



January 5, 2022

AS THE PANDEMIC CONTINUES...

Almost two years into the pandemic finds us faced with new, and ever changing questions as we return from the holiday break. As of this moment, we fully intend to continue with face to face learning for all students in all classrooms at RPSA. We do not plan to offer a distance learning option this year. We will continue to offer support for students who are required to be in short term quarantine situations. If your child has a medical reason, other than quarantine/isolation, that necessitates an individual medical plan, please reach out to Mrs. Sarah Anderson, our Dean of Students.

RPSA STAFFING UPDATES

As we ring in 2022, we want to take this opportunity to introduce families to a few new staff members and share some staffing changes.

- Miss Franklin, who student taught with Mr. Whitman last spring and was our art teacher this fall, is joining the Trailblazer team. Miss Franklin will be taking over Mrs. Papenfus' class while she is on maternity leave.
- Ms. Faith Freedom has taken on the position of art teacher for the rest of the school year. Ms. Freedom has subbed for us in the past and teaches art classes at Mid Michigan Community College.
- Mr. Ish Retana and Ms. Autumn Gairaud joined our staff before the winter break as our two permanent, roaming substitute teachers. They have both done exceptional jobs getting to know students and becoming members of our school community.
- Mr. Mike Pulvarente joined our staff before break as well as a classroom paraprofessional and all around rock star with students. Mr. Mike spends lots of time outside, all bundled up, playing and hanging out with students on the Trailblazer and Middle School teams.
- An old, familiar face has returned to RPSA. Mr. Thomas Eckman returned as a paraprofessional in early December. You may remember Mr. Thomas from a few years ago when he was our building custodian.

PARKING LOT ETIQUETTE

A HUGE SHOUT OUT TO ALL THE FAMILIES WHO FOLLOW OUR ESTABLISHED DROP OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURES! Your patience and cooperation to keep our students safe is greatly appreciated. Please remember the following...

- The RIGHT lane is for drop off of all Kindergarten through Trailblazer (%) students. The ONLY families that should use the LEFT lane to pull ahead of Mr. McConnel for drop off are those with Middle School students and their siblings.
- It is **not legal** to make a right turn from the left lane traveling north on Isabella Road.
- The parking lot is closed until 3:15 daily. Plan to arrive AFTER 3:15 for pick up. It is **not legal** for vehicles to wait/park on Isabella Road ahead of 3:15

Retelling

To retell is to tell the story again.

Reading at home with your children is so important! Research tells us we should continue reading with our kids until their reading levels catch up to their listening levels. This usually doesn't happen until sometime in middle school!

One way you can help your children continue to grow as a reader is to help them retell a story. Your children spend a lot of time in school practicing retelling about what they are reading. Doing this practice at home will help them get better at it much quicker.

For more information about how to retell a story, click [here](#).

Using a type of graphic or organizer like a *Hold a Story in Your Hand* example will help your children be able to plan their retell and what they are going to say.

Reading Makes Everything Better

Reading is one way that children develop language and literacy skills. Children grow into strong readers when they are encouraged to:

- Discuss what they read
- Think about why the author does things a certain way
- Think about what the text says
- Think about what the text means
- Think about what the text means to them
- Talk about what they have learned
- Think about the order things happen in the story
- Monitor their reading and ask if it makes sense
- Ask questions as they read
- Retell what they read
- Summarize what they read

Partner 1	Partner 2
1. Show your partner your book and tell them the title.	1. Listen to your partner tell you the title of their book. Ask them why they picked the book.
2. Hold your story in your hand by retelling it using the strategy listed above.	2. Listen to your partner tell about their story. As they share each step, check it out.
3. If you missed anything, add it.	3. Ask questions if your partner misses anything or if you don't understand something.
4. Tell your partner how using this strategy helped you improve your reading (I learned...)	4. Tell your partner what they did well and what they could work on next.
5. Switch roles—become the listener.	5. Switch roles—begin sharing.



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