



Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Dear RPSA Families,

We are now in our sixth week of the school year. Approximately 50% of our students are learning in school and 50% are distance learners. Over the past six weeks we have actively monitored student engagement and attendance. Each of our first five weeks we had student engagement rates from 94 to 96% each week. In situations where students were not able to engage in learning daily as distance learners, we have invited those students to return to in school learning. As a result we now have two classes of in school learners and two classes of distance learners on each team except for the Voyager team with three in school classrooms and one distance classroom. The opportunity to be considered for a change of placement (to switch to a different format) is scheduled to take place in December with switches beginning in January. Until that time we anticipate most students will remain in their current placements.

Based on a number of factors, the decision has been made to continue to offer distance learning for all students on Wednesdays through the end of December. Distance learning Wednesdays for all students allows:

- for a deep cleaning of the entire building midway through each week. Without students in the building all surfaces can be thoroughly sanitized and allowed to dry completely without students or staff coming into contact with harsh chemicals.
- for students and staff to have a day of learning without wearing masks. As the weather changes and rain days require us to be inside all day, mask breaks may not be possible some days. Learning from home gives students and staff a mask break to look forward to weekly.
- for distance learning students to continue to visit the school for library book exchanges with Mrs. Doyle. Soon our new art teacher will be available on Wednesdays to allow distance learning students to come to school to pick up art supplies.
- our staff to schedule small groups and one on one sessions with not only students, but family members who we do not get to see as much as we used to when parents were allowed to come into the building.
- everyone to remain up to date on distance learning procedures. Each week students have the opportunity to practice the skills needed if a classroom or our school were to be required to transition to remote learning during a quarantine situation.
- for more time for deeper student choice and student voice in their own learning through projects and other inquiry learning activities. Here's another short sketch video from one of our favorite thinkers, John Spencer, titled [10 Ways to Empower Students with](#)

Choice. We invite you to watch it from a parent's perspective and consider how you can empower your child with choice as they learn from home on Wednesdays.

We recognize that this decision may create challenges for some families. We are open to helping families navigate these challenging times. If you know of families in need of additional support who are not able to reach out to us, please know you can contact us and we will keep that information confidential. If you have concerns that you believe the school can address please reach out to a member of our Leadership Team.

- Executive Director, Mrs. Bergman at lbergman@renaissancepsa.com
- Dean of Instruction, Mr. Mayer at hmayer@renaissancepsa.com
- Dean of Students, Mrs. Anderson at sanderson@renaissancepsa.com
- Business Manager, Mrs. Reihl at breihl@renaissancepsa.com

We also want to make our families aware of the most recent communication from our local health department. The information is linked directly below, and is also available on the Documents page of our school website at <http://renaissancepsa.com/documents/>.

- A [letter regarding the latest updates is linked here](#).
- An [updated Flowchart for Handling Student Symptoms is linked here](#).

Even in the most challenging of times, we are honored to work with your family as partners in your child's learning journey. Thank you for your continued support.

In Partnership,
Mrs. Lisa Bergman