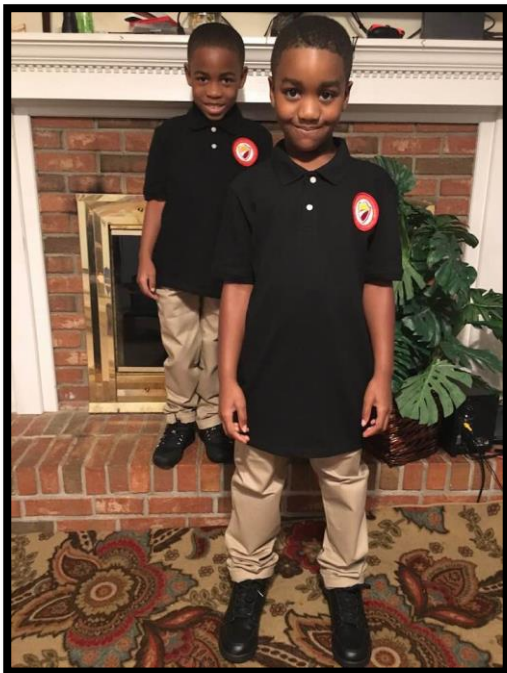


**“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”  
– Nelson Mandela**

**Hugh Harmon, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



## PICTURE DAY IS TUESDAY

**RENAISSANCE COLLEGIATE ACADEMY**  
Weekly Newsletter ~ September 16-20, 2019

**Picture day is Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Please ensure your child wears their uniform to school for pictures.**



Note: While we feel our students should all look and feel the same, we recognize the uniform may not always be feasible. Our main focus is academics, so it's important they are learning – not what they look like. Please keep up the good work!!!

### *A message from Executive Director Dr. Hugh Harmon*



We are approaching OUR FIRST MONTH in school, which is really exciting for us. It's been a pleasure getting to know your scholars. This newsletter is important because it shares information about the assessments we will conduct to provide more data on each student. These assessments will assist us in adjusting our curriculum so it meets the needs of your scholar. Remember, we teach from the child's perspective – not the perspective of the entire class. I remain committed to offering instruction that meets each scholar where they are, so we can ensure they become the world's next visionaries! Please continue supporting our efforts by letting others know about this awesome academic opportunity. Wishing everyone a wonderfully productive week!!!

*Hugh Harmon*





# TRANSPORTATION

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

We want to ensure we are able to offer all families that need transportation this courtesy; however, we need your help to ensure we are transporting students efficiently and safely. **Please note the rules** for those students who require transportation. We kindly ask that you discuss these expectations with your child(ren) and encourage them to follow these instructions.

- **STUDENTS ARE TO REMAIN IN THEIR SEATBELT UNTIL THEY ARRIVE AT THEIR DROP-OFF LOCATION.** Students CANNOT unbuckle their seatbelt to move about the van once it is in motion. This practice presents a serious hazard and can cause harm or injury to passengers.
- **THERE IS NO FOOD OR DRINK ALLOWED ON THE VAN.** If students are caught eating food or drinking beverages, they will be asked to dispose of them.
- **STUDENTS MUST BE READY TO BOARD THE VAN WHEN IT ARRIVES.** The driver cannot continue to wait for parents who are not ready for transportation. This practice puts him behind schedule and other parents are forced to wait. PLEASE ENSURE YOU ARE READY TO RECEIVE THE VAN AT 7:00 A.M. Moving forward, **please understand the driver cannot – and will not – wait on you to finish getting your child ready.**
- **PLEASE ENSURE SOMEONE IS WAITING TO RECEIVE YOUR CHILD IN THE AFTERNOON.** The van cannot wait on parents to arrive because it forces other parents who are ready to wait in the afternoon. PLEASE ENSURE SOMEONE IS READY TO RECEIVE YOUR CHILD BY 4:45 P.M. Moving forward, **please understand the driver cannot – and will not – wait on someone to arrive to receive your child.**

We could use some support monitoring students on the van. If a parent would like to volunteer to ride either in the mornings or in the afternoons (or if a group of parents want to share this duty) please let us know. We are doing all we can to offer each family the support they need to make this process easier, but we also need to ensure this service is fair and operated efficiently for the benefit of everyone.





# Renaissance Collegiate

College Preparatory Charter School

info@renaissanceedu.com 803-567-5634

Columbia, South Carolina renaissanceedu.com

Coming  
Fall 2019

## SCHOOL SCHEDULES

KINDERGARTEN	FIRST GRADE	SECOND GRADE	
<b>8:00 a.m.</b> Morning Assembly	<b>8:00 a.m.</b> Morning Assembly	<b>8:00 a.m.</b> Morning Assembly	
<b>8:30 a.m.</b> Morning Classroom Routine	<b>8:30 a.m.</b> Morning Classroom Routine	<b>8:30 a.m.</b> Morning Classroom Routine	
<b>9:00 a.m.</b> Curriculum/Academic Block I	<b>9:00 a.m.</b> Curriculum/Academic Block I	<b>9:00 a.m.</b> Curriculum/Academic Block I	
<b>10:30 a.m.</b> RECESS	<b>10:30 a.m.</b> Mid-morning snack	<b>10:30 a.m.</b> Read & Reflection	
<b>10:45 a.m.</b> Mid-morning snack	<b>10:45 a.m.</b> RECESS	<b>10:45 a.m.</b> Mid-morning snack	
<b>11:00 a.m.</b> Curriculum/Academic Block II	<b>11:00 a.m.</b> Curriculum/Academic Block II	<b>11:00 a.m.</b> RECESS	<b>11:15 a.m.</b> Curriculum/Academic Block II
<b>12:00 noon</b> LUNCH	<b>12:00 noon</b> LUNCH	<b>12:00 noon</b> LUNCH	
<b>1:00 p.m.</b> Curriculum/Academic Block III	<b>1:00 p.m.</b> Curriculum/Academic Block III	<b>1:00 p.m.</b> Curriculum/Academic Block III	
<b>2:00 p.m.</b> Centers/Station Engagement	<b>2:00 p.m.</b> Centers/Station Engagement	<b>2:00 p.m.</b> Centers/Station Engagement	
<b>2:15 p.m.</b> Curriculum/Academic Block IV	<b>2:15 p.m.</b> Curriculum/Academic Block IV	<b>2:15 p.m.</b> Curriculum/Academic Block IV	
<b>3:00 p.m.</b> Pack-up/Afternoon Snack	<b>3:00 p.m.</b> Pack-up/Afternoon Snack	<b>3:00 p.m.</b> Pack-up/Afternoon Snack	
<b>3:30 p.m.</b> Related Arts Block	<b>3:30 p.m.</b> Related Arts Block	<b>3:30 p.m.</b> Related Arts Block	
<b>4:00 p.m.</b> Afternoon Assembly	<b>4:00 p.m.</b> Afternoon Assembly	<b>4:00 p.m.</b> Afternoon Assembly	
<b>4:25 p.m.</b> Prepare for Dismissal	<b>4:25 p.m.</b> Prepare for Dismissal	<b>4:25 p.m.</b> Prepare for Dismissal	



# FROM OUR CAFETERIA

Renaissance is proud to offer all students lunch at no cost; however, **breakfast will not be served this year.** If your child(ren) need to eat breakfast, we kindly ask that students are served breakfast before arriving to school.

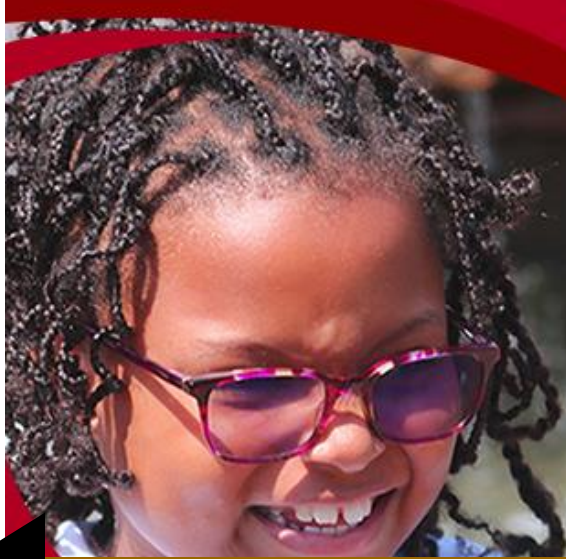
**IF YOUR CHILD(REN) REQUIRE A SPECIAL DIET OR MUST MAKE SPECIAL DIETARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR MEDICAL/HEALTH REASONS, PLEASE ENSURE YOU PACK THEIR MEALS FOR THE DAY. This includes allergies, allergic reactions, etc. Also note that we will NOT serve milk (to ensure we do not offer milk to lactose intolerant students).**

Renaissance Collegiate Academy will offer three (3) opportunities to enjoy a snack/meal:

- 1 Mid-morning Snack
- LUNCH
- 1 Afternoon Snack

The menu for the week is as follows:

MENUS FOR SEPTEMBER 16 – 20, 2019		
LUNCH IS FROM 12:00 – 1:00		
<b>MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16</b>		
MID-MORNING SNACK	LUNCH	AFTERNOON SNACK
Nutri-Grain bars, juice box or water	Choice of Cheese Pizza, baby carrots w/ranch, pineapple tidbits, juice box or water	Small bag of original goldfish crackers, juice box or water
<b>TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 --- PICTURE DAY ----</b>		
MID-MORNING SNACK	LUNCH	AFTERNOON SNACK
Animal crackers, juice box or water	Turkey and cheese sandwich, tangerines, celery sticks with ranch, water or juice box	Fruit snacks, juice box or water
<b>WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18</b>		
MID-MORNING SNACK	LUNCH	AFTERNOON SNACK
Graham crackers, juice box or water	Hot dogs w/chili on the side, jell-o fruit cup, sliced cucumbers, juice box or water	Applesauce pack, juice box or water
<b>THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19</b>		
MID-MORNING SNACK	LUNCH	AFTERNOON SNACK
Belvita breakfast cookies, juice box or water	Nachos w/meat sauce and cheese on the side, apple slices, side salad w/ranch dressing, juice box or water	Bag of Lay's Potato chips, juice box or water
<b>FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20</b>		
MID-MORNING SNACK	LUNCH	AFTERNOON SNACK
Bananas, juice box or water	Spaghetti w/meat sauce, corn, fruit cocktail, juice box or water	Small bag of, juice box or water



# Renaissance Collegiate

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Coming  
Fall 2019

## SCHOOL NEWS

This week we will begin to conduct assessments with your scholars. These assessments will not affect their grades; however, they will provide teachers with more data that will be used to assess where they are academically. In addition to these assessments, teachers will send home weekly progress reports every Friday that you will need to sign and return to the school on Monday. These progress reports will help keep everyone engaged in their scholar’s academic performance.

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact the front office at 803-567-5634.

### MAP Testing

#### **Grades 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> (Kindergarten will participate in the Winter)**

MAP, or the Measure of Academic Progress, is a computerized adaptive test which helps teachers, parents, and administrators improve learning for all students and make informed decisions to promote a child's academic growth.

When taking the MAP test, the difficulty of each question is based on how well a student answers all the previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. Although the tests are not timed, it usually takes students about one hour to complete each test (reading and math). Students will repeat the tests two more times during the year to continually assess student progress and adapt learning as needed. The mid-year test is a shortened version.

MAP is used to measure a student's progress or growth in school. The testing information is important to teachers because it indicates a student's strengths are and help that is needed in any specific areas. Teachers can use this information to help them guide instruction in the classroom. If you have ever used a growth chart in your home to show how much your child has grown from one year to the next, it will help you understand the scale MAP uses to measure your child's academic progress. The measurement system is called the RIT scale (Rasch unIT), and is an equal-interval scale much like feet and inches on a yardstick. The scale is used to chart your child's academic growth from year to year. RIT scores typically start at the 140 to 190 level in third grade and progress to the 240 to 300 level by high school.

#### **Here's how you can help prepare your scholar for this assessment:**

- ✓ Provide a comfortable, quiet place for studying at home.
- ✓ Make sure that your child is well-rested on school days. Children who are tired are less able to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of the assessment.
- ✓ Give your child a well-rounded diet. A healthy body leads to a healthy, active mind.
- ✓ Provide books and magazines for your child to read at home. By reading new material, a child learns new words that might appear on a test.

#### **Where can I go for more information about MAP testing?**

Visit the NWEA website at <http://www.nwea.org>





# SCHOOL NEWS

## KRA Assessments

### **Kindergarten**

KRA, or the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, is a developmentally appropriate instrument that measures a child’s school readiness across multiple domains. Understanding a child’s school readiness helps kindergarten teachers best meet the child’s needs, and it helps schools, families, communities and policy makers know how best to support young children as they enter the K-12 environment.

The KRA determines each child’s readiness level from an evaluation of four domains: Social Foundations, Language/Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Well-Being. The KRA provides a snapshot of students’ abilities at the beginning of the school year.

The KRA includes selected-response items (multiple-choice), performance tasks, and observation items. The test consists of 50 items; each item is scored using a rubric.

Teachers interact directly with the child for the selected-response and the performance task items. Observations can take place in a variety of naturally occurring settings. For the observation items, teachers can observe students individually, in small groups, or as a whole class. Observation items are scored using a rubric that includes specific criteria at three levels of proficiency: Proficient, In Progress, or Not Yet Evident.

Professional educators who received training and certification in the use of the KRA materials may administer the assessment. All items are scripted and the teacher reads the directions written in the Teacher Administration Manual to the students.

### **Here’s how you can help prepare your scholar for this assessment:**

- ✓ Provide a comfortable, quiet place for studying at home.
- ✓ Make sure that your child is well-rested on school days. Children who are tired are less able to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of the assessment.
- ✓ Give your child a well-rounded diet. A healthy body leads to a healthy, active mind.
- ✓ Provide books and magazines for your child to read at home. By reading new material, a child learns new words that might appear on a test.

### **Where can I go for more information about KRA Assessments?**

Visit the SC Department of Education website at <https://ed.sc.gov/tests/elementary/pre-k-and-kindergarten-readiness-assessments/kindergarten-readiness-assessment-kra/>