



January 7th, 2022

Dear Families,

Information for Families: Continuity of Learning due to Health or Functional School Closures

As you are aware, school will begin for most students on Monday, January 10th. The delayed start is intended to give public health officials and school districts time to adapt to the impacts of the Omicron variant.

Although schools will be open to all students starting January 10th, it is possible that at some point, a school may need to be closed temporarily as a result of the impacts of the Omicron variant. School principals have therefore been asked to communicate with families this week in order to prepare for this possibility. To be clear, your child's school is not being closed at this time.

A school closure MAY occur due to:

- **Health closure of a school**, which is determined by the local health authority due to the COVID19 case count in, or related to, a school.
- **Functional closure of a school**, which is determined by the school district due to a lack of staff to provide the required level of teaching, supervision, support, and/or custodial to ensure the health and safety of students. This would likely be due to a high absenteeism of staff and the inability to replace those absences.

A health or functional closure may vary in length but is intended to be temporary. It is not the same as a long term move to remote learning.

To prepare for the potential for a temporary closure, information will be shared with families to ensure they can access learning opportunities during this time. Your child's teacher(s) will primarily share information through email, the Scholantis portal, or MS Teams. Please ensure:

- The school has your up-to-date email address and contact information.
- You have the instructions to and have attempted a successful log-in to the Scholantis Portal and/or MS Teams (as per the teacher's instructions).
 - [Instructions](#) and [video](#) about how to login to the Scholantis Portal
 - [Instructions](#) about how to download the MS Teams app to a device and how to join to an MS Teams call
- If you require technology, such as an iPad, to use in the event of a temporary closure, please contact the school principal to make arrangements for the loan of equipment.
- If you require assistance with any of this and/or if you require password help, please contact your child's teacher or the school principal.

Should a closure be determined while students are still in attendance, the school will encourage students take home what they need which may include school supplies, books and/or technology.

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Richmond School District (38)



A temporary closure will not replicate an in-school learning environment. In the event of a closure, your child's teacher(s) will be in contact to share a schedule with you. It may include both synchronous connections (i.e. video calls for small or large groups) as well as more independent learning opportunities. For students with additional support needs, the school team will work together to provide continuity of learning support.

During the time of a temporary school closure, please keep the school informed as to any changes in health or ability to engage with the learning opportunities, so that the school can best support you during this time.

While we hope that there will not be a need for a temporary closure, we want to ensure all involved are supported and connected during such a time. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or school administrator.

Sincerely,

D. Ratzlaff

Mr. D. Ratzlaff
Principal