



March 23, 2022

Dear RPSA Families,

It is with great urgency that we once again make the request that families follow our established drop off and pick up procedures to ensure the safety of everyone in our school and community at large. Please remember the following:

- The school doors open at 7:45 a.m. Band students are dropped off at 7:30 at the Pod D doors. ALL OTHER STUDENTS must remain in their vehicles until 7:45.
- The parking lot does not open until 3:15 each day. **Cars should NOT line up on Isabella Road.** This means if you are arriving prior to 3:15 (even a minute or two before) you are creating a safety hazard for yourself and others. We offer FREE supervision until 4:00 each day. That is a 45 minute window to pick up your child from school. There is no reason to be in line prior to 3:15.
- **Local law enforcement can write traffic violations for those who park on Isabella Road prior to 3:15.**
- DO NOT cut through the parking lot, use the exit to enter the lot or cut into the line ahead of others. Cars picking up Middle Schoolers ONLY (that means there are no younger students getting into your vehicle) may use the second lane to pull in front of the Middle School classrooms.
- Students may NOT be signed out early without prior, written notice. A family member asking to sign out a student at or after 3:00 will be asked to wait until school is over.

### **PLEASE HELP YOUR CHILD REMEMBER THEIR BOOTS**

As winter turns to spring our playground enters MUD SEASON. Students must have a change of shoes to go outside and rubber boots are the ideal footwear. They are easy to get on and off plus they don't track big chunks of mud into the

school. We do LOTS of work on the floors of our classrooms and mud on shoes makes that unpleasant. If your child is in need of boots for recess, please reach out and we will gladly help find a gently used pair for them. If you have an extra pair or two of rubber boots you could donate, they can be dropped off at the office.

### WALK A THON SAVE THE DATE

A person is walking on a dirt path, with their legs and feet visible. They are wearing black leggings and grey sneakers with yellow accents. The background is a warm, golden sunset or sunrise over a line of trees.

**RPSA WALKATHON**  
**SAVE THE DATE!**

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR TO WALK  
ON APRIL 29TH, 30TH, OR MAY 1ST.  
LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION COMING  
AFTER SPRING BREAK**

**WHEN: APRIL 29-MAY 1**  
**WHERE: YOUR CHOICE!**  
**WHY: A PTO FUNDRAISER**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT: [RENAISSANCERAMSPTO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RENAISSANCERAMSPTO@GMAIL.COM)

In addition to gathering pledges and walking in the walkathon, the PTO would also like to reach out to business owners and sponsors within our school community. Below is an excerpt from the letter that will be circulated to area businesses. If you are interested in sponsoring or know of a business that may be interested, please be sure to have them contact one of our PTO members listed below.

*On April 29 - May 1, 2022 the RPSA PTO will be hosting its 2nd Annual Walk-a-thon. The money raised from this event goes directly to empowering students and staff through teacher appreciation gifts and activities, classroom enrichment supplies, and school community activities. Last year, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we had a very encouraging response from school families who participated in our first-ever Walk-a-thon, and our PTO was able to raise over \$4,700 through pledges & sponsorships.*

*As with any fundraising event, support from outside organizations is essential to our fundraising goal of \$5,000. Listed below are several ways your business can participate in this event. We have also included how your sponsorship will be promoted to our community as a thank you for your support.*

- ***Go Rams Platinum Sponsorship - A monetary or prize donation of \$250 or more***  
*Business logo to appear on Walk-a-thon t-shirts, business name included on our flier and pledge sheet for the event, on our school Facebook page, and in the school newsletter.*
- ***Go Rams Silver Sponsorship - A monetary or prize donation of \$100-\$249***  
*Business name to be listed on our flier and pledge sheet for the event, on our school Facebook page, and in the school newsletter.*
- ***Go Rams Bronze Sponsorship - Monetary donations and prizes valued under \$100***  
*Business will be acknowledged on our Facebook page and in the school newsletter.*

*Would you consider supporting this event by sponsoring in one of the ways listed above? Commitments from businesses like yours help to play a significant role in the success of our youth.*

*Thank you in advance from Renaissance Public School Academy PTO. We look forward to hearing from you!*

*Sincerely,*

*Karen Lehr  
Walk-a-thon Chairperson  
989-560-8353*

*Jessica Molyneux  
RPSA PTO President  
217-260-5340 | renaissancepto@gmail.com*

### **RAMS GEAR ORDER**

This is the last chance to order Rams Gear until fall. The deadline for submitting orders is Friday morning, March 25. View and print the order form below:

<b>Renaissance Public School Academy 2021-22 Apparel Sale</b>	
Student: _____	Teacher: _____
Parent: _____	Contact phone: _____

<b>Short-sleeved T-shirts</b>	<b>\$10</b>	YS	YM	YL	AS	AM	AL	AXL	A2X (+ \$3)	A3X (+ \$5)	
Navy											
Grey											\$

<b>Long-sleeved T-shirts</b>	<b>\$15</b>	YS	YM	YL	AS	AM	AL	AXL	A2X (+ \$3)	A3X (+ \$5)	
Navy											
Grey											\$

<b>Short-sleeved Dry-fit</b>	<b>\$15</b>	YS	YM	YL	AS	AM	AL	AXL	A2X (+ \$3)	A3X (+ \$5)	
Navy											
Grey											\$

<b>Long-sleeved Dry-fit</b>	<b>\$20</b>	YS	YM	YL	AS	AM	AL	AXL	A2X (+ \$3)	A3X (+ \$5)	
Navy											
Grey											\$

<b>Crewneck</b>	<b>\$25</b>	YS	YM	YL	AS	AM	AL	AXL	A2X (+ \$3)	A3X (+ \$5)	
Navy											
Grey											\$

<b>Hoodie</b>	<b>\$30</b>	YS	YM	YL	AS	AM	AL	AXL	A2X (+ \$3)	A3X (+ \$5)	
Navy											
Grey											\$

<b>Dry-fit Hoodie</b>	<b>\$35</b>	YS	YM	YL	AS	AM	AL	AXL	A2X (+ \$3)	A3X (+ \$5)	
Navy											
Grey											\$


<b>Long-sleeved Dry-fit Quarter-Zip</b>	<b>\$35</b>	YS	YM	YL	AS	AM	AL	AXL	A2X (+ \$3)	A3X (+ \$5)	
Navy											
Grey											\$

Total # of garments: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Due: \_\_\_\_\_

All forms and money are due to the office by **Friday, March 25.**



*\*subject to product availability*

---

Office Use Only:	Paid by Cash: _____	Counted _____
Make checks payable to Renaissance Academy	Paid by Check# _____	Sorted _____
		Delivered _____

## Developing *Phonological* and *Phonemic Awareness* with your child

Children with strong phonological awareness learn to read more easily and have higher reading performance later on.



Most people think that reading starts when kids sound out words. Reading actually begins when kids tune in to the sounds they **hear** in words.

**Phonological awareness** lets kids recognize and work with the sounds of spoken language. It includes:

the number of words in sentences	syllables	onset-rime <small>Onset: first sound of a word Rime: the rest of the word</small>	rhyming (like cat and hat)
----------------------------------	-----------	--	-------------------------------

**Phonemic awareness** is the ability to hear, identify, move or change sounds, called **phonemes**, in spoken words. It includes:

recognizing sounds, alone and in words (e.g. first, last, middle sound)	adding sounds to words	deleting sounds in words and asking 'what's left?'	taking words apart and looking at the different sounds	substituting sounds to make new words
--	------------------------	--	--	---------------------------------------

### How can I help at home? Practice these fun activities to help develop phonemic awareness

<b>Step 1:</b> Hear the individual words in a sentence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Say a sentence to your child. <b>The cat eats.</b></li><li>Have him/her repeat it and put up one finger for each word.</li><li>Ask, "How many words are in the sentence?"</li></ul>
<b>Step 2:</b> Identify the syllables in a spoken word	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Say a word.</li><li>Clap the syllables with your child.</li><li>Talk like a robot to find the syllables.</li><li>Put your hand under your chin to find the syllables.</li></ul>
<b>Step 3:</b> Rhyme	<b>Rhyme Hunt</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Think of a one syllable word like "you."</li><li>Say, "Let's make a rhyme for "you."" (stew, shoe, few)</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some other words: book-cook, tree-flea, try-fly, two-blue, tea-bee, pot-hot, wall-call, play-day, cat-fat</li> </ul> <p><b>What Does Not Belong?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give your child three words. Two of the words rhyme.</li> <li>Finds the word that does not belong (does not rhyme).</li> <li>Example: Parent: "rat, men, hat" Child: "men" (Sample Word List: hit-sit-fat, hen-Tom-pen, man-can-bell, hill-mop-top)</li> </ul>
<b>Step 4:</b> Blend sounds to make a word	<p><b>Say-the-word game</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tell your child you are going to say the sounds of a word slowly, and then they can try to say the word fast.</li> <li>Raise your hand.</li> <li>Listen. Sssssaaaaat</li> <li>What word? (drop hand) <i>sat</i></li> <li>Repeat with more words.</li> </ul>
<b>Step 5:</b> Break the word into individual sounds (segmentation)	<p><b>Play "I Spy"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instead of giving a color say, "I spy something that starts with a /b/."</li> </ul>





# AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

## WHAT IS IT?

The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service.

### The benefit provides:

- Up to \$30/month discount for internet service;
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands; and
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

**A household is eligible if one member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:**

- Has an income that is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guide lines;
- Participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline;
- Participates in Tribal specific programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations;
- Is approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider's existing low-income program.

## TWO STEPS TO ENROLL

# 1

Go to **ACPBenefit.org** to submit an application or print out a mail-in application.

# 2

Contact your preferred participating provider to select an eligible plan and have the discount applied to your bill.

Some providers may have an alternative application that they will ask you to complete.

Eligible households must both apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan.

## LEARN MORE



Call 877-384-2575, or



Visit **fcc.gov/acp**



## **Renaissance Rams in the News**

Please click the link below to read the Morning Sun article about a special Middle School project being done to help our community:

[Renaissance Students Build Shelters for Stray Cats](#)

## **LOST AND FOUND**

Our lost and found is overflowing. Please look through it if you believe there may be something in there that belongs to you. Items remaining in Lost and Found after Spring Break will be donated.

### **UPCOMING SCHOOL CALENDAR EVENTS**

- **March 28 - April 1 SPRING BREAK**
- **Wednesday, April 20 - STUDENT LED CONFERENCES (No School for Students)**