



Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Dear RPSA Families,

Well, we re-opened the school building on Monday only to have Mother Nature deal us a nice little ice storm and our first weather cancellation of the year. The focus of this week's newsletter is to outline our "snow day" expectations. Here are some key considerations we have wrestled with in developing our "snow day" (unexpected cancellation) plan.

- We no longer have weather forgiveness days from the State of Michigan for snowdays. This year, with so many schools offering virtual options the State has changed how the days of learning are counted.
- Sending home chromebooks daily proves to be both time consuming and has resulted in more than expected loss/damage. Students will continue to take home their chromebooks on Tuesday evenings for use on Wednesdays, but not on a nightly basis.
- Child care and supervision challenges on snow days means many students are spending their day away from their home or with larger groups of other children. This creates connectivity challenges and other distractions.
- In an effort to offer all students, both in school and distance learning, similar experiences we want to keep the pacing of their projects and assignments similar. As a result the plan outlined below applies to ALL RPSA students, both in school students and virtual on snow days.

After considering as many perspectives as possible, Renaissance will be implementing the following snow day/unanticipated closure plan.

RPSA SNOW DAY/UNANTICIPATED CLOSURE LEARNING PLAN

- Unanticipated school building closures, such as a snow day, will still count as a learning day for all RPSA students. Participation in the learning activities shared is required and attendance will be taken for the day based on participation in the activities.
- A Seesaw message will be sent to the parent and the student at 8:00 a.m. on the morning of the snow days, along with a time for office hours with the classroom teacher and office hours for the specials team. Office hours are optional. Completion of the activity is required.
- A student is marked present if they complete at least one of the following:
 - Complete the activity and submit evidence on Seesaw on the snow day.
 - Complete the activity and return evidence the next day the building is open for learning if there are challenges with access to technology on the snow day.
 - Participation in office hours with the teacher on the snow day.
 - Participate in office hours with a specials teacher on the snow day.
- In the event of a two hour delay, distance learning students will begin their day as scheduled at 8:00 a.m. In school students will begin their day at the school building at 10:00 a.m.
 - There are no specials for distance learning Islanders and Trailblazers on 2-hour delay days.
- In the event a two hour delay results in a building closure for the day, a Seesaw activity will go out to all in school students and their parents from the teacher at 10:00 a.m. that day. Distance

learning students will receive further information for the day from their teachers at 10:00am as well.

OTHER INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK

- Boots, snow pants and warm gloves make recess much more enjoyable. Please send dry, winter clothing every day. If your child is in need of winter clothing, please contact our office and we will work with you to get your child what they need.
- PLEASE PULL ALL THE WAY FORWARD IN THE DROP OFF/PICK UP LINE. We have staff on the sidewalks each morning to direct your child into their correct entry. At the end of the day, we will walk students down to your car if you pull ahead to make room for other cars.
- Please have your sign with your last name and teacher name visible every day at pick up. This helps us identify vehicles quicker and get people through the line.
- There has been some confusion for distance learning students about Governor Whitmer's desires to see all schools offer in person learning by March 1st. Since RPSA offers an in person option, this latest information will not change our plan for the school year. Families who selected in person learning are being offered that option. Those who are currently in distance learning are able to stay in that option throughout the rest of the school year. We will offer a final opportunity for distance learning students to return to in school learning after spring break but we do not plan to require it of all students.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Lisa Bergman
Executive Director, RPSA

ADDITIONAL NOTES

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL NEEDS

In cases where your child needs immediate assistance or the matter is confidential, we have set up a phone line specifically to meet those needs. You may contact Mrs. Anderson, our Dean of Students and School Social Worker, by leaving a detailed message at 989-492-8328. Mrs. Anderson will return your call as soon as possible.

NUTRITIONAL NEEDS

Weekly food distribution will take place every Monday from 10 a.m. to noon and 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.. We will offer contactless, curbside pick up at the front of the school. We offer a week's worth of food for every student in your family. If you have special needs or are seeking additional nutritional support, do not hesitate to call the school office 989-773-9889. We are ready to support our families to ensure our students are warm and fed so they can learn.