

# R. B. Stewart Middle School



Dear Parents:

Students who are enrolled in a Pasco County Schools are required to participate in an online educational program. We will begin Distance Learning instruction on Tuesday, March 31, 2020. **We realize that some of our families do not have the technology needed to work on the computer. Therefore, our district is providing a Device Check-Out program for parents and students who DO NOT have access to mobile devices at home.**

We already know that we do not have enough devices for all students to check-out, so we have to do our best to put the devices in the hands of students who need them. Please keep in mind that in order to better serve more families, we are limiting households to 1 device per 2 students. If you have one of the acceptable devices listed below at home, please do not check out a device. We want all of our students to have access to the technology.

The following list are Acceptable Devices:

- Laptops (Windows, Mac, or Chromebook) with a camera and a recent version of the Chrome browser on the device.
- Tablets and iPads with the Chrome browser installed, will work for most applications, however, they may not work for all applications.
- Common video game platforms (X-Box, Play Station, etc.) to access online courses, but those devices may not support some of the activities and applications linked within the course materials.

Internet Service:

- Charter Spectrum is offering free Wi-Fi access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription at any service level up to 100 Mbps. To enroll call 1-844-488-8395. Installation fees will be waived for new student households. Wi-Fi hotspots across Spectrum's footprint will also be available for public use.
- Other service providers, including AT&T, CenturyLink, Comcast, Cox Communications, Google Fiber, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon have agreed that for the next 60 days they will open Wi-Fi hotspots to all Americans who need them, not terminate any services to residential or small business customers who can't pay their bills due to complications from the pandemic, and also waive any late fees those customers might incur due to economic disruptions prompted by the coronavirus.

On Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, RBSMS will distribute electronic devices to our families. Legal Parent/Guardians must be present to pick up a device. To expedite the process, we have designated times for pick-up. Eighth grade students will pick up computers between 8:30 – 9:30. Seventh Grade students will pick up computers from 10:00 -11:00. Sixth grade Families will pick up computers from 11:30 – 12:30.

Parents who pre-register for a device, will be able to use the RBSMS Express Check-Out Lane (located 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bus Loop) to pick up their device. Please go to the following link <https://rbsms.pasco.k12.fl.us/mform/view.php?id=12809> which must be submitted by 12:00 pm on Friday, March 27, 2020. This will allow you to pick up your device in minimal time. We highly recommend you fill out the Registration Form to save time. If parents do not complete the digital device registration form ahead of time, you will be eligible to pick up a computer using the Parent Pick-up Loop in front of the school. This will take additional time so please be patient.

Thank you for your patience as we embark on this new journey together.

Sincerely,

Shae Davis-Principal

Deedra Copeland- Assistant Principal

Josh Borders- Assistant Principal

Jesyriam Rodriguez- Assistant Principal Intern