



Wednesday, May 6, 2020

Dear RPSA Families,

Well, this week is National Teacher Appreciation Week and we thought it was the perfect time to thank families for becoming co-teachers with us over the past eight weeks while the school building has been closed. Too often we hear how school has been cancelled, but we all know that just isn't true. Because of your help, we have been able to ensure students are still learning even if it is from a distance.

Recently, we distributed over 200 Chromebooks to RPSA families to ensure every child able to connect could do so with their own device. We also distributed more than 420 learning-focused care packages to students. Every day we send countless Seesaw messages, meet each other online, and even talk over the phone. We could not do our jobs without your partnership. The RPSA staff sees parents and guardians as partners through this crisis. Thank you for your efforts to help with logging in, reading and replying to Seesaw messages, coming to school and waiting in lines for technology and care packages. We recognize this is not easy for anyone and we appreciate all you are doing to help us stay connected as a school community.

WE WANT TO EMPOWER FAMILIES TO LEARN ALONGSIDE US

Your child's teachers meet daily to plan and prepare for the experiences offered to students. We have made a very conscious effort to stay true to our mission and vision of a school by guiding learning through projects and inquiry, not packets and workbooks. It has taken us many years of professional study to become comfortable guiding learning this way. Now that the learning is happening in your homes with families as partners, parents are taking on the role of guiding learning as well. In [this short, two minute video by one of our favorite experts, John Spencer](#), we invite families to learn more about why we believe it is so important to "empower learners" rather than just teach students.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Each week moving forward we hope to survey families on their experiences and needs throughout this crisis. Please take this [TWO QUESTION SURVEY](#) so we can better serve our students and families throughout this crisis and beyond. If you have more than one student at RPSA, please fill it out for each student.

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

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.

Please continue to call the school phone at 989-773-9889 for all non-emergency, school-related questions. Miss Tina will be available weekdays to answer the phone and get messages to the appropriate staff members.

MRS. BERGMAN'S WEEKLY OFFICE HOURS

Students, families, and staff are all welcome to "Zoom In" and say hello during office hours. You can plan to stay as little or as long as you like. She would love to hear from you!

[Wednesday, May 6 from 3:00 – 4:00pm](#)

[Friday, May 8 from 9:00 – 10:00am](#)

[Monday, May 11 from 12:00 – 1:00pm](#)

Be sure to check out the RPSA Facebook page ***Renaissance Public School Academy-Mount Pleasant*** for daily updates on things happening across our school community. We enjoy seeing comments and pictures shared.

In Partnership,
The RPSA Staff