Dear RPS Community,

In the event that schools will remain closed following spring break, we are moving forward with plans to fully implement a comprehensive distance learning program starting Monday, April 6. These plans include:

● Teachers launching distance learning with online lessons, assessments and activities.
● Chromebooks distributed to elementary school students, along with additional packets of learning materials and supplies.
● Special education students have the supports they need to ensure their success.
● A distance learning web page that will serve as a hub for everything families need to know about distance learning and supporting their child.

Student Attendance

We also want you to know that even though students may not be in the classroom, student attendance and participation in their distance learning program is extremely important. We have defined student attendance to mean that we can verify and document that each student engaged in their learning during the day. Beginning on Monday, April 6, staff will take daily attendance, which can be verified by electronic communication, including students watching a teaching video, submitting a lesson or any other way that we can be sure that the student participated in learning. Attendance can also be verified by our many non-licensed staff who will be used in roles to outreach to families and students using the telephone and other communication tools. We will continue to refine and finalize attendance methods prior to our return to school on April 6.

Chromebooks

For students who have been issued Chromebooks, we have established the following process for repairs should it be necessary (starting April 9):

● All broken devices need to be dropped off and picked up at Richfield High School. Please bring the device to door #5 on any Monday or Thursday between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
● Devices will be repaired and can be picked up on the following Monday or Thursday.
● If a device cannot be repaired by the scheduled date, another device can be loaned to the student while repairs are made.
● Additional cords are also available.
● Please review the Acceptable Use Policy and the Chromebook User Agreement for important information, including any fees for device repairs or replacement cords. If it is determined that the repair/cord is subject to a fee, it will be assessed through FeePay. Families do not need to pay the fee before picking up the repaired device.
● Contact the IT help desk if you have questions: 612-798-6050
Childcare

We are continuing to provide temporary, free child care to RPS students enrolled in pre-k (age 4) through grade 5 (age 12) whose parents are part of the Tier 1 and Tier 2 categories as identified by the Minnesota Department of Education, or who work in Richfield Public Schools and need to be on-site while schools are closed. Parents must complete all enrollment paperwork at least two business days prior to their child’s start date. Transportation is also available at specific times. Learn more and register here.

Helpful Resources

- COVID-19 resources
- Grab & go meals and meal delivery

As always, be sure you are taking time for yourself and do what you can to stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Superintendent Steven Unowsky