

# Richmond Community Schools

35276 Division \* Richmond, Michigan 48062 \* (586) 727-3565 \* [www.richmond.k12.mi.us](http://www.richmond.k12.mi.us)

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Richmond, Michigan 48062  
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January 12, 2023

## **RE: THIRD THREAT RECEIVED**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This communication is to provide you with an update on the third threat received by the district as well as police presence on campus, adjustments to the district's attendance policy, athletic eligibility, counseling services for students, and MS and HS exam schedules.

**THIRD THREAT UPDATE.** Last night, the district received information from *OK2SAY* indicating a middle school student was going to “*come to school with a gun and is not afraid to use it.*” The district immediately notified the Richmond Police, and officers were sent to the student's home to investigate. At the time my letter was released last night, the police had not made contact with the student in question, or their parents.

After investigating and talking to multiple individuals last night and today, the police have determined the threat cannot be substantiated and the case has been closed. Based on this information, **ALL SCHOOLS WILL BE OPEN ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2023.**

**POLICE PRESENCE.** In my January 8, 2023, letter, I stated uniformed police officers would be in all buildings this week. Considering the recent events, Chief Costello and I have agreed to continue the presence of uniformed police officers in our buildings through Friday, January 27, 2023. As we did this week, we will evaluate the need for officers as January 27<sup>th</sup> nears.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY.** The high school attendance policy, as outlined by the *2022-23 Student-Parent Handbook*, states:

*Students are allowed seven (7) absences (e.g., unverified, verified, or documented absences) per semester. If a student exceeds seven (7) absences, they may still earn*

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*credit and a grade by passing the course with a 75% or higher. Non-chargeable absences, provided appropriate documentation is provided, include:*

- *long-term illness (three consecutive school days or more)*
- *chronic illness*
- *court appearances*
- *bereavement in the event of death in the immediate family*
- *COVID-19 Quarantine*
- *Unique situations and/or circumstances in which the Superintendent (or designee) deems absence as non-chargeable. (Note: The Superintendent's designee is the Executive Director of Curriculum and Educational Services)*

Given the recent events that have occurred, the district is considering absences by students who are apprehensive about attending school a “non-chargeable absence” (e.g., *Unique situations and/or circumstances*), so long as the parent or guardian communicates the absence to the school prior to the absence occurring. We want to work in partnership with our families, and communication is key. These absences will be documented accordingly in PowerSchool.

**ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY.** Considering the recent school closures and staff changeover, my administrative team and I have decided to suspend the district's weekly eligibility standard. The district will be following the MHSAA eligibility standard. Per the MHSAA, students must be passing 66% of their courses in order to be eligible for contests and scrimmages. In a 6-period day, this would mean passing 4 out of 6 courses.

This suspension of the district standard for eligibility will run through the end of the semester, at which time eligibility will be based on the student-athlete passing all of their courses, per the district policy.

**Counseling Available.** Students may need counseling support to help them process the events that have occurred. While the district's highly qualified counselors and social workers are available during the school day, life's issues do not always occur during normal school hours and on school days. The district continues to offer **FREE COUNSELING SERVICES** for preK-12 grade students through *CARE of Southeast Michigan*. Counseling services may be accessed by parents/guardians, or students 14 and older, by calling (586) 541-CARE (2273). Each Richmond student would receive up to five (5) FREE counseling sessions, per topic. When parents/guardians (or students fourteen and older) call, tell the operator that you are from Richmond Community Schools, and their trained staff will connect your family with an appropriate counselor.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL EXAM SCHEDULES.** In the best interest of students and staff, and in cooperation with the Richmond Education Association (REA), the end of the first semester will be changed from Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup> to Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Adjusting the end of the first semester requires the district to adjust the dates first semester exams are scheduled to be given.

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As outlined below, first semester exams scheduled for January 18, 19, and 20, 2023, will be moved to January 25, 26, and 27, 2023, respectively. While the dates of the exams have changes, the half day and full day schedule has not. Actual times of the exam schedules on the full days will be release to parents and students next week.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1/16 No School - MLK Day	1/17 Full Day (No Change)  <del>7<sup>th</sup> HR (MS) Exam</del>	1/18 Half Day (No Change)  1 <sup>st</sup> HR Exam 2 <sup>nd</sup> HR Exam	1/19 Half Day (No Change)  3 <sup>rd</sup> HR Exam 4 <sup>th</sup> HR Exam	1/20 Half Day (No Change)  5 <sup>th</sup> HR Exam 6 <sup>th</sup> HR Exam
1/23 Full Day	1/24 Full Day (No Change)  <u>7<sup>th</sup> HR (MS) Exam</u>	1/25 Full Day (No Change)  <u>1<sup>st</sup> HR Exam</u> <u>2<sup>nd</sup> HR Exam</u>	1/26 Full Day (No Change)  <u>3<sup>rd</sup> HR Exam</u> <u>4<sup>th</sup> HR Exam</u>	1/27 Full Day (No Change)  <u>5<sup>th</sup> HR Exam</u> <u>6<sup>th</sup> HR Exam</u>

Finally, and most importantly, if you or your child hear or read something of a concerning nature, SAY SOMETHING. Report it to the police department or school immediately. We need to support each other as the past few days have been frightening for students, parents, and staff. Please take time to review with your children the dangers of threatening harm to individuals or spreading misinformation on social media and the possible consequences. The safety of your children and our staff are my highest priority.

I continue to ask for your patience as I have received dozens and dozens of emails and telephone calls from parents and guardians and news outlets. I am returning them as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Walmsley, Ed.S.  
Superintendent

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