

Dear Parents,

I wanted to update you on several matters regarding our Rehoboth family.

1. We are available - Even though we talk about social distancing and distance learning, please know that we do not want to be “distant” from you. The Administration Building is open every day for phone calls. We can direct you to the person who can answer your question- so please do not hesitate to call 505-863-4412.
2. Distance Learning - We are so thankful that we have been blessed with the resources to do long distance learning. Thanks for helping us refine this way of doing education by giving feedback to the staff. The biggest challenge for some of you who do not have reliable internet has been getting the flash drives with the lessons. In an attempt to make this easier for families, we will be having Mondays be the flashdrive/homework exchange day. You will be able to hand in your child’s homework and flash drive and get a new one with new lessons. This can happen at the breakfast/lunch program on Mondays OR it can happen at your child’s bus stop at his/her normal designated bus drop off time on Monday afternoon Our bus drivers will be using school vehicles which will be marked “Rehoboth” in the window and can do the “exchange” at the designated drop off location and at the normal designated time. If these options do not work for the exchange, please call the Admin Building so we can come up with another plan. We want to make this as easy for you all as possible.
3. Tuition - Some of you have reached out about tuition. During these uncertain times, we understand that some families have challenges they had never anticipated. Job loss, decline of sales for artists, increased expenses for childcare, internet, food—all create a sense of uncertainty about how to be able to keep tuition commitments. These next weeks are particularly challenging in that some of you have lost jobs, but the government relief for families will not yet be available. Much more will become clearer for all of us once we begin to see what kind of stimulus money does end up in our community and in our wallets. Because everyone’s situation is different, it is important that you communicate the needs that you have in terms of tuition. It is very helpful if you are specific in your requests about decreased income or increased costs. We will be sending out the tuition statements but please know we are here to work with you. Email bippel@rcsnm.org or pbrink@rcsnm.org with questions.

4. Future - During this time of quarantine and curfews, it is easy to think that life will always be like this. I am so thankful that the future is in His hands, and we do not have to focus on the virus but on the Creator. As a school we do need to think about next year in the midst of the challenges around us. We are doing virtual interviews as we both hire staff for next year and interview new students/parents. We also have many tuition contracts for the 2020-21 school year that we will begin sending out this weekend as we know that you want to be sure your child has a seat at Rehoboth. If you have not re-enrolled, now is the time as we are offering seats to new families. If you have not applied for tuition assistance for next year, now is the time so your contract can be accurate. Mrs. Livingston will be sharing information about applications for scholarships for next year soon. Remember, the staff is available to help you in any of these areas. We also are hoping to continue with the bus replacement campaign as the aging fleet is a great drain on the budget. But with all of these plans for the future- we say if it is His will.

5. Hot Meals - Rehoboth continues to offer hot meals for free for those 18 and under. Breakfast is at 8-10 and Lunch 11-1. Meals are also sold to adults, priced at \$2.00 for breakfast and \$4.00 for lunch. If you are in the neighborhood, swing by. We are proud of our food service department!

6. Access to the internet- We know that there are efforts being made to make the internet more available throughout the Navajo Nation. We will begin listing some resources on our COVID-19 information page on the website. If you are in the Gallup area, you can access Rehoboth internet in any parking lot on the campus. Contact Mr. Kass at skass@rcsnm.org if you would like access to the campus internet. Currently we do not have a health plan which allows families to come inside of the campus buildings to use the internet. We will let you know if that happens.

7. Parent News- The Parent News will resume next week on Monday, April 6. (We will no longer send it out on Thursdays)

8. Artisans- We know that many of our families depend in part on the sale of their art work and that many typical venues for selling art are not currently open. If your family does sell art, would it be helpful to you for Rehoboth to have a page on the website which would direct people to your website or facebook page so that online purchasing

can still happen. Please email Mr. Zylstra at kzylstra@rcsnm.org if this would be helpful to your family or if you have other ideas how we can help promote your work.

9. Pray for each other- We have many grandparents who are raising their grandchildren who go to Rehoboth. We have many students who help take care of their grandparents. Pray for protection for the elderly and the vulnerable. Pray for our Rehoboth staff, students and families.

Bob Ippel

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