or older and on a limited income? Are you able to commit to 15- 20 hours of service per week? If you answered YES to these questions, you are the person we are looking for! Become a Foster Grandparent or Senior Companion Volunteer. You will receive an extra \$240.00 per month in a non-taxable stipend which will not affect your social security, subsidized housing or other benefits you may be receiving. The additional benefits include training, paid time off, holiday time, mileage reimbursement, and many hours of fun and enjoyment. For more information about the programs and eligibility please contact Brandi Knivila, Jodi Onstott or Anne Acles at **(989) 772-0748** or toll free at **1-800-878-0726**. After our initial screening process, which includes several background checks, we will be accepting volunteers for our next training class scheduled to begin soon. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Foster Grandparents**  
**Share Today. Shape Tomorrow.**



**Senior Companions**  
**Make Independence a Reality**

