

Richmond Community Schools

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

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 & Will L. Lee Elementary School**
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 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 24, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Last night, the Board of Education voted to approve an amendment to the District's *Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan* to continue virtual learning for students in Grades preK-12 through January 8, 2021. Below you will find a segment of the 2020-21 school calendar which reflects the amendment to the *Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan*.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	# of Projected Virtual Days
15-Nov	16-Nov	17-Nov	18-Nov	19-Nov	20-Nov	21-Nov	4
22-Nov	23-Nov	24-Nov	25-Nov	26-Nov	27-Nov	28-Nov	2
29-Nov	30-Nov	1-Dec	2-Dec	3-Dec	4-Dec	5-Dec	5
6-Dec	7-Dec	8-Dec	9-Dec	10-Dec	11-Dec	12-Dec	5
13-Dec	14-Dec	15-Dec	16-Dec	17-Dec	18-Dec	19-Dec	5
20-Dec	21-Dec	22-Dec	23-Dec	24-Dec	25-Dec	26-Dec	2
27-Dec	28-Dec	29-Dec	30-Dec	31-Dec	1-Jan	2-Jan	0
3-Jan	4-Jan	5-Jan	6-Jan	7-Jan	8-Jan	9-Jan	5

Holiday Breaks: 11/25/20 to 11/27/20 AND 12/23/20 to 1/1/21

At the time of this letter, Macomb County is facing an 18% COVID-19 positivity rate. When school began in September, the County's COVID-19 positivity rate was around 6%. With the number of positive COVID-19 cases increasing, more individuals are affected and required to quarantine which is affecting the District's ability to safely staff buildings for in-person instruction.

While my recommendation to the Board was to continue virtual learning, it was made after much deliberation, thought, and recognition as to how it would impact families. The administrative

Guaranteed Learning for All Students!

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education amendments of 1972, Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title II of the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, and Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977, it is the policy of the Richmond Community School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, military status, national origin or ancestry, sex (including sexual orientation), disability, age (except as authorized by law,) height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination during any program, activity, service or employment. Inquiries related to any nondiscrimination policies should be directed to the Superintendent, 35276 Division Road, Richmond, MI 48062, (586) 727-3565.

team, teachers, support staff, and I desire to return to *in-person* learning. However, the practical aspect of staffing classrooms outweighs the desire for in-person instruction.

By making the decision to remain virtually now, the District eliminates the day-to-day school closure uncertainties as a result of staffing issues. I recognize that the recommendation made will not be easy for students and families, especially households with working parents. However, our hope is that this short-term inconvenience and collective sacrifice will support our long-term goal of returning to in-person learning.

As the holiday season approaches, the *Center for Disease Control* (CDC) and health department officials are discouraging large gatherings in order to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Remember, as hard as it may be to limit your exposure to individuals outside of your immediate household, practice social distancing and wear a facemask. This is our chance to come together and safely celebrate the holidays. In doing so, we increase our ability and chances of returning to in-person learning. We are *Blue Devils*. We can overcome any obstacle put before us. Let's do this for our students!

On behalf of the Board of Education and entire Richmond staff, I wish you and your family a safe, healthy, and happy Thanksgiving. This year has clearly been challenging, and we are eternally grateful for your continued support. I encourage you to take a minute this Thanksgiving to express your gratitude and appreciation for what we have – we have much to be grateful for!

If you have questions, feel free to contact us here at school or visit the District's website, www.richmond.k12.mi.us, for more information.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Walmsley, Ed.S.
Superintendent

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