

Richmond Community Schools

35276 Division * Richmond, Michigan 48062 * (586) 727-3565 * www.richmond.k12.mi.us

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Superintendent

**Richmond Early Childhood Learning Center
& Will L. Lee Elementary School**
68399 Forest
Richmond, Michigan 48062
David Kochan, Principal

Richmond Middle School
35250 Division
Richmond, Michigan 48062
Keith Bartels, Principal

Richmond High School
35320 Division
Richmond, Michigan 48062
Andrew Kastl, Principal

November 16, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

First and foremost, I would like to thank the community for their patience and understanding as decisions that impacted you and your family and the corresponding communication went out as quickly as possible yesterday. Pulled away from their family, my team went to work yesterday to implement the District's "what-if" plan of action. From communications to parents, coordinating 100% virtual instruction with teachers and paraprofessionals, distributing school resources to students, to arranging meals to be delivered to our students during virtual instruction, it took a unified team. I am extremely proud of the selfless acts of the individuals I work with each day.

UPDATE PROMISED

Last night, Governor Whitmer and the Director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) issued an *Emergency Order* mandating virtual instruction for all students in Grade 9-12 for at least three weeks. While in-person or virtual instruction for students in Grades preK-8 was left up to the local districts, Richmond had already move to virtual instruction for all students through Thanksgiving.

100% VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION. Beginning tomorrow, the District will move to virtual instruction for students in Grades preK-8 **at least** through Thanksgiving and for students in Grades 9-12 and **at least** through December 8th. Teachers and instructional paraprofessionals will follow the virtual instruction schedule approved by the Board of Education on November 9th.

Today, staff that did not have a scheduled absence or who are not in quarantine, were in the building preparing for virtual instruction with all students tomorrow. Staff that had a scheduled absence or who are quarantined with asymptomatic conditions will prepare for virtual instruction tonight to be ready for tomorrow. Students should log into their Schoology account and click on the Microsoft TEAMS link within their account to access virtual instruction. Some students (or

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parents) may have received an email from their child's teachers with a Microsoft TEAMS link. If you have not heard from your child's teacher by tomorrow morning, please contact your child's teacher directly or call the main office. Our staff are committed to working together with families during this challenging time as we all adjust to our new norm.

All staff, except those in quarantine, are scheduled to be onsite tomorrow to teach virtually from their classroom. We want to make sure everything works. Going forward, teachers will be *strongly encouraged* to teach from home, if possible. Title I and Special Education paraprofessionals will continue to provide services to students during the morning and afternoon virtual schedule. Some staff are considered essential workers and will continue to clean and sanitize our buildings, deliver meals to students, and ensure the continued operation of the District.

FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH. On Tuesday, November 17th the "normal" planned schedule for free breakfast and lunch meal pick up for virtual students will continue at Richmond High School between 1:30 and 2:30 PM. Meals may be pick-up at the high school kitchen doors.

During the suspension of in-person learning, the District is committed to making sure no student goes hungry and students are feed. Therefore, beginning Friday, November 20th, and on every Tuesday and Friday going forward, the District will be delivering **FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MEALS** to any students 18 and under, regardless of whether they attend Richmond Community Schools. Students 26 and under with an active IEP are also eligible for free meals. Meals will be delivered via school bus at the following times and locations:

10:58 AM – 67350 Main Street
11:00 AM – Diane Lane & Forest
11:01 AM – 69499 Grove Street
11:05 AM – Pierse Street & Beebe Street
11:11 AM – Geason Street & Gierk Street
11:11 AM – 4040 County Line Road
11:12 AM – EMS/34505 32 Mile Road
11:15 AM – Deer Run Run & Sunny Brook Ln
11:18 AM – Chaucer Drive & Canterbury Dr.
11:23 AM – Priestap Street & Oak Street
11:25 AM – Bethuy Road & Lindsey Road
11:31 AM – Strikers & 31055 33 Mile Road
11:32 AM – Victor Drive and Weeks Road
11:34 AM – Place Road & 29 Mile Road
11:36 AM – Madison Street & Canterbury Dr.
11:41 AM – Russ Road & School Section Road
11:45 AM – Casco Township Hall

11:47 AM – Big Hand Road & Kronner Road
11:53 AM – Kronner Road & Pound Road
11:58 AM – Kuster Road & 30 Mile Road
11:58 AM – Wahl Road & Weber Road
12:01 PM – Columbus Township Hall
12:07 PM – Gratiot Ave & Werner Road
12:08 PM – Church Road & Puttygut Road
12:15 PM – 9776 Dolan Road
12:16 PM – Logg Road & Andrews Road
12:17 PM – Lenox Township Park
12:27 PM – Bluebird Lane & Bartel Road
12:30 PM – Weber Road & Stoddard Road
12:36 PM – George Drive & Chaskey Street
12:47 PM – 75701 Memphis Ridge Road
12:49 PM – Seymour Street & Dow Street

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Please be flexible as busses may run late due to the number of students or parents picking up meals. Meal deliveries on Friday will include lunch for Friday, breakfast and lunch for Saturday, Sunday and Monday, and breakfast for Tuesday. Meal deliveries on Tuesday will include lunch for Tuesday, breakfast and lunch for Wednesday, and Thursday, and breakfast for Friday. If you have any questions regarding meals, please call Mrs. Guiney, *Director of Food Service*, at (586) 727-3565, ext. 2016.

ATHLETICS. Until further notice, all practices, games and activities for athletic sports have been suspended. Under no circumstances should athletic teams gather. Any questions regarding athletics, please call Mr. Rinehart, *Director of Athletics, Facilities and School Safety*, at (586) 727-3565, ext. 6004.

ACADEMIC CLUBS. Until further notice, all meetings and activities for academic clubs, unless held virtually, have been suspended. Under no circumstances should academic clubs gather. Any questions regarding academic clubs, please contact the advisor or your child's *Dean of Students*.

FUTURE DECISIONS ON VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION. Prior to the *Emergency Order* being issued, the District moved all students in preK-12 to virtual instruction through Thanksgiving. On Monday, November 23, 2020, the Board of Education will consider whether to extend virtual instruction for students in Graded preK-8 beyond the Thanksgiving holiday. While this will not be an easy decision, the health and safety of our students and staff is priority.

While I am hopeful that we will return to in-person learning, I am also a realist and know that if the COVID-19 numbers do not improve I do not see in-person learning happening any time soon. I may not always agree with what the Governor or legislature says or do, I do agree with this: *Everyone must do their part to fight the COVID-19 virus if we want to return to any kind of normalcy.*

FINALLY, I ASK ALL PARENTS, GUARDIANS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO THINK TWICE BEFORE YOU POST SOMETHING ON SOCIAL MEDIA. We are one community and social media is dividing us. Inaccurate information is being spread, individuals have been berated, and I am sure blood pressures have been raised, all because of social media. If you have a question, contact your child's teacher or the school administrators directly. It really does no good to post your concerns online with the "hope" that someone from the school will read it and respond. Richmond is an organization filled with good, caring people; all wanting the best for our students. Please give them the courtesy to contact them directly.

Thank you for your continued support during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Walmsley, Ed.S.
Superintendent

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