



Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Dear RPSA Families,

DISTANCE LEARNING WEDNESDAYS WILL CONTINUE AFTER SPRING BREAK

After consideration of multiple factors, the decision to continue distance learning on Wednesdays has been extended through the end of the school year. This means we will maintain the status quo of in school learning four days a week and a distance learning day each Wednesday. This decision was not taken lightly. A few of the factors in making this final decision were:

- We have been extremely successful with our classroom cohort plan since our return in January. The health department does not recommend changes to successful plans at this time. In school students will continue to only interact with their own classmates during lunch, specials and recess. Masks will continue to be required at all times, both inside and at recess through June.
- We have more than 50 students returning to in school learning after spring break. This means we are adding additional classrooms which requires additional cleaning four days a week and deep cleaning on Wednesdays.
- Our spring assessment schedule requires that we conduct the M-STEP at school with all students, which includes offering all distance learning students the opportunity to take their assessments at the school. This requires us to do assessments on Wednesdays for distance learning students when in school students are learning from home. Leaving Wednesdays as the virtual day allows for us to meet the requirement of testing 95% of our students this spring.

We acknowledge the challenges that come with distance learning Wednesdays. We have heard from many families and realize many had hoped to return to in school learning on Wednesdays after spring break. The decision to keep distance learning Wednesdays comes with a deep commitment to making each day count between now and the end of the school year. If you have any further questions, please feel free to email me at lbergman@renaissancepsa.com.

RPSA ANNUAL FAMILY INPUT SURVEY, 2021

We have had 90 surveys representing 135 of our students completed so far. Our goal is to have surveys back representing at least 50% of our students. This would mean we need at least another 65-70 families to complete a survey this week. Your input drives our future planning! It takes less than five minutes. Please click the link in the title above to access the survey.

BUILDING VENTILATION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

The Michigan Department of Education offers a program to analyze school HVAC systems and to provide suggestions for improving air quality and preventing the spread of airborne illnesses, including COVID-19. Renaissance participated in this program, and our heating and air conditioning systems were rated highly in comparison to other school buildings across the state due to the relatively young age of our school building.

Following the audit recommendations, air scrubbing units were installed in the ductwork for each furnace in early February. The devices feature a high-intensity UVC light and a catalytic process to destroy contaminants on surfaces and in the air. It has been proven effective in independent studies against bacteria, viruses, mold and fungi on surfaces and in the air. These same units are commonly installed in

medical office buildings. They were paid for using the additional funds provided to schools to promote a safe environment for in-person learning.

SPRING ASSESSMENTS

During the month of April students in grades 3-8 will be taking the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress, or M-STEP. Eighth grade students will also take the PSAT. Current guidelines state that virtual students must complete the various sections of the tests in person at school. Your child's teacher will reach out to you via Seesaw to set up times for your student to complete the test. Students will need to wear a mask and bring their fully charged chromebook with them to the building at their scheduled times. Virtual students will be kept separate from in person students.

Potential changes to M-STEP and PSAT testing requirements are pending in the state legislature and with the federal Department of Education. We will keep you informed if changes impact the testing schedule.

The spring round of NWEA testing will take place in May. This test will continue to be conducted remotely for virtual students.

2021-22 ENROLLMENT UPDATE

Re-enrollment and open enrollment have both closed for the 21/22 school year. We anticipate wait lists at several of our grade levels. Our total enrollment cannot exceed 450 students and we are excited to say we believe we will be very close to that total going into next school year.

We have another kindergarten round up scheduled this week and anticipate holding a third round up after spring break sometime. If you know of incoming kindergarten students who hope to enroll for next year, please encourage them to do so as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Lisa Bergman
Executive Director, RPSA

ADDITIONAL NOTES INCLUDED IN EACH NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING DATES

- STUDENT LED CONFERENCES ALL DAY/NO TEACHER LED INSTRUCTION - Wed, 3/24
- SPRING BREAK/NO SCHOOL - Mon. March 29 through Mon. April 5 (School re-opens 4/6)
- MEMORIAL DAY/NO SCHOOL - Mon. May 31
- LAST DAY OF INSTRUCTION FOR 20/21 - Thursday, June 10

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.