

EMAIL: FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD

Dear Rise School Family,

I hope you and your family are well, and that you are finding moments of joy and togetherness during this time of uncertainty. I am writing to provide you with an update regarding our **COVID-19 Response Plan**, which was created in collaboration with our Board of Directors. Thank you for your patience, as we all care deeply about our mission and want nothing but the absolute best for our students, families, and staff not only now, but for many years to come.

After much consideration, The Rise School has made the determination to follow the recommendations of health officials and the [Austin Independent School District](#) to keep our facility closed until it is deemed safe for our students, families, and staff to return to campus.

The Board and staff together evaluated all options and gave extra careful consideration to the nature of our work and the population we serve. Your child's well-being is our top priority, and we plan to continue to tailor the **RSA Distance Learning Program** (see attached) to provide opportunities to connect and learn in the safety of our respective homes. For details regarding the reasons for this determination, please see **RSA COVID-19 Response FAQs** attached.

We understand that this is a challenging time and want to assure you that we will be here for you every step of the way. Based on the information available to us, we are currently planning to return to campus on **Tuesday, May 5th, 2020**. However, this remains a highly dynamic situation and this could change. We will continue to monitor recommendations and requirements set forth by the City of Austin and other state and local governments, along with AISD's plan for reopening, while also weighing the needs of our program and unique population.

As you know, we are a non-profit organization, and it is only with the support of our generous donors, when combined with tuition, that we are able to offer the high-quality services to our students we have all come to expect. The impact on fundraising due to the pandemic causes an adverse financial impact on us, as with many other non-profits who rely on donations in addition to operating revenues. Both donations and tuition are needed to ensure the success and continuation of our mission, including retaining our highly valued faculty and staff so that we can continue to offer the same high-quality program in the years ahead. Despite our altered services, our expenses remain substantially the same as we remain in operation remotely and in many ways the workload is higher for us as educators and also for you as parents. However, we remain committed to weathering this storm as a community and focusing on our mission of inclusion and student growth.

We do understand that this is a very challenging time, particularly for parents and other members of our community who have experienced health problems, job loss, or other hardships in connection with this pandemic. **Tuition assistance** may be available for families who qualify under the **RSA COVID-19 Tuition Relief Program**. Considerations for tuition relief will be made by our financial assistance committee on a case-by-case basis and made with careful consideration for the financial sustainability of our program and the needs of the applying family. If you are in need of assistance due to the impact of COVID-19, please complete [this application](#) by **Wednesday, April 8th**. If your situation changes following April 8th, please let us know.

We would like to thank you in advance for your understanding and support as we, our entire school family, lean on one another to get through this health crisis together. You are all in my heart and in my thoughts. Please do not hesitate to [reach out](#) if there is anything you need. Wishing you and yours well. Stay safe, family.

Sincerely,
Meg

HELPFUL RESOURCES:

1.RSA Distance Learning – DIRECT LINKS **RSA YouTube Channel**

- [Waddler II](#)
- [Toddler I](#)
- [Toddler II](#)
- [Preschool I](#)
- [Preschool II](#)
- [Pre-K I](#)
- [Pre-K II](#)
- [REP](#)
- [All Therapy Videos](#)
- [All Classroom Videos](#)

Lesson Plans and Resources

- [Distance Learning Google Drive \(Lesson plans and resources\)](#)

2. COVID-19 Resources:

- [State Resources and Information re: COVID-19](#)
- [Stay Home – Work Safe Order](#)
- [CDC on COVID-19](#)
- [CDC on COVID-19 in Texas](#)
- [CDC's Traveler's Health Notices](#)
- [CDC Confirmed Cases of COVID-19](#)
- [CDC Handwashing Videos](#)
- [City of Austin COVID-19 FAQ](#)
- [Austin-Travis County Response to COVID-19 Modeling Data from UT Austin](#)