

From: [Dr. Michael Shibler & Central Office](#)
To: [Clark, Marlene](#)
Subject: COVID-19 Update (April 14, 2020)
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 9:53:48 AM

Dear RPS Stakeholders (administrators, staff, parents and students):

On behalf of the Board of Education, we first want to recognize the exemplary work of our administrative team, teachers, and support staff for the work you have done since the initial closing of school back in March.

On very short notice, our support staff adjusted to working with families remotely, took extra measures to provide safe and clean facilities, and provided meals to those in need. Teachers took it upon themselves to engage with their students and provide reassurance to them. Our administrators and a group of teachers immediately stepped up to develop Engage and Explore to provide online enrichment opportunities for students during what we had hoped would be a short-term closure. When we learned school would not resume this school year, our leaders and educators once again led the charge to develop an in-depth program called RAMS Connect which we are excited to launch tomorrow. You are all to be congratulated for your caring gestures and outstanding work under difficult circumstances. You exemplify “The Power of Us.”

Parents and students, thank you. Thank you for your patience, understanding, and hard work during this unusual time. We know this puts an extra burden on you and we want to do everything we can to provide valuable learning opportunities in an organized and easy-to-follow manner. As it has been said many times, we are all in this together. We are experiencing challenges we have never seen in our lifetimes but things will improve and we will get back to a more normal routine.

In preparation for tomorrow’s launch of [RAMS Connect](#), all teachers have participated in remote professional development over the last two days. This online learning program intends to build on the meaningful learning that is already occurring while engaging students in essential content directed by their classroom teacher and increasing social and emotional support for students.

It is important to understand that this program is a work in progress and we will continue to make adjustments and improvements in the coming days and weeks ahead. We will be interested in your input and ask that you direct your suggestions or concerns to your school principal or assistant principal. If you do not have adequate access to the internet, paper copies of the material are available through your principal.

As a reminder, we will be [lifting the content filtering restrictions](#) on all district-owned devices in order to increase the ability to stay connected. The increased activity has maxed out our filtering ability, so please manage these devices like any others in your home.

Perhaps you have heard me say that “people make the difference.” Those words could not be

more true than at a time like this. It is because of your commitment and understanding, we will get through this and we will be stronger in the end.

Thank you,

Dr. Michael Shibler, Superintendent of Schools

Mike Cuneo, Assistant Superintendent of Finance

Mike Ramm, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

Korie Wilson-Crawford, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

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