



RENAISSANCE ACADEMY

RENAISSANCE ACADEMY PRINTING PRESS

Information for New Families

2015-2016



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willkommen **WELCOME**

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Vision

We build the future by empowering individuals to realize their unique potential to influence the world around them.

Mission

Inspiring students to excel by applying innovative, individualized, and experiential learning methods in World Language and classical education.

World Language

Renaissance Academy prides itself in a focus on language studies that is “exemplary among foreign language programs” (*Renaissance Academy Charter*). All students at RA are enrolled in daily World Language classes that focus on interpersonal communication. We believe that students must be given the opportunity to practice communicating regularly in a second language, and a large percentage of the time spent in World Language class is dedicated to speaking with others. This ties in with our emphasis on Experience Education.

Experience Education

We believe that the best education comes through experience. Whether it's on fieldtrips, through in-class experiments, presentations and projects, doing local service projects, visiting college campuses, or during after school programs, students at Renaissance are constantly learning via dynamic experiences that enrich the curriculum and give a variety of opportunities for growth and success.





Welcome to Renaissance Academy!

We are excited to have you join our wonderful community of students, families and faculty in this exciting 10th anniversary year of our school. Here at Renaissance we are passionate about offering our students and families the very best education and experience possible. Our goal is to inspire and help students excel as learners, develop as unique individuals, and realize their potential to influence the world around them. This is made possible by excellent teachers, support staff, parent volunteers and an administration committed to helping each student achieve their best across all subjects and extra-curricular activities/programs. We are also grateful to enjoy a dedicated Family Engagement Committee (FEC) and parent volunteers who tirelessly donate time, energy and money to support our community and facilitate many programs, fundraisers and other events throughout the year.

At the heart of our school is a strong sense of community and belonging. We continually aim to strengthen relationships between students, families, faculty and the community. This is an even greater priority in 2015-16 as we commence and celebrate our 10th anniversary as a school. To commemorate our 10th year we will be involved in a series of celebratory activities and events both in and beyond the classroom culminating in a community-wide celebration event in the second half of the year.

Our school vision at Renaissance is to “build the future by empowering [each] individual to realize their unique potential to influence the world around them.” To do this, we use innovative, individualized, and experiential learning methods in World Language and classical education. Our focus on creating a positive and engaging learning atmosphere will increase this year with the use of KAGEN engagement structures in our classrooms, more technology in every classroom, and continuing the popular Phoenix 200 Club positive behavior incentive program.

We encourage our students to see strengths in each other, and teach them to foster good relationships. Programs such as social skills classes in the lower elementary grades, middle school student government, the MS HOPE squad and National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) facilitate the development of stronger individual character, resilience, positive self-concept and social interactions.



Each day our students also increase their knowledge of world culture with foreign language instruction in Arabic, Chinese or Spanish. Students have the opportunity to become fluent in a foreign language, extending their scope of influence as a world citizen. Teachers and students are also encouraged to Experience Education through regular hands-on classroom and Wonder Day enrichment activities, and field trips directly related to grade-level curriculum. Field trips allow students to expand upon classroom concepts and relate them to real-world situations and career or life opportunities. Field trips are encouraged and required for all students at Renaissance to enhance student learning beyond the classroom.

As an administration and faculty we are always looking for ways to improve and maximize the learning experience of our students at Renaissance. We continually review current programs and curriculum, introduce new programs and ideas, and increase extra-curricular and character development opportunities offered to students. Some exciting new programs you will see in 2015-16 include the opening of our much anticipated Voyager Simulator as well as the development and implementation of a Gifted and Talented Program to increase individualized student instruction. We will also continue to offer a wide range of after-school programs and summer camps.

Our 10th anniversary is a great time to join our school community and is going to be a year full of exciting events and developments. I look forward to meeting and getting to know each of you joining us in 2015-16. It is going to be a great year.

If you have any questions about the school, our programs or how we do things at Renaissance please do not hesitate to contact me at smccappin@renacademy.org.

Stephanie McCappin
Dean of Students and Families

School Contact Information

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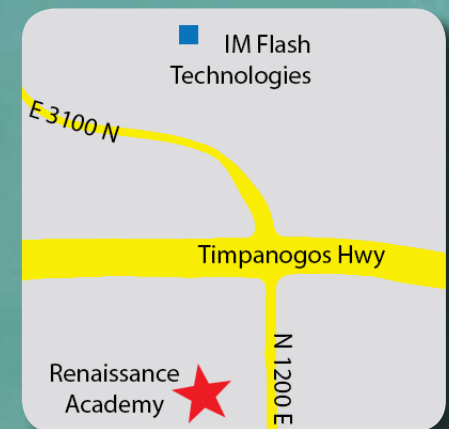
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Important Dates

August 7th Class Lists Posted after 3pm on school doors,
Middle School Fee totals available - *fees must
be paid to pick up MS Schedules*

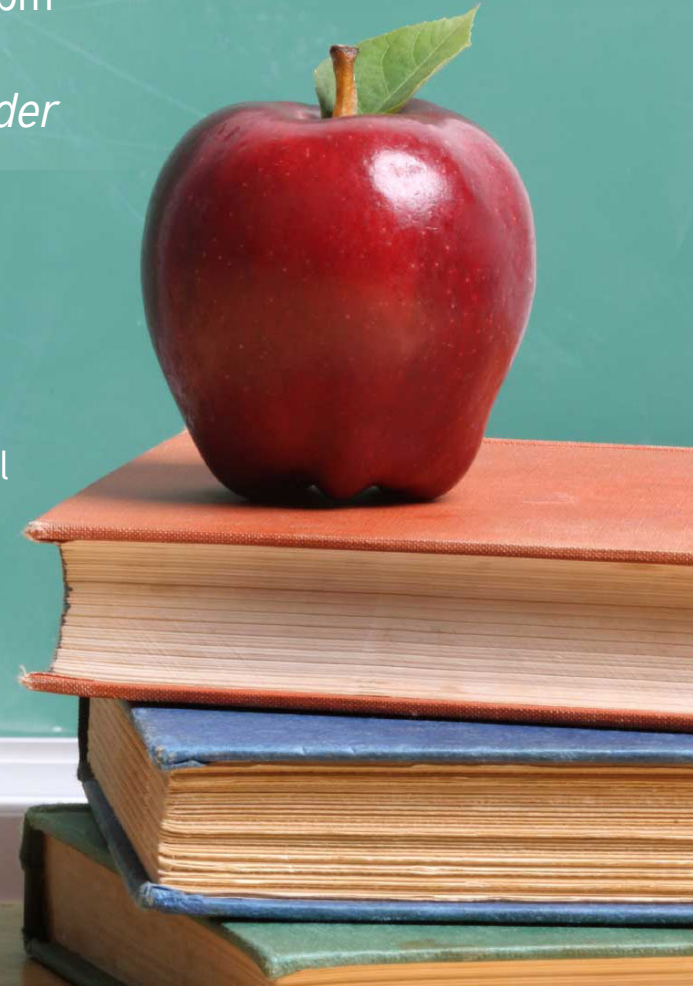
August 13th FEC Welcome Wagon social & Uniform swap 5-6 pm
Chinese Immersion Orientation (parents & students) 5:30 pm

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT 6-8 pm
*Official School year calendar (hardcopy)
and other RA Merchandise available for order*

August 19th Back to School for grades 1-9

August 24th First day of Kindergarten

K-3 Vision screening will be conducted the first week of school from Wed-Fri Aug 19-21. Please ensure your student brings their glasses to school and is aware of this screen. If your student does need/wear glasses, please ensure they bring them to school daily to maximize their learning and prevent further damage.



2015-16 RENAISSANCE ACADEMY *Student Dress Code*

PHILOSOPHY

The use of a dress code is an important part of a distinctive Renaissance Academy education. These standards and guidelines for dress and grooming are purposefully employed to create a learning environment that encourages serious study and fosters the development of self-esteem. The dress code accomplishes this by:

- Decreasing distractions created by modern fashion and socioeconomic differences
- Instilling students with discipline and self-respect
- Eliminating social distinctions
- Maintaining a healthy and positive school image
- Providing a visible and public symbol of commitment to high academic standards

CLOTHING COLOR SCHEME

The Renaissance Academy student dress code color scheme is as follows:

- a) Tops, Shirts & Dresses - red, navy blue, light blue, light yellow or white
- b) Hoodies & Sweatshirts - navy blue or red hoodies/sweatshirts only (zip-up and pullover styles are both accepted).
- c) Cardigans - navy blue, red or white only.
- d) Pants - khaki or navy blue.
- e) Renaissance Plaid (available through 'French Toast')

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Students are required to adhere to the standards of the dress code during school hours and when participating in any on-campus or other school sponsored activities, unless stated otherwise by school administration.
2. Students must present a modest, clean and neat appearance at all times.
3. Clothing must be clean, in good repair and worn properly.
4. Clothing that is baggy, low-rise, over/undersized or low cut is not permitted.
5. Clothing items may not have visible brand names, logos or words of any kind (except school logo). Lace, sequins or decorative embroidery is not permitted.
6. Clothing must be an approved solid color (see above 'clothing color scheme' section). No contrasting color stitching, exposed zippers, lace, sequins or decorative embroidery is permitted.
7. Renaissance Plaid is permitted for some articles of clothing (where specifically stated). Renaissance Plaid is ("Blue/Red" in the French toast catalog). No other plaid is permitted.
8. Hair must be neat, groomed and clean cut. No extreme hairstyles or unnatural colors (i.e., mohawks, fohawks etc.) Student who present with extreme hairstyles and colors will be sent home until the situation is rectified.
9. Sunglasses are not permitted inside the school building.
10. Visible tattoos are not allowed.

TOPS, SHIRTS & DRESSES

1. Approved styles-girls: shirts (polo and oxford), collared blouses, polo dresses
2. Polo dresses may be worn in any top color and may not be shorter than 2" above the knee
3. Approved styles-boys: shirts (polo and oxford)
4. Tops may be long or short sleeved.
5. Tops must be an approved colors i.e., red, navy blue, light blue, light yellow or white
6. Undershirts in approved colors may be worn under an approved dress code top, which must be buttoned up. Jumpers may only be worn with an approved dress code top.

BOTTOMS

1. Approved styles for girls: pants, shorts, skorts, skirts, capris, jumpers
2. Approved styles for boys: pants or shorts.
3. Must be an approved solid color for bottoms: khaki or navy
4. Skirts and jumpers may also be Renaissance Plaid.
5. Skirts and jumpers may be no shorter than 2" above the knee. Shorts may be worn under these items for modesty; however, they must not show.
6. Shorts may be no shorter than 4" above the knee.
7. Pants may be cargo style, cuffed or straight legged. Knit pants, athletic pants and sweat pants are not acceptable.

HOODIES & CARDIGANS

1. All students are required to wear a dress code hoodie or cardigan over their collared shirt if needed for warmth in class and the building.
2. Students may choose between the following winter options when in the school building;
 - A plain navy blue or red hoodie/sweatshirt (zip-up or pullover style)
 - An Official RA logo hoodie in navy blue or red (zip-up or pullover style - available to order and purchase at Back to School Night)
 - A plain navy blue, red or white cardigan
3. Students will be required to remove their hood when in the school building.

OUTERWEAR

1. Outerwear jackets/coats worn to and from school, and during outside recess are not considered part of the dress code. These items should be removed upon arriving at school and are not acceptable in the school building or class.
2. Students will be asked to remove all non-dress code winter/outerwear items when in the school building.

SHOES & SOCKS

1. Shoes must have a closed toe, back or back strap that allows for daily school activity.
2. Shoes should be conservative in style, and basic or coordinating in color.

3. Students may wear sport/running shoes Monday - Friday. These sport/running shoes should also be conservative in style, and basic and coordinating in color (no predominantly fluorescent sports shoes).
4. The following is not permitted: shoes with wheels, predominantly fluorescent in color, flashing lights, electronics, character logos, heels greater than 2”.
5. Flip-flops and slippers are not permitted.
6. Athletic shoes are encouraged and required in Middle School for P.E.
7. Students are required to wear black, white or navy blue socks.

OTHER

1. Belts are optional. They must be a solid color brown, black or navy blue. Buckles must be small with no graphics or logos.
2. Socks must be matching and solid unadorned black or white.
3. Girls may wear smooth, opaque or cable knit tights in approved top or bottom colors. Tights may not be worn as pants or shorts.
4. Ties may be worn in solid navy or Renaissance Plaid
5. Hats, beanies and scarves are not to be worn in the building—except for special events.
6. A minimum amount of jewelry is acceptable. Girls may wear one pair of earrings no larger than a quarter. Boys may not wear earrings. Pierced jewelry in other body parts is not allowed.
7. Make-up is permitted for girls. It should look natural and be non-distracting. Boys may not wear make-up unless sanctioned by a faculty member or administrator for a specific school activity.
8. Hair accessories are acceptable for girls. They should be conservative and may be any matching dress code color.

DRESS CODE STANDARDS

There are three dress code standards at Renaissance Academy: daily dress, performance dress and spirit dress. The Dress Code General Guidelines and shoe guidelines apply for all standards.

DAILY DRESS

Daily Dress is the standard guideline for school attendance Mon-Fri. Students may wear any approved clothing outlined in the policy.

FRIDAY DRESS

Spirit shirts and Jeans are permitted and may be worn on Fridays. Spirit shirts are available for order from our FEC (Family Engagement Committee) at 'Back to School Night' and other events throughout the year.

PERFORMANCE DRESS

Performance Dress is a higher standard of dress reserved for field trips and special events. School-wide events that require performance dress will be announced by administration. Any faculty member may designate performance dress for a classroom or grade level special event. Performance dress standards are as follows:

Girls

- Top-white collared blouse or navy polo dress. May be long or short sleeved.
- Bottom-navy or RA Plaid skirt, skort, shorts, pants, capris, jumper
- Socks/Tights-navy or white socks
- Tie/cross-navy or RA plaid (optional but encouraged)
- Outerwear - navy blue or red approved hoodie/sweatshirt or cardigan (cardigans may also be white).

Boys

- Top-white collared polo or oxford shirt
- Pants/Shorts-navy
- Socks-navy or black
- Tie-navy or RA Plaid (optional but encouraged)
- Outerwear - navy blue or red approved hoodie/sweatshirt or cardigan (cardigans may also be white).

SPIRIT DRESS

Daily dress as described above may be worn. Students may also choose to wear a Renaissance Academy logo t-shirt, sweatshirt or hoodie. This includes shirts worn for Renaissance approved clubs, activities or performances. Students may also wear blue denim bottoms on these days. Socks may be any color. Spirit dress days do not occur at a regular interval. When school administration designates a Spirit Dress Day it will be announced in advance to the campus community.

Students who arrive at school NOT in dress code clothing

Students in grades 1 - 9 who arrive at school dressed in clothing items other than those included in the dress code will be instructed by faculty members to go to the office and call home to request appropriate dress code attire be brought to school.

- Once a student has contacted their parents to have appropriate dress code clothing brought to them at school they will be sent back to class with a sticker/stamp indicating to other faculty members that the dress code issue has been addressed.
- When the dress code items arrive at school students will be called to the office and asked to change.
- Kindergarten students - Rather than kindergarten students being sent to the office to call home if they are 'out-of-dress code', kindergarten teachers or office staff will contact the parents directly regarding 'out-of-dress code' incidents.
- If a student is identified as a repeat offender (i.e., required to call home on numerous occasions for different clothes) who continually disregards the student dress code the following will occur; a warning will be given, parents will be emailed indicating that the next infraction will result in an after school detention. Students may receive a maximum of 3 after school detentions for dress code violations. Upon receipt of a 4th dress code detention, more serious behavioral consequences will be considered.



Renaissance Academy 2015-2016 Calendar

August/September

M	T	W	T	F
		19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

October

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

November

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

1st Term
August 19 - October 23
44 Days

2nd Term
October 26 - January 15
48 Days

3rd Term
January 19 - March 18
42 Days

4th Term
March 21 - May 27
46 Days

1st Semester SEP
October 1 & 2

2nd Semester SEP
February 25 & 26

December

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

January

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

February

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29				

March

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

April

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

May

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

August 13 - Back to School Night
August 19 - First Day of School
September 7 - Labor Day
October 15-16 - Fall Break
October 19 - Professional Development
November 25 - Teacher Comp. Day

November 26-27 - Thanksgiving Break
December 21 - January 1 - Christmas Break
January 18 - Martin Luther King Day
February 15 - Washington-Lincoln Day
March 7 - Professional Development

April 4 - Snow Make-up Day
April 5 - Teacher Comp Day
April 6-8 - Spring Break
May 27 - Last Day of School
May 30 - Memorial Day





FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	Kristin Barlow <i>kristin@bkbarlow.com</i>
Vice President	Alyson Harper <i>alysue23@gmail.com</i>
VP of Classroom Coordinators	Mandi Lei <i>mandijensen@yahoo.com</i>
Secretary	Sarah Christensen <i>misssarah26@gmail.com</i>
Treasurer	Rae Seal <i>raeseal@gmail.com</i>



SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

RA Board Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (July and December meetings are held on an as-needed basis). Board Meeting Agendas and Minutes can be found on the school website at renacademy.org/board_meetings.

FEC MEETINGS

The FEC meets on the **first Friday of each month at 8:00 am in the teacher lounge** at the school. Every parent at Renaissance Academy is a member of the FEC and we would love to have your input, your ideas and your help. Feel free to join our meetings any time.

Get involved by joining our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/renaissancefec/>.

If you are interested in hosting a guest teacher from China, please contact Julie Walker at jwalker@renacademy.org.



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Renaissance Academy Community! We are happy to have you here and look forward to getting to know you and your family better. My name is Kristin Barlow, and I am the Family Engagement Committee (FEC) President for the 2015-2016 school year. The FEC is a parent-run volunteer group that organizes and coordinates a variety of events for our students, the staff and RA Families. We also engage in ongoing fundraising to benefit the school and to sponsor events we are coordinating. We are excited about the activities we have in the works for our upcoming school year. A few of the events we are working on are:

Red Ribbon Week
Fall School Carnival
Inspirations Art Contest
Teacher Appreciation Week
Daddy Daughter Date Night
Classic Skate Nights
Battle of the Books

The FEC meets on the first Friday of each month at 8:00 am in the teacher lounge at the school. Every parent at Renaissance Academy is a member of the FEC and we would love to have your input, your ideas and your help. Feel free to join our meetings any time. You can also get involved by joining our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/renaissancefec/>.

One of the things that I love about Renaissance Academy is that there are so many ways to get involved and to help shape the experiences of our children. Whether you have lots of time and want to jump in head first or only a few minutes here and there, you can make a difference, and we would love to have your help. If you would like to find out about the specific ways you can get involved, please contact me for up-to-date information. Our Presidency is looking forward to a fabulous school year and we are excited to be a part of Renaissance Academy!


Best Regards,

Kristin Barlow

FEC President 2015-2016

kristin@bkbarlow.com

801-310-8117



You may have heard...
Renaissance Academy is building a Spaceship Simulator!

What is a Spaceship Simulator?

The Renaissance spaceship is the USS Voyager (also just called “the Voyager”). It is an experiential education classroom, with flexible use for the school, but designed specifically with the needs of Project Voyager in mind. Renaissance Academy students have first priority, primary access to Project Voyager and the simulator.

What is Project Voyager?

Project Voyager is a club for 5th through 12th grades that uses the love of science fiction to enrich studies of science, technology, engineering, and math. Project Voyager club members call themselves Cadets. Voyager Cadets specialize in different aspects of working on the simulator to create and participate in missions on the spaceship.

Why is RA building the USS Voyager?

The educational experiences that are possible in a spaceship simulator align with the Renaissance Mission- of empowering individuals to realize their unique potential to influence the world around them.

How will the spaceship simulator be used at the school?

It will be the primary platform for running Long Duration Missions (LDMs). Teams of cadets solve challenges and real-life problems within the simulated universe as part of serial missions lasting months at a time. As part of these LDMs, students will work through engineering and math problems, learn about healthcare and disease prevention and practice teamwork, decision making, and leadership.

Victor Williamson, founder and former director of Alpine School District's Christa McAuliffe Space Education Center at Central School, Pleasant Grove, started the first Voyager Club in the mid 1990's. Mr. Williamson retired from the Alpine District in 2013 to start Farpoint at Renaissance and to direct the construction of the simulator here.

Learn more about the program:

<http://farpointstation.weebly.com/>

Sponsor the construction:

<https://spaceadventures.org/campaign/g66bfBAf896Wk35KL>

Victor Williamson's blog:

<http://voyagerslog.blogspot.com/>

[Renaissance Academy Website](#)

[Renaissance Academy Facebook Page "Like" Us!](#)

[The Official Renaissance Academy FEC Facebook Group](#)

[Grade Level School Supply Lists](#)

[Farpoint Station Website](#)

[Renaissance Academy Summer Camps](#)

