



# Renaissance Middle School

*INNOVATIVE EDUCATION:*

*The Mission of Renaissance Middle School is to create a collaborative community with project-based learning that emphasizes the strengths of all students.*

March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Remote Learning at RMS

We are certainly living in an extraordinary time. Daily headlines inform us about the spread and impact of the novel Coronavirus. We have just been informed that schools will be closing for at least two weeks. While we find ourselves challenged with the task of designing a platform to support students from outside the school, you should feel confident that Renaissance Middle School is ready.



Remote learning is not a new concept. Learning from a distance is a growing best practice at the university level as well as a strategy that we have already implemented at Renaissance. Part of our unique magnet is a 1-to-1 student to device design. Every student has a chromebook that they can use at home to complete school work and communicate with their teachers. We already utilize Google Classroom as a means of providing assignments and feedback regarding grades. Families, in Montclair, have electronic access to their child's Google Classrooms and Genesis accounts in order to receive notifications about work and progress.

Google Classroom

I am confident that Renaissance Middle School will continue to deliver a world-class education during these uncharted times. While there can be no true replacement for face-to-face contact with a teacher, below is what you can expect from us:

### Instruction

- All students should have their chromebooks at home or have a comparable device accessible to them.
- All teachers have set up a Google Classroom for their course. Your child has been invited, using their mpsdnj.us Google accounts, to join. Please note, when students are invited to a classroom they **MUST** accept the invitation to be included.
- Assignments in all major courses; **Math, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, World Language, Art, Music, Dance, Physical Education/Health, Technology and intervention classes (i.e., READ 180, Math Lab and Literacy Lab)** will be posted twice a week. Please note that some classes will post assignments for the week while others may post bi-weekly. Encourage your child to regularly check Google Classroom for updates and additional communications.
- Teachers have access to upload instructional videos and will determine when video instruction is necessary for students to access materials and complete assignments.
- We will not be holding students accountable for any electives in their schedule. However, Google Classrooms will exist for these courses and suggested activities will be available for students to maintain their skills and interest.

- Feedback on assignments will be sent through Google Classroom and grades will be posted regularly in Genesis.

### **Communication**

You can reach your child's teacher between the typical hours of operation at Renaissance; 8:05am – 3:00pm. The mode of communication will be through email or your child's Google Classroom.

If your child needs to speak with a counselor, please email or have your child email Ms. Gibbs or Ms. Fossella. Based on a district recommendation, parents will be notified if students initiate contact with counselors to increase and ensure supportive wrap-around services.

Our school Nurse, Ms. Mullen will be sending informationals and support materials for families related to resources that can assist families during this time. Ms. Mullen is also available, via email, to address health related concerns.

Aside from district-wide communication, schoolwide updates will be sent home each Friday in the form of E-blasts and Principal Newsletters.

### **We Need Your Support**

Renaissance and the Montclair Public School District are here to support our students in the best way possible. We are trying to create the most accessible plan with the greatest opportunities for all students to feel supported and prepared. We are going to need to work together as a team to implement a plan that is successful and effective.

- Make sure your child has access to their Google Classroom.
- Log into your Parent Genesis account to monitor your child's progress.
- Turn "on" notifications in Genesis for missing assignments. This will better allow you to track your child's progress.
- Review district notifications about school day updates, food access and health information.

Do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns or questions that you may have as we journey through this together as a collective community engaging in an "Innovative Education".

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



Dr. Joseph A. Putrino Jr.  
Principal  
Renaissance Middle School  
[jputrino@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:jputrino@montclair.k12.nj.us)