Dear RPS Community,

It’s hard to believe it has been a month since we last had students in our classrooms. It has been a busy time as we all try to adjust to the new way of life. Fortunately, it is temporary! While we do not yet know when schools might reopen, we know it will happen eventually and we can’t wait to see our students and families again!

Here are a few quick updates for the week.

**Student Attendance:** Daily attendance is any form of student contact on a school day. This includes a student logging into Schoology, Seesaw, personal phone contact with a teacher/school staff, email exchange, text message exchange, Google conferencing or other direct student contact with their teacher. Each school has identified a time by which attendance needs to be reported on a daily basis. If a student does not sign in or engage by the designated time, the student is considered absent for that day. Parents and guardians are expected to report absences through the attendance line or email. If a parent or guardian does not report an absence, the absence will be unexcused. Please know that we still are required by state law to drop students from enrollment if they have not attended school for 15 days. We will continue to work tirelessly to reach out to families and ensure that students have access and support so that they can attend and succeed in distance learning.

**Grading:** Student grading will continue to be on an A-F scale in our secondary schools. Students and families can continue to monitor grades using the parent portal. If you have any concerns about your child’s grades due to COVID-19, please contact your child’s teacher or school counselor for support.

**Standardized Tests:** Based on an announcement by U.S. Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and Governor Tim Walz’s Executive Order, school districts will no longer administer statewide assessments for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.

**Supporting Student Learning with Good Questions:** Good questioning techniques have a strong positive effect on student learning, whether in a classroom or a distance learning environment. Good questions encourage students to engage in the work and motivate them to want to learn more, they help students process the learning, help build critical thinking skills and they allow the adults (teachers, support personnel, families) to check for understanding. Read more about good questions and find a list of sample questions on our website in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

**Data Plans and Distance Learning:** Almost all major cellular providers including Verizon, Sprint and AT&T have increased their monthly data allowances in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you do not have wireless internet at home, but you have an Android or iPhone smartphone, you should be able to connect distance learning devices to your cellular data package by way of making your smartphone a hotspot. Contact your cellular provider to assure that you have added data, and then follow these directions:

- **Android:** [Click here for directions](#)
- **iPhone:** [Click here for directions](#)
Child Care: The district has partnered with Richfield Fun Club to provide child care to essential workers at RDLS, STEM and Sheridan Hills.

- Children attending Fun Club use the playground equipment at these sites and staff will be incorporating cleaning protocols after use. Community members should expect to see children on the playground during the day.
- If your child is enrolled in child care, please note that while children have time and opportunity to work on their school work it is not Fun Club's role to ensure children complete their school work. Teachers should work with parents and guardians if they have concerns with students completing school work. Parents should contact teachers if they have concerns with school assignments.
- Forms to register for child care are now available in Spanish. Parents needing assistance with registration (including interpreters) please email childcare@rpsmn.org or call 612-243-3075.

I know you are receiving regular communication from your child’s school and teachers, so the districtwide emails will be fewer and further between. However, as always, I am here if you need anything, as are all of the talented and capable RPS staff. We’re here for you and we are here for each other. #OneRichfield

Sincerely,

Superintendent Steven Unowsky