



TOGETHER WE EDUCATE EVERY STUDENT FOR SUCCESS

To our RSD community,

It is in challenging times such as these that I am reminded of how wonderful our community is.

For many, our schools are more than a place to learn. We are the most consistent source of nutrition for some students. We may be the lifeline for securing a warm winter coat or a place to stay the night. And each student, each family has that one teacher, paraeducator, bus driver, custodian, secretary, principal they can rely on for support, guidance or just a warm smile and hello each day at school.

Your lives and those of your children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews are being turned upside down by the novel coronavirus. We are in the midst of economic uncertainty, anxiety about the health of our loved ones and concern for what the future holds. Your schools are reeling from this as well as we close our doors in order to slow the spread of the virus.

Even closed, we are still here to do what we can to support our community, from our staff providing to-go meals that kids can pick up and take home to teachers reaching out to keep their students engaged in learning, either through materials sent home or online.

And you have responded to these efforts with gratitude, patience and understanding. Parents have shared that their mind can at least be at ease knowing their children can go grab a bite to eat while they are at work. Thanks have poured in for the teachers working to find new ways to connect with students. When we've been only able to say we don't yet have an answer to a question, many have said they understand and appreciate everything our staff are doing. Then there are the folks wanting to volunteer their time, donate items or provide other support so our schools can do what they can to help students and families.

I understand some are frustrated and anxious. We are working to give certainty to the Class of 2020 so they know what to expect for graduation and what comes after. Staff are putting together a comprehensive education program to serve students while schools are closed, though this effort requires time. We expect there will be additional challenges. I wish I could tell you what was coming but neither I or anybody else could say so truthfully.

Thank you for joining with us as we rise to these challenges. You have long supported our schools through the gifts of your time, your resources and your vote. It is no surprise, and no less appreciated, by me and all RSD staff that you are providing that support when we need each other the most.

Dr. Rick Schulte
Superintendent

Richland School District

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