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**MR. JIMMY V. ATKINS, JR.**

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**KENNETH BRADSHAW, Ed.D.**

Superintendent of Schools

**MRS. VENUS CAIN**

Vice-President

March 13, 2020

Dear Families of Richmond County School System Students and Staff Members,

**Richmond County does NOT have a confirmed case of coronavirus in our community or schools.** The spread of COVID-19 in the United States continues to be a concern for us all. This is a fluid situation and the Richmond County School System (RCSS) continues its work to ensure it has the best information and is prepared to take appropriate action based on the guidance received from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Georgia Department of Public Health, the Richmond County Health Department, and the Georgia Department of Education.

At this time, our health partners indicate the overall risk to the general public remains low and there is no guidance indicating a need to cancel school in Richmond County. Should there be a confirmed case in Richmond County involving a student or staff member, the school district would receive and follow updated guidance from public health officials on what actions it would need to take.

At times like this, it is important to rely on our health partners for information and guidance on what steps to take to minimize the spread of illness. With that in mind, families are encouraged to refer to the CDC website or the Georgia Department of Public Health website for the latest information regarding this illness and to the RCSS website for updated information regarding RCSS response, as well as tips on how to keep your family healthy. Families are also asked to prepare a childcare plan for children who may be sick and to make plans about how your family will manage if there is a school closure.

The school system's response continues to focus on minimizing the risk to students, employees, and families while keeping disruptions to instruction at a minimum. In addition, we are committed to keeping our stakeholders informed about the steps RCSS is taking to address COVID-19 concerns.

- RCSS continues to receive daily updates from the Richmond County Health Department, and they would communicate with us about any suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19. At that point, the district would receive guidance on what public health officials advise to be in the best interest of our students, staff and community.
- RCSS continues to educate students and staff about the importance of frequent handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and the need to stay home if sick.
- Custodians have reviewed proper cleaning and disinfecting procedures and are paying particular attention to high-touch surfaces (like doorknobs, faucet handles, etc.). If there should be a suspected case at a local school, RCSS would follow the Health Department's guidance regarding additional cleaning measures.
- RCSS has suspended all student field trips and out of town travel until further notice.
- RCSS is surveying students and their families to determine the level of online access in preparation for online learning options.
- All athletic events are postponed until further notice.

Please remember, any student or staff member who experiences flu-like symptoms cannot be at school. Individuals must be fever-free without the aid of medication for 24 hours before returning to school. RCSS is committed to working with our health partners to monitor this situation and will provide updates as often as necessary. We thank you in advance for working with us to keep all of our students and staff healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kenneth Bradshaw  
Superintendent of Schools