3/15/20

Dear RPS Families,

Following the order by Governor Walz to close schools across Minnesota, Richfield Public Schools will close effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020, through March 27, 2020. Spring break in RPS is the following week, so our schools will be closed until April 6, 2020.

We have chosen to remain open Monday so that families who may need to arrange child care will have time to prepare. It also allows time for teachers to distribute learning materials to students so they can continue learning at home during this extended time. If you are concerned about the safety of your child, you can keep them home Monday. We ask that you call your school’s attendance line to report the absence so that it is excused.

We have been working hard to expedite the expanded development of our e-learning program which will help ensure students continue to have quality educational programming when they aren’t able to attend school in person.

For students in grades 6-12, we have issued every student a Chromebook. These devices are to be used for online learning. Our schools and staff will be sharing information on next steps throughout the week. If you do not have dependable internet access at home please call 612-798-6050 or email tech.support@rpsmn.org for details regarding how to check out a wireless hotspot that can be used at no cost.

For pre-K through grade 5, we will send students home with curriculum packets on Monday, along with a list of online e-learning recommendations which include activities and e-books through RAZ Kids. Instructions will be included with the packets. Students in special education and with 504 plans can expect materials designed to meet their individual needs.

A special e-learning web page will be created for frequently asked questions and links to resources. You can find it on each school website starting Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

For families who work in health care or emergency services, we are working with our partners to determine child care options. Please watch for details in a future email.

Because this is unprecedented, you can expect updates from us on a regular basis. Please ensure your contact information is up to date in ParentVue. For now, we want you to know that we will continue to work together in the best interest of students and families. Please continue to follow safety recommendations outlined by the Minnesota Department of Health (English) (Spanish).

Sincerely,

Superintendent Steven Unowsky