

Richmond Community Schools

35276 Division * Richmond, Michigan 48062 * (586) 727-3565 * www.richmond.k12.mi.us

Margaret Teltow, President
Dan Hill, Vice President
Kristine Furtaw, Secretary
Jeffrey Theut, Treasurer
Traci Bartell, Trustee
Sarah Gillies, Trustee
Kyle Simmons, Trustee
Brian J. Walmsley, Ed.S.
Superintendent

**Richmond Early Childhood Learning Center
& Will L. Lee Elementary School**
68399 Forest
Richmond, Michigan 48062
David Kochan, Principal

Richmond Middle School
35250 Division
Richmond, Michigan 48062
Keith Bartels, Principal

Richmond High School
35320 Division
Richmond, Michigan 48062
Deborah Michon, Principal

September 12, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Over the past years, a number of studies have shown benefits from the use of technology in education. The role of technology in education is vital, and the question is no longer if technology enhances learning, but rather how do we improve our use of technology to enhance learning? Richmond Community Schools, with the support of the community in the 2013 bond, fully embraces the importance of technology. We are continuing to find ways to improve our use with-in the classroom.

With the new exciting school year beginning we wanted to take a moment to update you on Richmond's one-to-one technology initiative. As with all school programs, the district has reviewed the implementation to find ways in which we can improve. This year we have made several improvements based upon your feedback.

For the 2016-17 school year, the District has set the expectation with staff that laptops will be utilized on a "regular basis" in all classrooms. "Regular basis" may be daily in some classes and several times a week in others, but the option of using or not using the laptops is no longer an option. Let me be clear, the District's expectation for utilization of laptops is not just for the sake of using them. Laptops must be used in meaningful, high quality instruction that provides rigorous and relevant experiences for students.

This year, your student will be interacting with our new hands-on science curriculum through the laptops. A curriculum investment on materials and online resources by the District of over \$70,000. The district has also designated professional development days with teachers to further the conversation to find ways to enhance and integrate the district's technology in everyday lessons.

To this end, all students will receive a laptop this year. The district values their educational importance and deems that, just like a textbook, every student must have access. I want to

Guaranteed Learning for All Students!

ensure you that the district has taken many safety measures regarding the use of student laptops and those measures remain in place this year. If you have a question on student safety regarding the laptops please feel free to contact me.

During Blue Devil Days, you may have noticed the new student desks and chairs throughout the district. This was part of the last phase of the 2013 voter approved Bond. The new desks chosen were not only designed for collaboration and flexible grouping within the classroom, but specifically designed for Richmond to accommodate the laptops. Each desk has a hook to hang the laptop bags on each desk. We recognize that the old furniture required students to set their laptop on the floor next to their desk when not in use. The design of the new desks will significantly reduce the potential for laptops to be damaged.

In addition, based upon feedback from the parents and community, and to ease the minds of parents, the district is committing to help with any repairs to laptops so this burden is not fully on our families. If you elect to enroll in the district's insurance program, the district will pay the \$50 deductible **for the first incident** in which your student's laptop needs to be repaired. This will fully cover the cost of repair for the first incident. If you elect not to purchase laptop insurance, the district will pay the \$50 towards the first incident in which a repair is required. The remainder of the costs, if any, will be billed to you by the district. Laptop insurance enrollment information is attached to this letter.

As we continue to adapt to the changing world of education, which includes the infusion and integration of technology, we want to thank you for your commitment to our district and the privilege of educating your child. As a partner in your student's education we will continue to inform you of all our decisions as we move forward with our one-to-one technology initiative.

Yours in education,



Brian J. Walmsley
Superintendent



Anthony E. Birkmeier
Director of Curriculum and
Educational Services

Guaranteed Learning for All Students!