Richmond Heights Local Schools

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~One Vision, One Mission, One Richmond~

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Hello Spartan Nation,

As we prepare to welcome our students back for the 2026-2027 school year, I want to take a moment to share several important updates that will affect our district and our families.

First and foremost, thank you for your continued partnership, patience, and commitment to Richmond Heights Local Schools. Together, we have built a school community that puts students first, values meaningful relationships, and believes deeply in our shared purpose. That commitment remains unwavering, even as we face difficult financial realities.

Over the past several years, our community has considered three operating levy requests that, unfortunately, were not approved. While we respect the outcome of each election, the cumulative impact has required the District to make challenging decisions to ensure we remain financially responsible while continuing to provide the highest quality educational experience possible.

These decisions have not been easy. Every adjustment has been made thoughtfully, with our students and families at the forefront of every conversation. However, responsible stewardship of public resources requires us to align our operations with our current financial capacity.

As a result, several changes will take effect beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

After careful consideration, the Board of Education voted at the June 8, 2026 meeting to **suspend the District's preschool program** for the upcoming school year. We recognize the importance of early childhood education and understand the impact this decision has on many families. Please know this is a suspension—not an end to our commitment to our youngest learners. We will continue exploring sustainable options that may allow us to restore preschool programming in future years.

The following changes were voted upon at the April 27, 2026 board meeting:

The Board has enacted ***Pay to Participate*** **fees** for the Athletic Department. The cost for a student's initial sport is $200.00, and each subsequent sport an additional $50.00. These fees are non-refundable, regardless of a student's ability to complete the season. Though there are no waivers based on income guidelines, payment plans are available upon request.

Further, the Board approved a **Student Technology fee** of $75.00 per student.

In addition, transportation services have been modified in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 3327.01. The District's **walking radius has expanded from one mile to two miles** for eligible students. We have also **discontinued transportation services for students in grades 9-12**. While we understand these changes may require families to make new arrangements, they are necessary to responsibly manage our transportation operations within current financial constraints.

Because of these transportation changes, our **middle and high school bell schedules** have been adjusted to maximize efficiency and ensure we can continue providing reliable transportation for our younger students.

- Elementary School (no change): 8:30am – 3:00pm
- **Middle School: 7:26am – 2:20pm**
- **High School: 8:20am – 3:14pm**

Updated schedules and transportation information will be shared separately and will also be available on the District website.

We recognize that change can be difficult. We also know that these decisions may create new challenges for some of our families. Please know they were not made quickly or without careful consideration. Every option was evaluated through one guiding question: *How can we preserve the educational opportunities our students deserve while ensuring the long-term stability of our District?*

Even during challenging times, our mission remains unchanged. We are committed to providing safe, engaging learning environments where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Our dedicated teachers, staff, administrators, and Board of Education continue to work tirelessly on behalf of our students every day.

At Richmond Heights, we often say, ***One Vision. One Mission. One Richmond.*** Those words mean even more during seasons like this. They remind us that while circumstances may change, our shared commitment to one another does not. Together, we will continue to navigate challenges, celebrate successes, and build a stronger future for every student entrusted to our care.

We will continue to update families as we near the beginning of the school year. You can also find out more information at our annual **Back to School Fair on Tuesday, August 11th, from 4-6pm**. Middle and High School students may pick up schedules, Elementary students can tour their classroom, school and local organization information booths will be spread throughout the campus, and there will be new vendors and food trucks available for families to purchase back-to-school related items and food. We hope to see you there!

Thank you for your continued trust, understanding, and partnership. We look forward to welcoming our students back for another year of learning, growth, and opportunity.

Sincerely,



Dr. Marnisha Brown
Superintendent
Richmond Heights Local School District