



TOGETHER WE EDUCATE EVERY STUDENT FOR SUCCESS

After this week's hectic efforts to adjust to a new reality, I want to pause before the weekend to let everyone know how much I value and appreciate everything they are doing in these trying times. The current extraordinary events, with all the fear and concern accompanying them, have brought out the best in all of us in the RSD family. I am enormously pleased to be part of this compassionate, caring and committed staff.

The novel coronavirus has disrupted our lives and those of our students and our families unlike anything else in recent memory. This disruption is necessary for the health and safety of everyone in our district. Still, six weeks or longer away from classrooms, music rooms, libraries, studios, labs, and gyms for our students is not something any of us envisioned.

Yet, within hours of Gov. Jay Inslee issuing his executive order to close all schools in the state until April 24, word of your relentless commitment to students was spreading.

Teachers were reaching out to each other and to administrators, discussing how they could stay connected to their students and help them keep learning at home.

As the nutrition services and transportation departments mobilized to provide free meals to our students who could otherwise go without, they were inundated with volunteer offers by our paraeducators who stepped up to help direct traffic, serve as crossing guards and work with bus drivers on food deliveries.

In the district office, staff moved quickly to answer questions and find solutions to the challenges the closure created for students and families as well as those working in individual schools.

And we can't forget those folks who are working through the closure. The maintenance and grounds staff, the secretaries, the custodians. We are depending on them to make sure our schools are ready for students when they return, a day that we all are looking forward to.

It's too soon to say what our community will be like once this crisis has passed. There are problems from the closure that we are still trying to resolve. I understand that some are frustrated and anxious. I wish I could tell you what was coming but neither I nor anybody else could say so truthfully. We ask for your patience and understanding while every day brings new challenges and changes.

As we go through these coming weeks, I ask that you remember how you rose up in this first week. Despite the uncertainty and confusion, it was quickly demonstrated why our community has so strongly supported our schools over the years: YOU.

All of you truly are #RSDawesome. Thank you for everything you do.

Dr. Rick Schulte
Superintendent

Richland School District

615 Snow Avenue · (509) 967-6000 · www.rsd.edu

[Facebook](#) · [Twitter](#) · [YouTube](#)