

**AUGUST 16, 2024**

# RAMS RECAP

*Renaissance Public School Academy Newsletter*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**First Day of School**

**August 20, 2024**

**No School**

**August 30, 2024**

**September 2, 2023**

**Big Air BMX Assembly**

**September 5, 2024**



*Renaissance Academy*

# RAMS

Hello RPSA Families!

Thank you to everyone who made it to the Open House event – we loved seeing you! We're looking forward to having students back in the building for our first day of school next Tuesday!

In the next few pages you will see two policy updates for this school year.

- One is an update to our wireless communication device policy. There have been no changes to our rules and procedures regarding cell phones, but new this year is a move to no longer allow bluetooth devices. This will help to decrease distractions and the amount of cell phone policy violations.

- The second is an update to our Attendance Policy regarding excused vs. unexcused absences. Please read through the updates carefully and be aware of required documentation in order for an absence to be considered excused. Open communication with the school is always the best way to handle any absences.

Please keep in mind that any absences from school have an impact on student's education. Research shows that negative impacts to academic progress increase with the number of absences a child has, whether excused or unexcused. We hope to see all of our Renaissance RAMS at school when they are healthy!

We hope you enjoy the last couple days of summer break. See you Tuesday!

With RAMS Pride,  
The RPSA Leadership Team

# Attendance Matters



## Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just one or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Eventually good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed in high school and college.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Keep your child healthy and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your children to their teachers and classmates before school starts.
- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Try to schedule non-urgent related medical appointments and extended trips when school isn't in session.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- If you are concerned that your child may have a contagious illness, call your school or health care provider for advice.
- If your child must stay home due to illness, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue learning at home.

### When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

Visit Attendance Works at [www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org) for free downloadable resources and tools!

## ISABELLA COUNTY & RENAISSANCE PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUANCY POLICY

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2024-2025 School Year

**Renaissance Public School Academy uses the countywide truancy policy as the guideline for our attendance policy. Please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions.**

*The Renaissance Public School Academy Truancy Policy is as follows:*

### ***After 5 Unexcused Absences:***

*A letter communicating the absences AND a copy of the Isabella County Truancy Policy Summary will be mailed home. Classroom teacher will make contact with the family.*

### ***After 8 Unexcused Absences:***

*A referral will be made to the administration and a letter will be sent to the family. A meeting or phone call from the administration may be necessary but is not required of all families at the 8th absence.*

### ***After 10 Unexcused Absences:***

*A second referral will be made to administration who will make a phone call to the family to discuss the student's attendance record. The phone call and conversation will be documented by the administration. A meeting may be required if a plan to assist the student and family are necessary.*

- *The administration may recommend that the parents/guardians of the student appear before the RPSA school board to explain the absences.*
- *A referral to the Isabella County Truancy Officer may be made by the administration if there is evidence that the parents/guardians are not willing to work with the school to improve attendance.*

### ***Tardies:***

*Morning and afternoon tardies are considered one in the same. The accumulation of 3 tardies will result in an additional day of absence for the student.*

### ***New School Trimester:***

*The number of student absences will be calculated from the beginning of the school year until the end of the school year - not trimester to trimester. If a student has 20 or more absences at the end of the school year they will start the next school year as if they already have 3 absences. This will not be reflected in the new school year attendance, but it will be used for calculating the number of attendances according to the Truancy Policy.*

**It is the practice of Renaissance Academy to establish strong home-school communication. As a result, we will inform parents, in writing, of all absences on record beginning at the fifth unexcused absence. Determination of the need to contact the truancy officer beginning with the tenth absence will be made on each individual student's unique situation. A meeting or conversation between the school leader and parent/guardian will be required at the 10th absence to determine a plan of support for successful attendance the remainder of the school year.**

## ***Excused Absences***

An excused absence is one for which the student provides a valid reason, supported by appropriate documentation when required. The following conditions constitute an excused absence:

### ***1. Illness or Medical Appointments***

- *Personal Illness: Absences due to personal illness will be excused with a note from a parent or guardian. For illnesses extending beyond two consecutive days, a note from a healthcare provider is required.*
- *Medical Appointments: Appointments with healthcare professionals (doctors, dentists, etc.) are excused. A note from the medical office must be provided.*

### ***2. Family Emergencies***

- *Immediate Family Member Illness or Death: Absences due to the serious illness or death of an immediate family member will be excused. Documentation such as a medical note or a funeral program is required.*

### ***3. School-Sponsored Activities***

- *Participation in school-sanctioned events, such as field trips, athletic competitions, or academic competitions, is excused. Pre-approval from the school administration and appropriate documentation from the event coordinator are necessary.*

### ***4. Religious Observances***

- *Absences due to religious holidays or events will be excused. A written note from a parent or guardian specifying the nature of the observance is required.*

### ***5. Legal Obligations***

- *Absences due to court appearances, probation meetings, or other legal obligations will be excused. Appropriate legal documentation must be submitted.*

For an absence to be considered excused, the following documentation must be provided:

- A note (handwritten, Seesaw message, or email) from a parent or guardian, explaining the reason for the absence.
- Additional documentation as specified above, such as medical notes, legal documents, or pre-approval forms.
- All documentation must be submitted to the office within three school days of the student's return to school.

Failure to provide the necessary documentation within the specified time frame will result in the absence being marked as unexcused.



# CELL PHONE POLICY

Renaissance PSA

## No Phones or Bluetooth Devices from 7:40 - 3:25

- Students in Grade 5th - 8th may bring a cell phone to school if they turn it into their classroom teacher at the start of the school day
- Students in grades K-4th may not bring cell phones or other communication devices to school
- Wireless Headphones will not be permitted. Wired headphones will be provided to students who need them for academic tasks
- Cell phones, communication devices, or earbuds may be confiscated if seen or heard by school staff
- Families should call the office at 989-773-9889 if they need to speak to or leave a message for their child during the day

## Why?

Increase engagement  
Increase face-to-face  
time with peers  
Decrease distractions  
Decrease risk to school  
safety



To view the complete policy, visit  
the Student Handbook at  
[www.renaissancepsa.com](http://www.renaissancepsa.com)

# School Day Start and End Times

- Our School day begins at 8:00am
- Students may enter the building beginning at 7:40 am - all students are to enter through the front doors
- Our School day ends at 3:25 pm
- Pick up takes place from 3:25 pm to 4:00 pm
- Families may park and walk to the sidewalk using crosswalks, or use the drive thru lane (see procedures below)

## Before and After School

We are very excited to continue to offer after school care this school year. This program does hold a child care license and must follow all licensing rules:

- Cost
  - \$20 per day After School OR \$50 weekly
- Time
  - end of school - 5:30pm
- Guidelines
  - Kindergarten through 6th grade only
  - to meet staffing rules, families must register and pay the week prior (no drop ins)
  - stop into the front office for registration paperwork

**After School programing will begin on  
August 26th**

# Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

For the safety of students and to ensure efficient drop off and pick up of students everyone is required to follow the expectations below...

- Enter the parking lot and make a right turn only.
  - Access to parking spots on the left will require the driver to pull into the drive through lane (left lane) and go around.
- The RIGHT lane is for drop off and pick up only.
  - Remain in your car and allow students out anywhere along the sidewalk before school
  - Remain in your car and pull up to your child's designated spot on the sidewalk to pick up.
    - Staff will not be able to speak with parents in the pick up lane. If you wish to speak to a staff member you must park and walk up using the crosswalks.
- The LEFT lane is a drive through lane to allow access to all parking spots.
  - **Students may NOT be dropped off or picked up from the left lane.**
  - Do NOT stop in the left lane for any reason so traffic can continue to flow.
  - Do not allow students to walk into the building alone from a parking spot.
  - An adult who parks must walk a student through the crosswalk to the school entrance.
- **PARKING EXPECTATIONS**
  - Parents wishing to park must walk their children to the building using DESIGNATED CROSSWALKS ONLY.
  - ABSOLUTELY NO parking at any time, anywhere in the bus zone north of the main entrance crosswalk.



# Free Breakfast and Lunch!

The State of Michigan has included funding for food service programs as part of the School Aid Package in the MI budget. As a result, all K-12 students in the state will receive FREE breakfast and lunch this school year.

All families will still need to complete the lunch application that will come home during the first week of school. This impacts funding we receive for grant initiatives.



## Back to School Paperwork

Please keep an eye out for back to school paperwork to come home with your child the first week of school. All families will need to complete updated Emergency Cards and fill out Household Survey information.

**If your child has any medical needs, including the use of an inhaler, we must have documentation from a doctor. Please stop by the office or contact Ms. Tina ([tsinger@renaissancepsa.com](mailto:tsinger@renaissancepsa.com)) for the appropriate paperwork.**




# August 2024



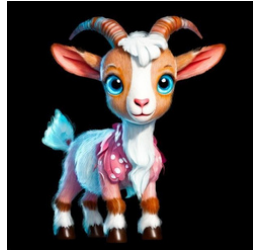
## Welcome Back Rams!!!

### Breakfast

Monday


	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Poptart Kit Fresh Fruit Juice Milk	21 Oatmeal Round Fresh Fruit Juice Milk	22 Trix Cereal Kit FreshFruit Juice Milk	23 Cinnamon Pull Aparts Fresh Fruit Juice Milk	24	25
26 Cereal Kit Fresh Fruit Juice Milk	27 Cinnamon Rolls Fresh Fruit Juice Milk	28 Donut Holes Fresh Fruit Juice Milk	29 Sausage Egg Cheese Croissant Fresh Fruit Juice Milk	30	31 	

# August 2024



## Welcome Back Rams!!

### Lunch

Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Popcorn Chicken Waffle Fries Grilled Chicken Salad Mandarin Oranges Milk	21 Pepperoni Pizza Celery Veggie Salad  Pineapple Milk	22 Cheese Burgers Mixed Vegetable  Caesar Salad  Peaches Milk	23 Chicken Patty Corn  Chef Salad  Pears Milk	24	25
26 Ravioli Waffle Fries  Grilled Chicken Salad  Pineapple Milk	27 Grilled Cheese TomatoSoup Crackers  Caesar Salad  Peaches Milk	28 Cheese Pizza Carrots  Chef Salad  Pears Milk	29 Walking Taco Refried Beans Salsa Sour Cream Veggie Salad  Mandarin Oranges Milk	30	31 	



## ATHLETICS ANNOUNCEMENT:

Registration in FinalForms is a requirement for all student athletes at Renaissance Academy. Information must be fully completed, and this includes uploading a completed physical for the current athletics year. In Michigan, this must be dated April 16 or later of the current year.

### Date to Remember:

- Registration opens on August 1st.
- Registration Link is on the athletics page of our school's website.

Reach out to Mr. McCausey if you have any questions. Thank you.

[dmccausey@renaissancepsa.com](mailto:dmccausey@renaissancepsa.com)

The logo for FinalForms, featuring the word "FINAL" in black and "FORMS" in black with a red checkmark integrated into the letter "F".

**FINALFORMS**

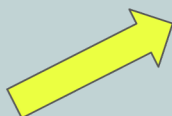
The Cross Country Summer Running Schedule is posted on the website! If you're planning on running this fall, please try to attend the summer sessions. Coach Snyder is looking forward to seeing you there.



## Girls Volleyball & Boys/Girls Cross Country Informational Meeting

**Tuesday, August 20 5:15pm -**

**Renaissance Gymnasium**

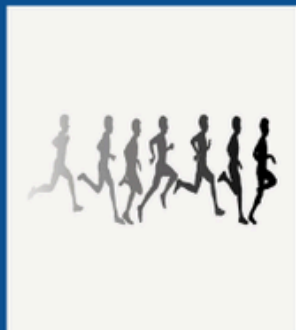


Come to the meeting on August 20 to find out about volleyball tryouts, and meet your coaches! The FinalForms registration link is posted on the website!

Student Athletes (5th through 8th grade) that are interested in playing volleyball or running cross country, and their families, should attend this meeting. Registration **MUST** be completed in FinalForms prior to the **1st scheduled event**; this includes uploading the completed physical into FinalForms, and fees paid in the office.

**Do not wait to get your physical taken care of.**

If you have any questions, contact Mr. McCausey at [dmccausey@renaissancepsa.com](mailto:dmccausey@renaissancepsa.com)



### RPSA Cross Country

- Open to All 5th-8th Grade Boys & Girls
- No tryouts, just come to run!
- Summer Running Schedule:

8/12 (9:15 to 10:30am)

8/13 (6:45 to 8:00pm)

8/14 (6:45 to 8:00pm)

8/16 (7:45 to 9:00am)

8/19 (6:00 to 7:15pm)

8/20 (6:00 to 7:15pm)

8/22 (6:00 to 7:15pm)

8/23 (6:00 to 7:15pm)

- Registration in FinalForms opens on August 1st.
- The FinalForms registration link can be found by going to the athletics webpage.
- The Cross Country Informational Meeting will take place on 8/20 at 5:15pm in the RPSA Gymnasium.
- Reach out to Mr. McCausey with any questions.

# Renaissance PSA 2024-2025 Calendar

August '24						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September '24						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October '24						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November '24						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December '24						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January '25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February '25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March '25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April '25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May '25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June '25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July '25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

First & Last Day
PD Days: No School for Students
No School for Students and Staff
SLCs - No School for Students
Family Visits

M, Tu, Th, F Daily Schedule:  
8:00 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.

Wednesday Early Release:  
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.