

roots & wings COMMUNITY SCHOOL



December 18, 2020

Dear RWCS Community,

It is hard to believe, but we have just wrapped up our first semester of the school year as we head into our Winter Holiday Break! Thank you all for your help and support as we have navigated this very unique year. The school received its renewal recommendation and there is definite optimism moving into the new year. Working together we will get through all of the challenges that have been thrown at us all and any more to come. We had about a 75% response rate for the Parent Survey sent out! Thank you for taking the time to complete it and for all the feedback. I have shared the results with the Governing Council and the staff. We had 75% of you respond that you preferred school stay remote for the year, or evaluate quarterly.

Remote Learning Update

PED is requiring ALL schools to return after the break in a fully remote mode until at least January 18th. We have decided based on the feedback we received from our families and that the county is still in the Red heading into the Holiday Break, that we will remain in remote through at least the 3rd quarter. We will re-evaluate before that and announce what we will do for the final quarter. The Hybrid model that PED has outlined for us, will be very challenging for small schools and may end up forcing the school to bounce back and forth between Hybrid and Remote, so for consistency and the utmost safety for our families and staff we felt this was the best decision for our school.

School Calendar Highlights

Classes resume on Monday, January 4th, and ALL students are required to resume that day online. Tuesday, January 5th is a Staff PD day, which is an off day for students. Wednesday, January 6th is a required school day for students with Art and Music happening, along with check-ins with teachers. Thursday and Friday are as usual. The schedule is a little unusual as it was set up based on that week being a special week of events like ski club and ice skating, which COVID is preventing us from doing. We return to our normal weeks on January 11th. (See the calendar link below my signature line if you need a copy of the school calendar.)

Note from Veronica

Families, if you have not yet filled out and turned in your Free and Reduced Lunch Forms, please do so. These forms are what the state looks at to determine if you will receive a P-ebt card. [Link to the Free & Reduced Lunch Form](#). Please fill out the form and send it to Veronica (vgarcia@rwcs.org) as soon as possible, or call to request a form be sent to you through the mail.

Jon Orris, Director
Veronica Garcia, Office Manager

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Directors note: PLEASE fill these forms out even if you don't think you will qualify, or if you do qualify, don't want to participate. This data is used to determine funding options for the school and helps reduce the cost we pay for internet access, etc. We have had a low response on this and that may cost the school thousands of dollars! Please take a few minutes to fill these forms out if you haven't done so yet. Thank You.

Content Filters on Student Computers

Our rollout was delayed until today. The school will be enabling new software from Securly ([click here for more info](#)) on school-owned student computers. If you are searching the web and get a message with the school's logo that you are being blocked by the school, that is Securly in action. The school will get alerts and reports of every site students try to access. Securly allows the school to create policies that reflect the school and its rules. If students are habitually attempting to access inappropriate sites you will be restricted to no internet access other than the few sites required for school work. If you get blocked from a legitimate site for education, please contact your teacher and if approved it will be unblocked. Gaming sites other than those being used for after school programs will be blocked and NOT released. Just a reminder that school computers are only for use with school work, they are not your personal computers. Also a HUGE reminder **PLEASE KEEP ALL LIQUIDS/DRINKS AWAY FROM THE COMPUTERS!** We have had two computers destroyed by spilling liquid on them, it fries the motherboard.

Progress reports were mailed today, Friday, December 18th.

The school office will be closed until January, 4th. Staff will not be checking email as they need a break as well!

The next Governing Council Meeting is January 19th at 5 pm. G.C. Meeting Agendas with the Google Meet link are posted on the school [website](#) 72 hours before the meeting. All are welcome to attend.

I hope everyone has a safe, enjoyable, and restful holiday break! We will see everyone in 2021!

Sincerely,

Jon Orris

Jon Orris, Director
[school calendar](#)

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