



A Message From Superintendent, Dr. Hattrick



As we approach the winter holiday season, I hope this newsletter finds you and your family doing well. I am thankful for how hard you have worked to support your children with Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) in the midst of multiple challenges. From the bottom of my heart, I want to say, "Thank you!" to each one of you.

It is our goal to have students begin in-person instruction as soon as it is safe to do so. Currently, the COVID-19 case rates in Columbia County continue to steadily increase each week. Please know that Rainier School District #13 stands ready to serve your children in whatever capacity is appropriate. With that said, CDL will remain in place until case rates begin to drop. We are prepared to begin hybrid learning as soon as the case rate trend reverses and we enter into the moderate risk category or lower.

I hope you are able to enjoy some peace this holiday season and have an opportunity to reflect on all you are thankful for. As I have personally reflected, I want you to know that among the top of my list of things I am thankful for is the Rainier School District students, families, and community. From my home to yours, I want to wish you a happy holiday season and joyous New Year!



UPcoming
EVENTS

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| December 14 | Regular School Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. youtube.com/c/rainierschooldistrict |
| December 16 | Kindergarten Winter Surprise 9-11 a.m. or 3-4 p.m. Drive-thru pick-up @ HPE parking lot |
| December 18 | Last day of school and food delivery before winter break |
| December 19-January 3 | Winter Break No food delivery during winter break |
| January 4, 2021 | School Resumes |

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Happy December! Where did November go? The support you have given to your children, the teachers, and our school has positively impacted the delivery of

distance learning. What an amazing community you are!

Moving into the holiday season, I am disappointed that our students are not in the building with us to celebrate. However, this Thanksgiving week I find I still have so much to be thankful for: I am thankful for an amazing and dedicated staff that put kids first. I am thankful daily for the smiling faces of our students that I see participating in a new way of learning. Most of all, I am thankful for the trust our Rainier families have placed in us as we safely educate your children.

It is important to continue supporting your children's academic success by encouraging them to participate during distance learning. The online instruction your children receive from our committed teaching staff will ensure they keep pace and are successful as we move to hybrid learning. Together, we will meet this challenge and make sure our students learn at high levels.

Happy Holidays,
Heidi Blakley, Principal

Kindles for Books, 2020



Our *Kindles for Books* program, sponsored by Rainier Masonic Lodge No. 24, is back again this year!

Changes to the program include:

- Preschool through sixth grade students can participate
- 28 Kindle Fire tablets will be donated: 3 per grade level, plus 4 PreK-6
- 50 additional prizes PreK-6
- Meet grade level reading goal each month to be entered into drawing November-May

More information coming from your child's classroom teacher.

Learning Models

Thank you for continuing to support children with the distance learning model. Student engagement during Google Classroom sessions is encouraged. We continue to provide required critical grade-level standards lessons, as well as, social and emotional opportunities for our students, such as classroom meetings and counseling sessions. As always, please communicate with your child's teacher for any needs or important family information that is impacting your child and family at this time. We are here to serve you in any way we can. We are uncertain about what this school year will bring as far as the model of school or us; continued off-site learning, a traditional on-site opening, or a hybrid model. However, in whatever way we serve our students, know our staff is working hard to support our students and families in the best way possible.

Athletics and Activities

Per the Governor's most recent guidance, as a district, we are putting a pause on Season 1 athletics. There are currently no athletic practices or activities.

Listed below are the details for each season as they are allowed to happen:

Season 1 utilizes conditioning and training as the practice model. During this season all sports are allowed to participate, however there are greater restrictions for contact sports. With the adjustment to season schedules we will see a reduction in competitions and the number of weeks in a season.

Season 2 is scheduled to begin December 28 with basketball, wrestling and swimming. Pool may not be available to allow swimming to happen, basketball and wrestling are both considered contact sports and may only happen if covid rates decrease.

Season 3 will start February 22 with cross-country, volleyball, soccer, cheer and football. Again football is considered a contact sport and would require a decrease in the covid rates to allow them to compete or hold normal practices.

Season 4 starts March 19 with track and field, softball and baseball.

Student sports fees will not be required until such time as a sport enters into their

competitive season. Updates will be made available as new information is received.

Music competitions are scheduled to start in April and May. Again, metrics could affect this schedule.

Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences

Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences scheduled for Monday, November 23 and Tuesday, November 24, were a great success. We had a high rate of parents attending. Teachers and parents both commented on how much they enjoyed these conferences.

We have entered a new semester. This is an opportunity for students to improve their opportunities for success through daily attendance and completion of assignments.

Comprehensive Learning

Students and staff have made great strides in their ability to maneuver the online learning process. We appreciate the support from the home front as you work to understand this virtual experience. We couldn't do it without you. Your partnership is invaluable to its success. As we work within the metrics we look forward to the time we will be allowed to bring the students back to the campus.

Happy Holidays

On October 9, 2020, USDA announced the extension of all waivers to the end of the 2020-2021 school year. What does that mean for our families? Meals are FREE for all children 1-18 years of age. This will help stretch your grocery budget and help make the school day feel more normal for kids. Email food@rsd.k12.or.us to sign up or ask questions about the program.

We are serving more meals per capita than most districts. Since the start of school, we have served over 56,000 meals including breakfasts, lunches, and snacks. Items are put together knowing that our students may be the ones preparing the meals. Menu, instructions, and food safety tips are sent out with the meals. We are serving Wednesday and Friday with six bus routes. Check out the schedule on the District's website under the Distance Learning section. As we add and subtract people, the times may vary, so please be out 10 minutes before the listed times or contact us at food@rsd.k12.or.us. Thank you for supporting our program.

**Meal Delivery Changes: Last delivery in December - Dec 18th
First delivery in January - Jan 6th**

Special Education Department

The Special Education department has been focused on providing specially designed instruction to students based on the student and the family needs. Our team has been providing services Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Fridays during the school day. Our Intervention Specialists are here to support students and families navigate instructional models. We are also offering tutoring support to students who need additional support on Wednesdays. We are excited to share that we have completed 178 Wednesday tutoring sessions. If your child qualifies for an IEP or 504 and is experiencing additional barriers due to the pandemic, please reach out to your case manager and they can talk through tutoring options for your child.



*Program Spotlight:
Youth Transition
Program*

The purpose of the YTP is to prepare students with

barriers to employment or career-related post-secondary education or training through the provision of a comprehensive array of pre-employment transition services and supports. YTP focuses on building partnerships, creating opportunities, and investing in youth today for skilled workers tomorrow. Students engaged in this program develop job skills including teamwork, communication, time management, and active listening. Ms. Shalana Harrison is our Youth Transition Specialist. If you have questions about the program please contact her at (503)

556-4215 ext. 222 or

shalana_harrison@rsdk12.or.us.

Virtual Celebration: In partnership with the Columbia County Employment First Team, the first round of virtual mock interviews occurred last month. Ms. Harrison and her students attended this virtual event. The benefit of participating in this activity was

that students met employers and students will receive feedback from them with suggestions in preparation for an employment interview. Opportunities like this demonstrate the value of Ms. Harrison's program.



Amber King

We are deeply saddened by the loss of former Hudson Park Cougar, Rainier Columbian, and 2020 RJSHS graduate, Amber King. Amber experienced a sudden health situation and passed away December

1, 2020.. The Rainier School District staff offer their condolences to the family of Amber.

