

PHOENIX NOTES

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Principal's Corner

Happy New Year!

We are approaching the 'halfway point' in the school year. Semester 1 will be ending soon, and we will be onto the last semester of this school year. I would like to applaud teachers, students and families for showing resilience during this time. We are working hard to ensure that learning is happening at Renaissance. Students have proven that we can still get the job done as we have more than half of the school population on the Honor Roll! This is normal for Renaissance and is a true testament to what we believe is important...educating our children to propel them to the next level. Parents, please continue to support your student. We may not like how school looks now, but it is the reality and we will get through it. Encourage them to stay the course, work hard and ask questions. Together, we will overcome!

Semester 1 Testing

Academic Approach provides customized assessment and reporting services geared toward raising student achievement on the SAT. These practice assessments produce valuable data for both students and teachers as they look to maximize classroom time building the core skills evaluated on official tests. Academic Approach will be administered for a second time to all 9-11 graders from January 19th - 22nd. Seniors will not be tested. The district science and social studies benchmarks will be administered through Performance Matters. Eleventh graders will take Performance Matters between January 6th - 15th.

Final Exam Schedule:

Semester 1 Final exams will be held on January 27th and 28th.

Wednesday, January 27th -

Hours 1, 3, 5, 7

Thursday, January 28th -

Hours 2, 4, 6

Last day of Semester 1 -
February 2nd

First day of Semester 2 -
February 3rd

Report Card Day - February 9th



UPCOMING EVENTS

Panorama Family Survey by 1/15
Free COVID Testing 1/20 2pm-6pm
MLK Observance 1/18
PTSA Meeting 1/21
PSAT Make-Up 1/26
Final Exams 1/27 & 1/28
Semester 1 Ends 2/2
Report Cards 2/9

The most significant successes come from letting your light shine, embracing failure, and getting good at being wrong.

-Stacey Abrams



Online Exams@Home

Final exams are coming, how do I prepare in the virtual world? Here are some tips that may help.

Create a routine.

~Determine the topics that will be covered and make a study timetable.

~Study/review in chunks. Try 25 minutes on and take 5 minutes off. This will help with study fatigue and feeling overwhelmed.

Learn concepts-not just words.

~Learn concepts and ideas, do not just memorize text. Begin reviewing notes to *learn*. If open book, the point is to know how to apply the concepts, not what you

can remember.

~Revise your notes. Make summary sheets with ideas, quotes and analysis. Based on the amount of time you have, prioritize.

Tackle exam anxieties.

~Feeling anxious is okay. Find ways to minimize the stress. Create an exam space that is not your bed. Practice testing in the environment. Finally, ensure that your connection, device and platform are working well in advance of the exam.

theguardian.com, December 2020



Athletic Update

MHSAA Approves Winter Schedule

Updates: If the MDHSS pause ends, winter sports at Renaissance will resume this month. Practices will begin on January 16th and competition on January 22nd. The Council has also approved the tournament schedule pushing it back a bit to allow for the season completion. Stay tuned!



BOOK OF THE MONTH

Class of 2024:
The Voting Booth

Class of 2023:
The Women of Brewster Place

Class of 2022:
A Gathering of Old Men

Class of 2021:
Go Gator and Muddy the Water

For your leisure reading time!

NOTES FROM THE COUNSELORS

Counselors will be verifying second semester schedules this week. If you have any concerns regarding your second semester schedule, please email your counselor and/or contact them via Teams.

Free SAT Test Preparation websites for all Grades

Princeton Review, Free paper and pencil test schedule at [Princeton Review](#) Free Testing opportunities.

Kaplan Learning, [Kaplan Learning](#) online free practice testing

Khan Academy & College Board - <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>

Free online SAT test preparation.

Scholarships for all Grade Levels

Jane Austen Society of North America Essay Contest –

<http://www.jasna.org/essaycontest/index.html>

Kenyon Review Short Fiction Contest

– <http://www.kenyonreview.org/contests/short-fiction>

Lake Michigan Credit Union Lloyd F. Hutt Scholarship competition - [Lloyd](#)

[Hutt Scholarship info link](#)

Society of Professional Journalists High School Essay Contest

– <http://www.spj.org/a-hs.asp>