

Renaissance High School

Family Welcome Packet

August 2021



Verynda Stroughter, Principal

“A School for the Mind, a Mind for the Future”

Greetings!

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! The purpose of this document is to prepare you for the first day of school and beyond. It is with great anticipation and excitement that I welcome you to a year of learning and growth for us all. There will be a learning curve with getting acclimated to school again, but my hopes are high, and I know that we will be together in no time. As Phoenix do, we will RISE from this and come out even better than where we started!

Through hard work and perseverance, we were able to maintain our number one status academically in the district while increasing our ranking to number thirty-seven in the state! Nationally, we were in the Best Schools rankings according to the US News & World Report, landing in the top 5%. I am proud to be in this position but know that we will continue an upward trajectory with the hard work of our students and staff and with the support of our parents.

In addition to achieving academically, our athletic and extracurricular programs continued to be a force to be reckoned with. Many of our teams are doing extremely well. Notably, our girls' basketball team were semifinalist in the state championship and our girls track team were dominating on the track, breaking state records and winning championships. It is a goal of mine that all students are involved in the school community outside of the classroom. If athletics is not your forte, you can be involved in the management aspect of the program. Students may also join one of our many clubs and volunteer organization to imbed themselves in the fabric of our school community.

As always, we are looking for parental engagement. Join our PTSA, Dad's Club, or Athletic & Performing Arts Booster Clubs! It will take all of us to provide a meaningful experience for our students. I look forward to working with you all this school year and seeing your active participation.

We have a lot of new, exciting things on the horizon and Renaissance this school year. I cannot wait to begin to share those things at an appropriate time. Meanwhile, be sure that you are on all our school communication avenues, including PowerSchool Parent Portal, Blackboard, Principal Stroughters' Remind and class sponsors communication.

I look forward to being back in the building this school year full time with the students and staff. We will do our very best to keep everyone safe while in the building. Part of that will come from the cooperation of each of you. Students must follow all Covid protocol while in the building including wearing a mask at all times, continuous hand sanitization, staying a good distance away from others, and staying home if they have been a close contact of someone with Covid or are not feeling well.

Join us, we are counting on your full support as we are dedicated to providing the highest quality educational experience in the state of Michigan. Together, we will strengthen our spirits, challenge our minds, broaden our perspectives and be flexible in our steps to another successful school year!

Educationally,

Verynda Stroughter, Principal

Administration Team

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Grade Level Responsibility</u>
Verynda Stroughter	Principal	12 th Grade
Lewis Grady	Assistant Principal	10 th Grade
Cindy Powell	Assistant Principal	9 th Grade
Sophia Sims	Assistant Principal	11 th Grade

Welcome New Staff – 2021/2022

Nathan Jackson, Math	Justin Varineau, Math	
Alexis Anderson, Science	Erin Vos, Social Studies	Anna Miro Sans, Spanish
Gerald Spaulding, Jr., Theater	Sharla Woods, AI	Jeffres Webb, AI

Save The Date

During registration, students will obtain schedules, receive their textbooks, all students who are new to Renaissance will take their student ID picture. Students can purchase school uniform shirts and pay senior dues. **All 9th and 11th grade students MUST have on a collared school shirt to take a school ID photo (white or burgundy color). Seniors cap & gown photos will be taken off site during the week of August 23rd.** Only students should be in attendance during orientation; parents, siblings, family members and friends should not attend.

The Class of 2022 is hosting Pancakes with the Principal each of the orientation days from 8am – 10am. All are welcome to attend. Go to <https://givebutter.com/2022pancakes> to purchase tickets.

August 23	12 th : 10am – 3pm	August 24	11 th : 10am – 3pm
August 25	10 th : 10am – 3pm	August 26	9 th : 10am – 3pm

New for 2021!

- Theater Courses
- Boys & Girls Lacrosse
- Boys & Girls Bowling
- Wrestling
- BuildOn Program
- Seminar Period Wellness Groups
- 9th Grade Success Center

Summer Assignments

Don't forget, summer assignments for all grade levels were placed on the website in July. Be sure to be prepared on the first day of school with your summer assignments! Please visit www.detroitk12.org/renaissance to obtain summer assignments.

Success Center

All 9th grade students will attend the Success Center for one period. This course will serve as one of their two elective choices. The Success Center will aid in the transition to high school. Students will gain skills in organization, time management, study skills and more.

Counseling Staff

Counselors are assigned by last name; the assignments are as follows:

A-G: Melissa Jones, melissa.jones@detroitk12.org

H-O: George Duncan, george.duncan@detroitk12.org

P-Z: Maria Bell, maria.bell@detroitk12.org

College Transition Advisor: Wendy Nichols, wendy.nichols@detroitk12.org

Upcoming Dates

August 22: RHS Golf Outing

August 23 – 26: Student Orientation by grade level

August 26: Varsity Home Football Game, 7pm

September 2: Varsity Home Football Game, 7pm

September 7: First Day of School

September 22: Probation Parent Meeting, 4pm

September 22: Parent Night, 5pm

Communication

The main office is open daily. Beginning August 30th, the main office will be open from 8am – 4pm. If your contact information (phone number and address) has changed, we ask that you update your information as many things are sent out from the school and district using this information. All families should have access to PowerSchool in order to manage attendance and grades. If you do not have PowerSchool login information or you need to update your contact information, please come to the main office during regular business hours. Also, Principal Stroughter has a Parent Remind group where information is shared regularly. You may contact the main office for your Remind group information.

Be sure to check our school website regularly as many announcements and information is shared in that space. Go to www.detroitk12.org/renaissance

Seminar Class

Every student will have a seminar period. This course is designed to give students a weekly opportunity to catch up on work, meet with teachers/counselors, make up assignments or study with a group. During the first week, students will receive instructions on how to “sign out” of seminar to take care of business within the school. This course is graded as a Pass/Fail course.

First Day Bell Schedule

Students will report to a special homeroom on the first day of school. After the homeroom period, students will follow their schedule for the rest of the day.

September 7, 2021 Bell Schedule ONLY

Period	Start Time	End Time
HR	8:00 AM	8:45 AM
1	8:55 AM	9:40 AM
2	9:45 AM	10:30 AM
3	10:35 AM	11:20 AM
4	11:25 AM	12:50 PM
5	12:55 AM	1:40 PM
6	1:45 PM	2:30 PM
7	2:35 PM	3:20 PM

First Day Homeroom Assignments

Students will receive homeroom assignments during orientation. Signs will also be posted throughout the hallways on the first day of school.

Lunch Hour

Lunch occurs 4th hour for everyone. There are two lunches designated by floors. Fourth hour classes on the first and second floor go to first lunch, the third floor goes to second lunch.

Bell Schedule

The school day is from 8:00am – 3:20pm. On Monday, Tuesday and Friday students attend all courses hours 1 – 7. On Wednesday, students attend odd hours and on Thursday, students attend even hours with a seminar class. See below.

Renaissance Bell Schedule – 2021/2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 st Hr	8:00am – 9:10am	8:00am – 9:10am	8:00am – 9:30am	8:00am – 9:30am	8:00am – 9:10am
2 nd Hr	9:15am – 10:05am	9:15am – 10:05am	9:35am – 11:05am	9:35am – 11:05am	9:15am – 10:05am
3 rd Hr	10:10am – 11:00am	10:10am – 11:00am	11:10am – 12:10pm Lunch 12:15pm – 1:45pm Class	11:10am – 12:10pm Lunch 12:15pm – 1:45pm Class	10:10am – 11:00am
4 th Hr	1 st & 2 nd Floor 11:05am – 11:40am Lunch 11:45am – 12:35pm Class 3 rd Floor 11:05am – 11:55am Class 12:00pm – 12:35pm Lunch	1 st & 2 nd Floor 11:05am – 11:40am Lunch 11:45am – 12:35pm Class 3 rd Floor 11:05am – 11:55am Class 12:00pm – 12:35pm Lunch	1 st & 2 nd Floor 11:10am – 12:10pm Lunch 12:15pm – 1:45pm Class 3 rd Floor 11:10am – 12:40pm Class 12:45pm – 1:45pm Lunch	1 st & 2 nd Floor 11:10am – 12:10pm Lunch 12:15pm – 1:45pm Class 3 rd Floor 11:10am – 12:40pm Class 12:45pm – 1:45pm Lunch	1 st & 2 nd Floor 11:05am – 11:40am Lunch 11:45am – 12:35pm Class 3 rd Floor 11:05am – 11:55am Class 12:00pm – 12:35pm Lunch
5 th Hr	12:40pm – 1:30pm	12:40pm – 1:30pm	1:50pm – 3:20pm	1:50pm – 3:20pm	12:40pm – 1:30pm
6 th Hr	1:35pm – 2:25pm	1:35pm – 2:25pm	1:50pm – 3:20pm	1:50pm – 3:20pm	1:35pm – 2:25pm
7 th Hr	2:30pm – 3:20pm	2:30pm – 3:20pm			2:30pm – 3:20pm

*Record Room built into first period on Monday, Tuesday & Friday.

Policies and Procedures...At a Glance!

We follow the DPSCD Student Code of Conduct. Please visit detroitk12.org, download a copy and review for your information.

Arrival

Students are permitted to enter the building at 7:15am. Upon entering, students will be required to have their temperature checked, complete the health screening and wear a mask all day, covering their nose and mouth. Upon early arrival, students should report to the Phoenix Café until 7:45am, at that time, they may proceed to their first hour class.

Departure

Dismissal is at 3:20pm. Students must leave the building by 3:30pm unless they are participating in a supervised activity with a staff sponsor. It is imperative that parents make arrangements for students to be picked up at the end of the day. Students who have not been picked up by 3:30pm must wait outside of the building. Campus must be cleared by 3:30pm.

Early Dismissal

An early dismissal letter must be submitted to your child's counselor upon arrival to school in the morning if they need to leave early. Once the verification process is completed, your child will receive written permission for early dismissal from class/school. The student must present the early dismissal pass to the teacher and report to the counseling office for pick up. Students will only be released to a parent or legal guardian as indicated on our Student Information System. Parents must present valid ID for early dismissal request. All early dismissal pick-ups must occur by 2:45pm. Students are not permitted to walk out of the building prior to checking in with the office.

Closed Campus

Renaissance High School is a closed campus. Students are not to leave the building between 7:15am and 3:20pm without a written pass from a counselor or administrator, unless they are enrolled in dual enrollment or an internship program.

Food

Food and beverages brought into the school must be for individual consumption only. Any items brought into the school for mass consumption, distribution, or sale will be confiscated and the student may face disciplinary action. Unauthorized fundraising is prohibited.

Deliveries

Parents, please refrain from sending or delivering items such as flowers, Edible Arrangements, balloons, food deliveries etc. to students during school hours. These items will not be accepted by building security or staff and are strictly prohibited.

Students are not allowed to have food delivered by any outside source, this includes but is not limited to Door Dash, Uber Eats, GrubHub, etc.

Dress Code

Students are required to follow the RHS dress code (Khaki color or burgundy pants, shorts or skirt with a white or burgundy collared shirt) daily. Students out of dress code will not be allowed to attend class.

Cell Phones and Headphones

Cell phone/headphone usage is allowed in common areas (hallways, Phoenix Café). However, all devices must be put away in classroom areas. Devices may be used for classroom purposes at the discretion of the teacher.

COVID Procedures

CDC & DPSCD guidelines require everyone in a school facility MUST wear a mask covering their nose and mouth even if they are vaccinated. Realizing that our entire school population has not been vaccinated, to reduce the risk of spread, we must follow proper procedures and communicate responsibly with the daily symptom checker. In order to keep our school family safe, we must be diligent in our communication in regard to possible infections. If you have any symptoms, or not feeling well, we ask that you stay home and get COVID tested. If a student has been in direct, close contact with someone who has been infected with COVID, they must quarantine. Please contact the school nurse for the proper procedures if your student is a close contact or has tested positive.

Student Absent Reporting

When your student will be absent, you may send an email to all of the teachers and the attendance agent OR write a note so that your student can provide to each teacher for signatures and drop the note off in the counseling office to be recorded. Counselors should also be notified for a student long term absence (more than 3 consecutive days).

Renaissance High School Communication Process

Matters Involving:	Academic Progress	Attendance Progress	Behavior Concerns	School Communication	Athletics
Step 1:	Contact Classroom Teacher	Contact Classroom Teacher	Contact Classroom Teacher	Contact Main Office	Contact Coach
Step 2:	Contact School Counselor	Contact Attendance Agent	Contact Dean of Culture		Contact Athletic Director
Step 3:	Assistant Principal				
Step 4:	Principal Stroughter				

Communication Process Practices:

School formal strategies include:

- Blackboard and Remind are used to communicate regularly. All parents should ensure they are enrolled in all communication platforms.
- Monthly school newsletter posted on school website and sent via Blackboard and Remind on the first Monday of each month
- School website: www.detroitk12.org/renaissance assists with communicating with the immediate and wider community
- Staff email: used for two-way communication with various members of the school staff (see attachment)
- School Social Media: Follow us on:
 - Twitter: @RenaissanceHig3
 - Facebook: renaissancehig3
 - Instagram: www.facebook.com/phoenix.rise.7311
- Parent Information Meetings are held at least once per year to communicate expectations and curriculum information.
- PTSA Meetings are held monthly to communicate and address the needs of the school community.
- Title I Parent Workshops are held at least twice per year to share valuable information pertaining to the growth and matriculation of our students.
- Information Sessions for a Specific Purposes: Information sessions are held as needed and will cover a variety of topics including athletics, school performances, extracurricular activities, class meetings and counselor informational sessions.
- Grade Level Assemblies: held during the first week of school to provide expectations for the school year

Professional Communication Practices

When communicating with parents, staff members will:

- Approach discussion in an open, courteous and respectful manner.
- Listen attentively to the concerns of parents, seeking clarification where necessary.
- Present their own or the school’s point of view in professional and objective terms.
- Seek support from Administration or colleagues if needed.
- Take into consideration cultural and personal sensitivities and protocols when dealing with the school community.

Parent Meeting Practices

- While some matters may be addressed immediately, it is desirable to arrange meetings to address issues at a time and place that is mutually convenient and is conducive to a positive outcome.
- Unless unusual circumstances apply, staff arrange meetings with parents in a timely manner.

Dealing with Issues

There may be times, despite ongoing communication, where members of the school community are unsure, disagree or believe there is a problem or issue concerning their child. Parents should not wait for a small issue to grow into a large one:

- If the matter involves your child or is an issue of everyday class operation, parents need to make an appointment to see their classroom teacher, detailing the reasons for the appointment. The classroom teacher should be the first point of contact.
- If the matter involves operations beyond the classroom or concerns that are not easily resolved, an appointment should be made with a member of the school’s Administration.

Staff Name	Staff Email	Dept.
Abdun-Noor, Jamil	Jamil.abdunnoor@detroitk12.org	Math
Alster, Adam	Adam.alster@detroitk12.org	Science
Anderson, Alexis	Alexis.anderson@detroitk12.org	Science
Bell-Bowers, Christina	Christina.bell@detroitk12.org	English
Bell, Maria	Maria.bell@detroitk12.org	Counseling
Bennett, Tanya	Tanya.bennett@detroitk12.org	Performing Arts
Boffman, Danielle	Danielle.boffman@detroitk12.org	School Psychologist
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Brown, Chandra	Chandra.brown@detroitk12.org	Physical Education
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