

# RHMS WEEKLY NEWS



December 18, 2020

Dear Rose Hill Middle School Families,

It is hard to believe that today was the last school day of the year 2020...and what a year it has been. I for one will be glad to see 2020 in the rearview mirror and enter 2021 with a sense of optimism and enthusiasm for a great year ahead. That doesn't mean there haven't been some positives for me this year. Professionally, I feel so fortunate to be a part of the Rose Hill Middle School Community and to lead such an incredible group of educators who are working so hard and being so creative in building relationships, meaningful learning experiences, and positive classroom cultures in the less-than-ideal remote learning environment. I also feel blessed at how the whole community at-large, including families and community partners, have rallied to support members of our school community who are in need. Rose Hill Middle School is a special place.

The school building will be closed from December 19th through January 3rd and staff will be taking some well-deserved time off. So much of our work this year has been spent in front of a computer screen, so we have encouraged our staff during Winter break to step away from the computer, unplug, and reacquaint themselves with all that the non-digital world has to offer. While not everyone will have set their "Out of Office Reply" in Outlook, this can be a global message that our teachers and admin team will respond when we return in January to any emails we get over break.

I was in a teacher's class this week where she was encouraging her students to try new things this break as both a way to avoid boredom and to expand their horizons. She read a quote from author Kurt Vonnegut where he shared some life-changing advice that someone gave him when he was 15.

*“When I was 15, I spent a month working on an archeological dig. I was talking to one of the archaeologists one day during our lunch break and he asked those kinds of “getting to know you” questions you ask young people: Do you play sports? What’s your favorite subject? And I told him, no I don’t play any sports. I do theater, I’m in choir, I play the violin and piano, I used to take art classes.*

*And he went WOW. That’s amazing! And I said, “Oh no, but I’m not any good at ANY of them.”*

*And he said something then that I will never forget and which absolutely blew my mind because no one had ever said anything like it to me before: “I don’t think being good at things is the point of doing them. I think you’ve got all these wonderful experiences with different skills, and that all teaches you things and makes you an interesting person, no matter how well you do them.”*

*And that honestly changed my life. Because I went from a failure, someone who hadn’t been talented enough at anything to excel, to someone who did things because I enjoyed them. I had been raised in such an achievement-oriented environment, so inundated with the myth of Talent, that I thought it was only worth doing things if you could “Win” at them.”*

The teacher then generated a list with input from all her classes of “Winter Break Experience Ideas” of things students might try this break that they haven’t done before, just for the sake of experiencing them and trying something new. The list included 63 different ideas from a broad range of activities (none of which involved playing video games).

This break I encourage you to follow her lead and help your children step away from the Computer or TV for a while and try new things inside or out. Perhaps you can join with them in these activities and expand your horizons as well. 😊

Warmest Regards,

*Joe Gorder*

Principal

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## Return to School Updates

Most of you are aware that on Wednesday, Governor Jay Inslee announced the development of guidance, metrics, and information related to when and how schools can re-open for in-person learning. The document is titled, [Toolkit to Prepare for In-Person Learning](#). This document replaces the Decision Tree that has been in place since August 2020.

I have heard from several families seeking my interpretation of what this will mean for the Lake Washington School District and for Rose Hill Middle School in particular. Superintendent Dr. Jon Holmen will be holding a live broadcast event on January 6th, 2021 at 6:00pm where he will provide an update, next steps, and timelines to our staff and community. There will be information about this event on the LWSD website as well as in upcoming communication from the District. I encourage you to attend this live event if you are able.

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## COVID-19 Updates

Did you know LWSD has an Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) team that has been working non-stop since the pandemic began to provide a safe environment for students and staff? The ECC, with help from other district leadership, has created and continually updates the [LWSD COVID-19 Safety Plan](#). This plan includes a collection of guidelines from federal, state and local agencies on how best to address safety concerns related to COVID-19. The safety plan is currently in use to keep our staff and students safe who are

learning and/or working in-person. In addition, the ECC provides support in many ways including having responsive Leads who provide guidance, answer questions and respond to positive and suspected cases in LWSD buildings. Leads include: Attestation & Screening, Communications, Custodial, Medical, PPE, Security and Security. The ECC Lead coordinates team actions and leads positive case responses.

An essential part of the COVID-19 Safety Plan is that each district building has their own COVID-19 Safety Team, which includes a Medical Coordinator (nurse) and is supported by the ECC. Each building COVID-19 Safety Team is put in place to help implement our safety policies and procedures at their specific site. Our Medical Coordinators' deep knowledge and professional medical experience make them an invaluable resource during this pandemic.

Refer to this section in each edition of this newsletter for any changes to our COVID-19 Safety Plan. The most recent edition to our Safety Plan includes an updated definition of "close contact" as well as the Symptom Flow Chart our district uses.

[Click here to view the LWSD COVID-19 Safety Plan.](#)

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## Have a Fun and Safe Winter Break!

**School will resume on Monday, January 4th.** Remember to let us know ahead of time if your student will be absent after the break. Leave a message in our Attendance Hotline 425-936-2461 or email [rosehillmsattend@lwsd.org](mailto:rosehillmsattend@lwsd.org).

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## PTSA News

**Staff Appreciation Slideshow**

Many, many thanks to all of our students who submitted pics for our second Staff Appreciation slideshow. This slideshow featured traditions, holidays and festivals that are important to our families. Special thanks to Anu Gopalam, our Fundraising VP for putting together [this slideshow](#).

## Thank you for your support

RHMS PTSA would like to thank our RHMS staff members and families who donated to our holiday donation drive for families facing financial hardship. With your help and support, we raised \$3,900 for this cause. Thank you so much and happy holidays!

## RHMS PTSA Online Resources

RHMS PTSA launched a Facebook page this year! [Follow Us on Facebook](#). [Visit the RHMS PTSA website](#) to find links to resources, articles, and events. Questions about RHMS PTSA? Please email our [PTSA President, Yumna Green](#).

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## Calendar

**Dec 21-Jan 01** - NO SCHOOL: Winter Break

**Jan 01** - Happy New Year 2021!

**Jan 04** - School resumes after Winter Break

**Jan 11** - Order books by 9 am for Dec 13 Pick-Up

**Jan 13** - Curbside Book Pick-Up, 3-4 pm

**Jan 18** - NO SCHOOL: MLK Jr Day

**Jan 22** - Last day of first semester

**Rose Hill Middle School**

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425.936.2460

Attendance Hotline:

425.936.2461

Email

Staff Directory

Our Website



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