Dear RPS Community,

As you probably know, the Governor extended distance learning for the rest of the school year. I know we were all hoping for an opportunity to see our students in school again this year, so knowing that this isn’t possible can be an emotional time for all of us. Please take the time to process your feelings and to support one another. We are all processing this in our own ways, but we all still need each other too.

As announced by the Governor, Friday, May 1, and Monday, May 4, will be non-instructional days for students. We will be offering some professional development for our staff and we will be working to improve our distance learning model. I am very proud of the work we have accomplished to serve our students and families, but I also want you to know that we will continue to reflect on our work and improve. We have already been looking at how we better deliver lessons, support students and families, and we are continuing to identify effective ways to ensure that students are able to be successful.

Here are a few quick announcements related to this extended closure:

- We are aware that some students may have materials still in school desks and lockers. We will be working to return student belongings during the weeks of May 5-May 15. Look for details from your child’s school on how they will schedule this.
- If you have not yet completed the distance learning survey (or your child has not yet completed it), here are the links: parent survey  student survey
- The Minnesota State High School League has announced that spring athletics and fine arts have been canceled for the remainder of their seasons. This includes all participation in MSHSL events including, but not limited to, practices, tryouts, scrimmages, contests and competitions as well as postseason tournaments.

Lastly, we have received an outpouring of support from our community and a variety of suggestions for ways to celebrate students and teachers. Thank you for all your ideas, energy and compassion. In partnership with students and parent groups, we are planning some fun community events that will occur near the end of our school year in June. Please stay tuned for more information on those.

At Richfield Public Schools, we continue to work tirelessly to serve students, families and the community during these challenging times. Our team is here for you and working so that we can all succeed together as #OneRichfield.

Sincerely,

Superintendent Steven Unowsky