

RICHMOND COUNTY



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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May 22, 2020

Dear Richmond County School System Families,

As the 2019-2020 school year comes to a close, we can all agree it has been a year unlike any we've experienced. The coronavirus related closures and transition to distance learning have required all of us to be flexible and step outside of our norms. I am proud of the work our teachers, principals and staff to ensure that our students continued to learn in the midst of the global pandemic. Together, we thank you for partnering with us to make this school year a success.

Though our school system remains closed, school leaders and teachers have started reporting to schools to close out the school year. They are preparing for students to pick up and return items to schools after Memorial Day. The dates for item pick up and return are May 26th through May 28th. Students in Kindergarten through 8th grade will receive a summer learning packet during pick up days which will include grade appropriate books and items to help them stay engaged in learning throughout the summer. Look for detailed information about the schedule for item pick-up and delivery from your school.

This is our first year offering virtual summer school for students needing to make up high school credits. We received a grant to offer those students needing to make up credits virtual tutoring 24/7 to support their successful course completion. For more information about virtual summer school ask your high school or middle school guidance counselor.

We continue to keep the health and safety of our students and staff as our highest priority and work with public health officials to closely follow CDC guidelines and best practices for reopening schools. As we prepare to reopen this fall, it is too early to determine which opening model we will use. We are preparing for all options normal reopening on August 3, delayed reopening, blended reopening and distance learning reopening. We are also evaluating changes to physical education, athletics, lunch, transportation and other services we provide our students and their families. Full consideration will be given to all options to determine what is best for the health and safety of our students and staff.

For our High School seniors, this year has been uniquely challenging and you have been resilient in the midst of cancellations and delays. No other senior class has experienced this. Your focus on community and those around you has been remarkable and is what will make a difference as you transition to college, career training and the workforce. Thank you for being flexible and being strong in the midst of it all. Our community needs you and is ready to see what is next for you. Best of luck in your future endeavors! I look forward to celebrating graduation with you and your family during the July 20-23 ceremonies at the James Brown Arena.

Again, thank you for a challenging, unique and wonderful school year. As the school year ends, I know it is the strength of this community that has helped us navigate this pandemic successfully. For that, we are grateful.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kenneth Bradshaw
Superintendent of Schools