

Richmond Community Schools

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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 20, 2018

Dear Richmond Families,

Just recently, the first quarter of the school year finished. It seems like only yesterday, students were returning from summer vacation with the excitement of starting a new school year, meeting new friends, while catching up with old ones. An excitement of new clothes, supplies and meeting their teachers. This school year, we have been blessed to have many new faces, both students and staff, join the Richmond family. Without any doubt or hesitation, they have been welcomed with open arms by our community.



Tomorrow marks the beginning of the Thanksgiving holiday break. As Superintendent, I am thankful each and every day to be part of the wonderful Richmond family, comprised of compassionate and dedicated students and staff; not to mention a supportive community. Collectively, we have much to be thankful for.

Thanksgiving is more than the festivities, it gives us time to ponder upon the lessons we have learned and how we can spread happiness around, to look back at all the great memories and good people who came into our lives. To be thankful for the opportunities we have been afforded. On behalf of the Board of Education and the Richmond staff, we wish you and your family a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Guaranteed Learning for All Students!

Shortly after school resumes on Monday, November 26th there are several holiday programs scheduled to showcase the vocal and instrumental talents of our students. The Middle and High Schools' *Holiday Band Concert* is on Wednesday, December 5th and the *Holiday Choir Concert* is on Thursday, December 13th. Both concerts are at 7:00pm in the high school auditorium. On Monday, December 17th, 3rd and 4th Grade students will perform their *Holiday Concert* at 6:00pm and 7:15pm, respectively, in the high school auditorium.

Upcoming Informational Parent Meeting

On Monday, December 3, 2018 at 7:00pm in the Media Center at Will L. Lee Elementary School, I will be hosting an *Informational Parent Meeting* on the recent direction I received from the Board of Education to move 4th Grade to the middle school, beginning next school year.

At the last Board of Education meeting, during the *Superintendent and Legislative Update* portion of the meeting, I reported to the Board that based on enrollment and current programming at the elementary school, next school year the District will not have enough classroom space at Will L. Lee Elementary School. Enrollment at the elementary school and preschool has steadily grown over the past couple of years and it is now becoming a *space* issue in the building.

Though multiple options were discussed, such as eliminating programs to “free-up” classrooms or purchasing portable classrooms, the Board provided me with direction to move the 4th Grade to the middle school for the 2019-20 school year. This direction also came with a commitment to provide families with on-going communication about the process. While this move may sound sudden to some, it has been an on-going conversation during budget discussions for several years. Each year, available classroom space is less and less with more families choosing Richmond Community Schools. What a great problem to have!

With an entire wing of the middle school unoccupied, the Board has a *fiscal responsibility* and *obligation to the community* to maximize the use of the District existing resources, which is why the Board decided to move 4th Grade to the middle school. The staff at the elementary and middle schools are supportive of the Board's plan and I am 100% confident that the transition will be seamless for students. Richmond Community School has a very student-focused staff!

It is my hope, and belief, that we will collectively work together to support the 4th Grade move to the middle school in an effort to make it a positive experience for all.

Happy Thanksgiving,



Brian J. Walmsley, Ed.S.
Superintendent

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