

JANUARY 5, 2021



Our mission is a shared commitment to educate the whole child in a safe and nurturing community

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy New Year 2021 to the White Bluffs Community! I hope you had some time during the holiday to relax and rejuvenate. These certainly have been trying times for us all. As I reflect on what last year delivered to us, and what this year offers us, I believe this is an excellent opportunity for us to take a step back, reflect upon personal and community priorities, and recommit and refocus to assure that appropriate effort, time, and resources are committed to these priorities. Even though it falls in the middle of the school year the New Year offers us a new beginning when we can rededicate ourselves to our joint responsibility of educating young people, especially in these times. We look forward to continuing to partner with you throughout this year.

FOURTH AND FIFTH RETURNING TO HYBRID LEARNING ON JANUARY 11

Our fourth- and fifth-grade students will return to in-person learning on Monday, January 11. We will return to our a.m./p.m. schedule. Prior to the return day of January 11, teachers may take 2 days to prep for in-person classes. On these two days, teachers will make asynchronous plans for students to work on. Please watch for more information to come from your child's teacher about their return to in-person learning.

2020-2021 WINTER WEATHER PLAN

With inclement winter weather on the horizon, we want to update the community about how we will address its potential effects on schools and student learning. Due to our unique circumstances this academic year, our school and district staff are making every effort to keep students learning regardless of weather conditions. The district has a goal of notifying staff, families and the community of a delay or stay home day by 6 a.m. if circumstances allow. **These winter weather procedures will be in place for the 2020-21 school year only.**

Two-Hour Delay

If weather conditions require a two-hour delay:

- All students currently learning remotely will continue with their direct instruction schedules.
- Pre-K and elementary students who have in-person learning during the morning session will have a remote learning day at home. Teachers will take attendance, provide instructions and deliver information via Canvas or Google Classroom.
- Elementary aged students who have in-person learning during the afternoon session will come to school at their regular time.

- In-person tutoring at schools will be canceled.
- School buses will also pick up middle and high school students two hours late once they resume in-person learning as determined by the Richland School Board.
- Meals distribution will continue as scheduled if the delay occurs on a day that distribution events occur.
- Students enrolled in Tri-Tech Skills Center or Delta High School should check for any schedule changes from the Kennewick and Pasco school districts, respectively.

Stay Home Day

If weather conditions require our buildings to be closed for the day:

- All students currently learning remotely will continue with their direct instruction schedules.
- All students who are participating in in-person learning will have a remote learning day at home. Teachers will take attendance, provide instructions and deliver information via Canvas or Google Classroom.
- Meals distribution will continue as scheduled if the closure occurs on a day that distribution events occur.
- Students enrolled in Tri-Tech Skills Center or Delta High School should check for any schedule changes from the Kennewick and Pasco school districts, respectively.

How to Learn If School Is Delayed or Closed

- www.rsd.edu and all RSD school websites
- Social Media - [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#)
- Direct Emails – The district will send emails to parents/guardians as soon as there is a delay or closure decision. Families can receive email alerts by ensuring their contact information is updated in PowerSchool and that they have opted to receive those communications. Families should contact their child's school if they have further questions. [Community members may sign up to receive email alerts about delays and closures.](#)
- [FlashAlert](#)
- Media – Local television and radio stations frequently run delay and closure announcements

We urge families who do not have reliable Internet access at home to reach out to their child’s school or the district IT Department for options for free or low-cost Internet. If students are unable to connect with their teachers for remote learning due to lack of connectivity or other issues, they will be eligible for an excused absence.

We thank all our students, families, staff and community in advance as we work together to make these changes successful.

HI CAP AND QUEST APPLICATIONS

Highly Capable (Hi-Cap) program offerings in the Richland School District are geared toward pushing students who demonstrate exceptional potential and who need advanced learning opportunities. Our programs include opportunities available in schools as well as through the district's magnet elementary program, QUEST (Question to Understand, Endeavor, Seek, Triumph).

The deadline to apply is Friday, January 15. Students with accepted consent forms will be screened in late January with those meeting qualifications being assessed beginning in February. Letters informing families of students approved for Hi-Cap or QUEST placement will be mailed in late March.

[VIEW HIGHLY CAPABLE APPLICATIONS](#)

Are you wondering if a Hi-Cap program is right for your child? Contact your child's teacher. Questions about the application process? Contact [Toni Vonderhulls](#) at (509) 967-6025.

CHROMEBOOK REGISTRATIONS and INSURANCE PROTECTION PLAN

Our community's support of our 1:1 Technology Initiative ensures every student in our schools will have their own digital device to connect with their teachers and classmates online. Parents will need to complete a registration for their children's chromebook on line. This also includes the opportunity to purchase a protection plan for \$20 per student device for the entire school year. The link below will take you directly to the elementary Chromebook policy and protection plan:

<https://www.familyid.com/programs/richland-school-district-chromebook-policy-aug-2020-aug-2021-elementary-schools>

CHROMEBOOK AND/OR TECHNOLOGY PROBLEMS?

Our IT staff are prepared to assist our students and families, so students can learn online each school day. Students and parents/guardians may reach out to IT staff regarding problems with district-issued technology at ChromebookHelp@rsd.edu or by calling (509) 967-6162, 7 a.m.- 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We have also put together a list of options for families who need help acquiring Internet service for their students. [You can access those options by visiting our Technical Assistance webpage.](#)

*****Mask up***Keep your distance*** Wash hands frequently***Stay home if you are sick*****

We ask everyone to watch their email, the district website and social media accounts for future updates.

	DATES OF IMPORTANCE
Every Monday	Fill out Weekly Health Attestation form for each child
January 11	Fourth and Fifth Grades return to Hybrid Learning (1/2 day in-person)
January 18	No School – Dr. Martin Luther King Day
January 11 – 15	Spirit Week Monday – Wear 4 or 5 of something (to welcome back 4th and 5th grades) Tuesday – White Out Day (wear white clothes or accessories) Wednesday – Crazy Hair Day Thursday – Mismatch Day Friday – White Bluffs Day (wear your school apparel)
January 25	No School – Semester Day