

RAPP



May 2023



IMPORTANT DATES

4/28	World Culture Night 4-6 pm
4/28-5/5	BOGO Book Fair (Library)
5/1-5	Teacher Appreciation Week!
5/1-19	EOY Testing - RISE (3rd-8th) & UtahAspirePlus (9th only)
5/2	9th Chinese AP Test
5/3	BYU Traditionz Folk Dance Assembly
5/3	3rd grade field trip - Discovery Gateway Children's Museum
5/12	4th grade Utah History Program
5/12	7th grade field trip - Momentum Climbing Gym
5/12	8th/9th grade field trip - Lagoon Physics Day
5/12	Library books due
5/12-19	Kindergarten KEEP Exit assessments
5/16	Kindergarten - Discovery Gateway Children's Museum visit (on-campus)
5/19	Kindergarten graduation
5/19	FEC Volunteer Appreciation Brunch 10:30 am
5/23-25	K-9th Field Days
5/25	Last day of Kindergarten!
5/25	9th Grade graduation 4 pm
5/26	Last day of school 1st-9th grade - Early out 10:00 am dismissal (No kindergarten)

IMPORTANT LINKS

[May Breakfast Menu](#)
[May Lunch Menu](#)
[RA School Calendar](#)
[Kindergarten AM/PM Friday Schedule](#)



SCHOOL Announcements

SCHOOL LUNCH REMINDER

Dear Families,

Important Reminder: In May, students with a delinquent account of any amount will be given an emergency meal until payment is made in full as stated in our School Meal Payment Policy. All accounts with negative balances are expected to be paid off the last day of the school year.

We're testing out a monthly survey. You can fill out the survey one week at a time or for the entire month. If you are filling out for the entire month do not submit a survey every week. Please mark hot lunch or PB&J for the days you want your student to eat school lunch. Fridays are a sack lunch, when you select hot it's for the turkey, ham & cheese sandwich or there's also PB&J. You can skip the days you do not need a school lunch. If you forget to sign up for school lunch your student will get a hot lunch.

You can find the link on the school main page Renacademy.org under Lunch Order Form or by going to <https://forms.gle/SLjERWReXYGoEc4x8>

With this new implementation it's important to keep in mind and be considerate that due to labor constraints, food availability and our food delivery schedule, school meals are required to still be ordered by the Friday before. We'll be pulling the lunch participation report every Friday so we can order for the following Monday. We get our food delivery truck on Mondays for that entire week's menu. Since the hot lunch varies daily we only have so much freezer space when considering how much extra we can have on hand.

Lunch is \$2.85. You must fill out a survey for each student individually.

Breakfast is served every school day for \$1.75 from 7:40-7:55. Please bring your students on time they need to be done eating by 7:55. There's PE at 8 and we have to clean and put tables away for class. There's no need to fill out a survey for breakfast as we have a small number of students coming for breakfast.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Stella Aires
Nutrition Service Director
saires@renacademy.org
801-768-4202 x5112

Field Trips Update - Thank you for your donations!

A big thanks to all of our generous RA parents that donated to grade level field trip funds over the last month. Your generosity as well as a \$4000 contribution from the FEC will allow students to participate in all scheduled field trips for the remainder of the year. We did not have to cancel a single field trip. Thank you for supporting our students and teachers, and allowing them to experience education off-campus!

SCHOOL Announcements

Teacher Appreciation Week - May 1st-5th 'Revive, Indulge, & Appreciate'

All students are invited to celebrate and appreciate their teachers and all the staff at Renaissance next week during teacher appreciation week. Our amazing FEC has many fun and pampering experiences planned for staff next week. See our daily themes below. Students and families are encouraged to jump on-board, pamper our teachers/staff and to celebrate and appreciate our RA teachers & support staff!

Monday 5/1 - Breakfast & Spa Day - Pamper your teacher day!

Tuesday 5/2 - High Tea & Massages - Wear your teacher's favorite color to school! (see favorite things)

Wednesday 5/3 - Sweets, Treats & More - Celebrate our RA support staff! Our reading & math intervention aides, school counselors, SPED, specials & world language teachers, office, traffic, lunch & janitorial staff are all essential to keeping our school running smoothly and successfully every single day!

Thursday 5/4 - Thank a staff member today! - Students are invited to make/write/draw a card, note, email, picture to show appreciation for the teachers & staff who support them every day at school!

Friday 5/5 - FEC Catered Lunch for Staff

If you and your children are looking to spoil our teachers/staff next week, here is the updated 2022-2023 [RA Faculty Favorite Things](#)

2023-2024 RA School Calendar

Our 2023-2024 Renaissance school calendar is now available [online](#).

Important dates in 2023-2024

Elementary class lists posted - Friday, August 4th

6th-9th grade schedules available - Thursday, August 10th

Back to School Night - Thursday, August 10th

School starts (1st-9th graders) - Monday, August 14th

Kindergarten assessments - Monday-Thursday, August 14th-17th

Kindergarten class lists & orientation - Friday, August 18th

Kindergarten students start school - Monday, August 21st

Call for New Board Members

The Renaissance Academy Board of Directors is looking for new members. There is an immediate need to fill one open position and possibly two additional positions in the near future. There are no specific requirements for work experience or skill set; however, all candidates must pass a background check as required by law. Terms are 3 years.

Candidates with experience in non-profit governance, accounting, law, or business development are highly encouraged to apply. Interested parties should email a resume and cover letter to Jared Barfuss at jbarfuss@renacademy.org. Cover letters should highlight your skills and experience, and detail why you are interested in serving as a board member.

SCHOOL Announcements

EOY Testing - RISE (3rd-8th) & Utah Aspire+ (9th only) - May 1st-19th

We start our final end-of-year (EOY) testing schedule next week. All students in 3rd-9th grade are required to take State-mandated achievement assessment to measure their mastery and achievement of grade level standards in core subject areas. I have included a copy of our school testing schedule below. Although they are not time-restricted, RISE assessments are typically completed in 60-120 minutes depending on subject and grade level. Utah Aspire+ (9th grade only) assessments are time-restricted - see separate email sent to all 9th grade families for details.

All RA students are encouraged to participate in EOY testing. If you do not want your child to take the RISE or Utah Aspire+ assessments, please complete the [2022-2023 Parental Exclusion Form](#) to opt-out of testing, and return it asap to the office in-person or email [Mrs. Avery](#).

*Teachers will email specific testing times for class groups closer to the testing dates.

**Please note - Kindergarten-2nd grade students do not participate in RISE testing.

RISE (3rd-8th) & UtahAspirePlus (9th) Testing Schedule - May 1st-19th		
Week 1 - May 1st-5th	Week 2 - May 8-12	Week 3 - May 15-19
Monday 5/1	Monday 5/8	Monday 5/15
8:55am 9th Reading	8:00am 7th Language Arts	4th Math
Wednesday 5/3	8:00am 8th Science	5th DLI Science
8:55am 9th ELA	8:00am 9th Math	6th Science
	Tuesday 5/9	8:00am 7th Science
	3rd DLI Language Arts	8:00am 8th Math
	4th Science	Tuesday 5/16
	Wednesday 5/10	5th Language Arts
	5th Writing	6th Science
	6th Language Arts	Wednesday 5/17
	8:00am 7th Math	3rd Math
	8:00am 8th Language Arts	6th Math
	8:00am 9th Science	8:00am 8th Writing
	Thursday 5/11	Thursday 5/18
	3rd Hawkes/Sheffield Language Arts	5th Math
	4th Language Arts	6th Math
	6th Language Arts	Friday 5/19
	Friday 5/12	Schoolwide make-up testing
	2nd/3rd Nelson Language Arts	
	5th Baker/Wendelken Science	
	6th Language Arts	

FEC Announcements

PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We still need parent volunteers for some events to finish out this school year. Volunteers are needed for reading, classroom parties, field trip chaperones, Battle of the Books judges, and as chaperones at our MS dance this coming Friday, April 21st.

Classroom parties, reading, field trip chaperones, Battle of the Books judges, Middle school dance chaperone.

- [Middle school dance volunteer sign up](#)
- [Battle of the Books \(BOB\) volunteer sign-up](#)

Check in with teachers/coordinators for field trips and other classroom needs.

FEC EVENTS/FUNDRAISERS THAT HAPPEN BECAUSE OF RA PARENT VOLUNTEERS

- Fall Carnival
- Steam Festival
- Field trips
- Spirit shirts
- Battle of the Books
- Book Fair
- Spirit Nights
- Donations Drive (Tabitha's Way)
- Classroom coordinators
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Inspirations
- Spelling Bee
- SEP Teacher snacks
- Red Ribbon Week
- White Ribbon Week
- Field Days
- Middle School dances
- Classic Skate Nights
- Parent/Child activity nights (cancelled due to lack of volunteers)

FEC Spirit Shirt Hoodies - Get your classic spirit hoodies before they sell out!

There is still time to heat up your wardrobe with the much-loved must-have Renaissance Academy hoodie starring our school mascot, the rising phoenix, emblazoned on the back. Hoodies may be worn Monday-Friday with dress code. Order online using the link below. Hoodies will be delivered to your child's classroom.

- Available in Red & Blue
- Zip-Front and Pullover Styles
- Fiery Phoenix Logo on Back
- Youth & Adult Sizes
- **ORIGINALLY \$25, NOW JUST \$16!!!**

Quantities are exceptionally limited - get yours today!

[FEC Online Store](#)

FEC PRESIDENCY

Brittany Taylor, FEC President
britt.taylor2@gmail.com

Sherise Robertson, VP of Committees
sheriser@gmail.com

Mica Hauley, VP of Fundraising
hauleyhighlife@gmail.com

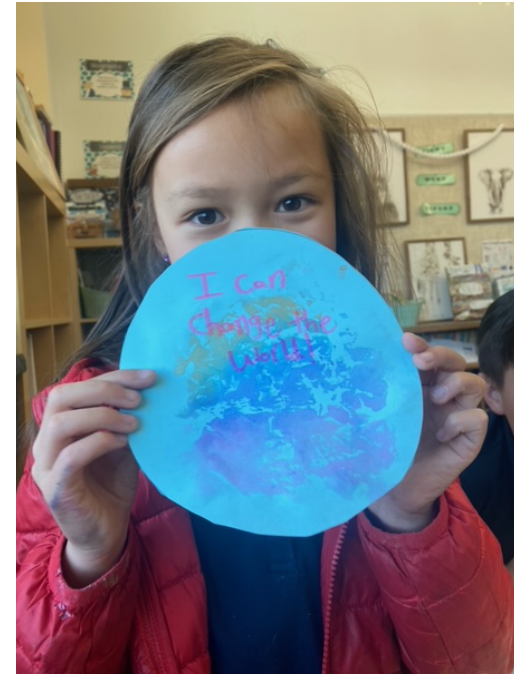
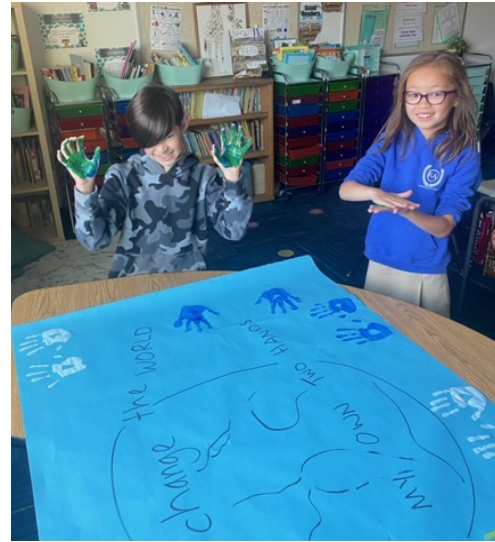
Jenny Buck, VP of Classrooms
chiachen212@gmail.com

Shannon Topham, Treasurer
shannon.davida@gmail.com

Brooklyn Watson, Secretary
brooklynwatson@gmail.com

RA HAPPENINGS

3rd Grade - Earth Day crafts & a drink shop

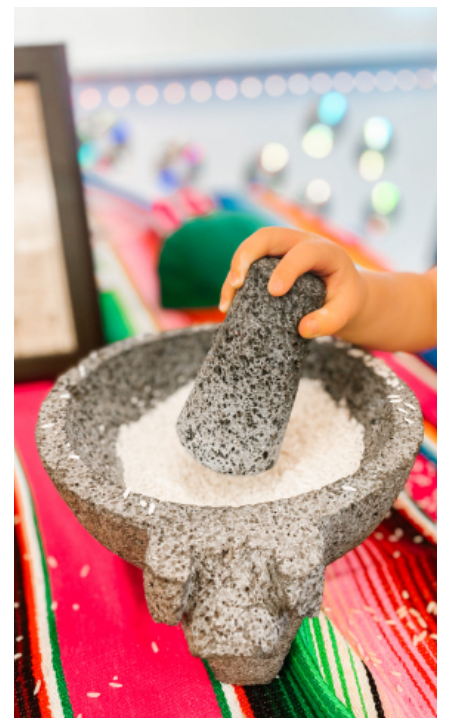


5th Grade - Field trip to the University of Utah



RA HAPPENINGS

World Culture Night!





FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



STEPHANIE AVERY, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/DEAN OF STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Where are you from? I grew up five minutes from the beach in Whyalla, a small coastal town in South Australia. I moved to Adelaide, South Australia when I was 15 with my parents and siblings.

Tell us about your family: My husband and I enjoy living in Lehi with our two daughters. We love to travel and explore new places (or visit favorite destinations), get outside and ride bikes, hike, rock climb, ski and snowboard. Our girls are very good little travellers, and both of them love to explore, swim, build sandcastles and play at the beach. We go there as often as we can!

What is a fun fact about yourself? I spent my 21st birthday skiing and working a season up at Deer Valley Resort. I have always loved to ski. My family used to take yearly trips to the snow to ski when I was a child, we drove 2-days across Australia to make it happen. If I can't live next to the beach, I love that my girls are growing up close to mountains and the slopes.

What is your favorite thing about working in education? I love that children inherently love to learn. They are curious, enthusiastic and genuinely enjoy soaking up new information like little sponges. Students view the world differently to adults, they share perspectives and observations without hesitation, and let their personalities shine through everyday at school as they learn and grow. The students make it worth it.

ANNA FELTON, DEAN OF INSTRUCTION

Where are you from? I'm from Brisbane, Australia.

Tell us about your family: I have two brothers and two sisters and a bunch of nieces and nephews who I ADORE.

What is a fun fact about yourself? I love to bake and have made many wedding and celebration cakes. I developed recipes for an Utah cookie store for a while.

What is your favorite thing about working in education? My favorite thing about being in education is experiencing the wonder of childhood over and over, and working with the most patient and wonderful grown ups ever!



MARDEE MERRIL, SCHOOL COUNSELOR AND 504 COORDINATOR

Where are you from? I was born and raised in SLC, Utah.

Tell us about your family: I have two amazing children! My son is 20 and currently working. My daughter is 17 and attending an early college high school. We also have an elderly yorkie poo and a 16 year old tortoise at home.

What is a fun fact about yourself? One fun fact about me is that I have only had one job that did not include working for children/students (and I was extremely bored in that job). Another fun fact is that I have a goal to visit (or at least step foot in) all fifty states.

What is your favorite thing about working in education? There are so many things that I love about being in education as a school counselor! I think at the very top of the list though would have to be that I get to celebrate on a daily basis all of the positive change and growth I see within our students. I also love how everyday brings a different, fun filled journey.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



NETTIE NAUMAN, SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Where are you from? I am from Montana.

Tell us about your family: I am married with three kids, Drew is 20, Maddi is 17 and Aria is 4 and we have a new puppy named Raven.

What is a fun fact about yourself? Fun fact about me is that I love to cook but I am learning to like baking and I love to collect cookbooks.

What is your favorite thing about working in education? What I love about education is being around kids. Kids are hilarious and interesting and never boring. I love their unique perspective on the world.

PATTI DAVIS, BUSINESS MANAGER

Where are you from? I was born in Salt Lake City but have spent most of my life in Lehi.

Tell us about your family: My husband and I will celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary this year and we have two beautiful daughters who are 28.

What is a fun fact about yourself? I love to garden and then preserve what I grow. The past couple of years we have had a little bevy of quail that live in our yard. Watching them while I garden makes me laugh because they are so funny!

What is your favorite thing about working in education? I love to walk down the halls and hear the learning and instruction in the pull-out groups. There are so many great and innovative teaching ideas going on and the kids are so engaged. This year is AMAZING!



KERI TODD, ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Where are you from? I grew up in the Bay Area in California before moving to Boulder, Colorado in middle school.

Tell us about your family: My husband and I have been married for 7 years and we have a wonderful four year old daughter together. We are also dog parents to Harley, who is a Chihuahua & Toy Fox Terrier mix.

What is a fun fact about yourself? I love singing! I did musical theater in high school and got to play the lead role in "In The Heights" during my senior year. I

also got multiple music scholarships in college.

What is your favorite thing about working in education? My favorite thing about being in education is getting to interact with the amazing staff. Everyone is always so positive and works really hard for the kids!

SERENE BEAN, OFFICE MANAGER

Where are you from? I am from Indiana. I grew up there.

Tell us about your family: I came from a large family and grew up helping on my grandparents farm. I had 5 children and 4 grandkids. I've been married to my husband for 3 decades.

What is a fun fact about yourself? I absolutely LOVE thunderstorms.

What is your favorite thing about working in education? My favorite thing about being in education is watching a child's face light up when they learn something.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



SUSI BLACKHURST, ENROLLMENT SPECIALIST

Where are you from? I was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Lived in various states and Wiesbaden, Germany. Finished growing up in California. Moved to Utah and raised my family in Cedar Hills and now live in Columbia, Tennessee.

Tell us about your family: My husband and I just celebrated our 25th Anniversary. We have 4 grown children (2 girls and 2 boys), 2 sons in law, 1 almost daughter in law, and 4 darling grandchildren, 2 dogs and 2 horses. Aaron (my husband) is a Realtor in the Middle Tennessee area, Morgan (our oldest), her husband

and daughter live in Savannah, TN. She is an ADA in the 24th Judicial Court. Brittanie (our second), her husband and their 3 children (Oliver, Audrey and Theo) live in American Fork, Utah. She is a Kindergarten Teacher here at RA. Cameron (our third) and his cute almost fiancé live in Landstuhl, Germany. He is a Satellite Controller, as a private civilian contractor for the Army. Buck (our youngest) recently graduated from Los Angeles Film School, with a degree in Directing and Screenwriting.

What is a fun fact about yourself? My favorite holiday is Christmas, not just for the meaning of the holiday, but for the excitement the season brings, time spent with family and the ALL the decorations. Christmas literally "throws up" in my house. When we moved to Columbia, Tennessee, little did I know that I was moving (quite literally) to a "Hallmark Christmas Movie Town". More than anything though, my happy place is with my family!

What is your favorite thing about working in education? I love interactions with the students, getting to know them and watching them grow. There is always something new going on.

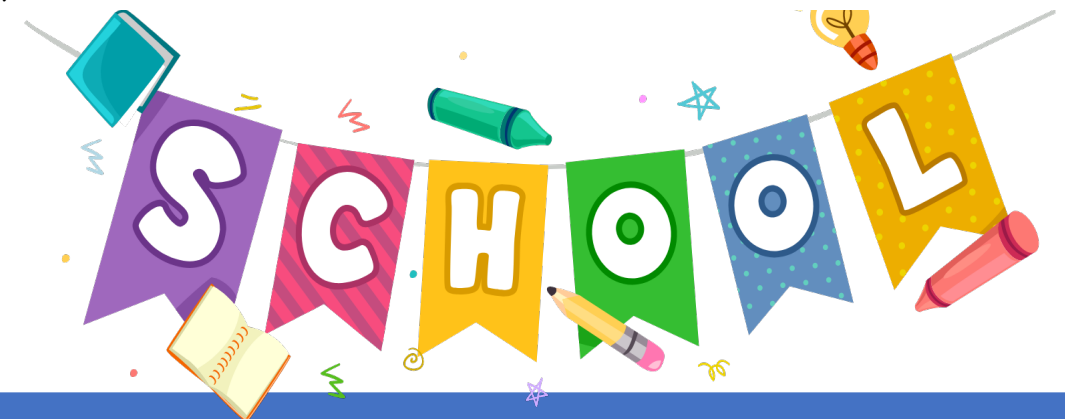
LISA MONSON, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Where are you from? I am from St. George, Utah. It was very different there when I was growing up, when we visit now I barely recognize anything!

Tell us about your family: My family is the greatest! My husband and I have two kids that attend school here, and they love it. We also have a ten year old cat named Neko. She is very grumpy but we all adore her. We spend all of our free time together riding bikes, hiking in the mountains, and visiting as many places in the world as possible.

What is a fun fact about yourself? In college I went camping in the Ngorongoro crater in Tanzania. We slept in the midst of zebras and elephants and lions! It was terrifying to have to walk to the bathroom at night!

What is your favorite thing about working in education? My favorite thing about working at Renaissance is 10000% the students. I think our student's thoughts and perspectives on the world are fascinating and thoughtful and sometimes hysterical. No day is the same as the one before and I am so happy to be here.



READING CORNER

Summer is upon us. Please have a reading plan for your family this summer. Reading every day will keep minds sharp. If you would like to do some extra things to up student reading skills, try some of the following:

- Practice CVC Words – Three letter words with a short vowel in the middle.
Example – t a p
Substitution of letters: Change the first letter
Example – l a p, s a p, m a p
Middle letter – t i p, t o p
End letter – t a b, t a b, t a g
- Practice Fry words – Have students read words on a list. Time for one minute. Do it twice a week and try to improve time. Students should be able to read all 100 words in one minute. Move onto the next list.

<https://www.k5learning.com/free-flashcards/reading/fry>

- Read and reread books with repetitive text. When the book is mastered, move on to a new book. (Example of books with repetitive text – Dr. Seuss books)
- Fluency Passages – Have students read the entire passage. They should retell everything they remember in the story. After the first read, students can use the same passage for a one-minute timed reading. Can time the same passage three times to see improvement.

<https://www.wilsoncsd.org/cms/lib/NY01914054/Centricity/Domain/68/DecodableFluencypassages.pdf>



SCHOOL CONTACT INFO

ADMINISTRATION & OFFICE



Mark Ursic,
Executive Director
[Email](#)



Stephanie Avery,
Assistant Director/Dean of Students and Families
[Email](#)



Anna Felton,
Dean of Instruction
[Email](#)



Madison Hoffman,
SPED Director
[Email](#)



Angela Cobiella,
World Language Coordinator
[Email](#)



Wendy Wu,
Chinese DLI Program Coordinator
[Email](#)



Mardee Merrill,
School Counselor & 504 Coordinator
[Email](#)



Nettie Nauman,
School Counselor
[Email](#)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cam Hughes, Board Chair

Emily Haleck, Board Member

Jennifer Lambert, Board Member

Jared Barfuss, Board Member

If you would like to contact the board, you may do so by emailing board@renacademy.org.



BREAKFAST

MAY 2023
RENAISSANCE ACADEMY

Breakfast \$1.75
Reduced \$0.30
Staff/Guest \$2.50

Monthly \$35.00
Monthly \$6.00

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 DONUT CEREAL FRUIT MILK	2 MUFFIN CEREAL FRUIT MILK	3 FRENCH TOAST STICKS CEREAL FRUIT MILK	4 STRAWBERRY STRUDEL CEREAL FRUIT MILK	5 BREAKFAST VARIETY CEREAL FRUIT MILK
8 CHURRO CEREAL FRUIT MILK	9 FRENCH TOAST CEREAL FRUIT MILK	10 STRAWBERRY STRUDEL CEREAL FRUIT MILK	11 CHURRO CEREAL FRUIT MILK	12 BREAKFAST VARIETY CEREAL FRUIT MILK
15 STRAWBERRY STRUDEL CEREAL FRUIT MILK	16 MUFFIN CEREAL FRUIT MILK	17 FRENCH TOAST STICKS CEREAL FRUIT MILK	18 DONUT CEREAL FRUIT MILK	19 BREAKFAST VARIETY CEREAL FRUIT MILK
22 TORNADO CEREAL FRUIT MILK	23 CHURRO CEREAL FRUIT MILK	24 MUFFIN CEREAL FRUIT MILK	25 PANCAKE ON A STICK CEREAL FRUIT MILK	26 BREAKFAST VARIETY CEREAL/FRUIT/MILK LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
29	30	31		

A La Cart
Milk \$0.50

Online Payments
<https://secureinstantpayments.com/sip/?ID=21717>

"Menu is subject to change without notice"

LUNCH

MAY 2023
RENAISSANCE ACADEMY

Lunch \$2.85
Reduced \$0.40
Staff/Guest \$4.00

Monthly \$54.15
Monthly \$7.60

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 PANCAKES PB&J SANDWICH SALAD/FRUIT BAR MILK	2 PIZZA PB&J SANDWICH SALAD/FRUIT BAR MILK	3 CHEESEBURGER PB&J SANDWICH SALAD/FRUIT BAR MILK	4 TERYAKI CHICKEN PB&J SANDWICH SALAD/FRUIT BAR MILK	5 SACK LUNCH DELI SANDWICH PB&J SANDWICH CARROTS/FRUIT MILK & TREAT
8 CHICKEN SANDWICH PB&J SANDWICH SALAD/FRUIT BAR MILK	9 PIZZA PB&J SANDWICH SALAD/FRUIT BAR MILK	10 BBQ PULLED PORK SANDWICH PB&J SANDWICH SALAD/FRUIT BAR MILK	11 LASAGNA PB&J SANDWICH SALAD/FRUIT BAR MILK	12 SACK LUNCH DELI SANDWICH PB&J SANDWICH CARROTS/FRUIT MILK & TREAT
15 NACHOS PB&J SANDWICH SALAD/FRUIT BAR MILK	16 PIZZA PB&J SANDWICH SALAD/FRUIT BAR MILK	17 CHICKEN NUGGETS PB&J SANDWICH SALAD/FRUIT BAR MILK	18 CALZONE PB&J SANDWICH SALAD/FRUIT BAR MILK	19 SACK LUNCH DELI SANDWICH PB&J SANDWICH CARROTS/FRUIT MILK & TREAT
22 PANCAKES PB&J SANDWICH SALAD/FRUIT BAR MILK	23 PIZZA PB&J SANDWICH SALAD/FRUIT BAR MILK	24 HOT DOG PB&J SANDWICH SALAD/FRUIT BAR MILK	25 BACON CHEESEBURGER PB&J SANDWICH SALAD/FRUIT BAR MILK	26 NO SACK LUNCH LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
29	30	31		

A La Cart
Milk \$0.50

Online Payments
<https://secureinstantpayments.com/sip/?ID=21717>

"Menu is subject to change without notice"

If your student is eating school lunch please fill out the order form the week before by Friday. You can find the link on the school main page [Renacademy.org](https://secureinstantpayments.com/sip/?ID=21717) under Lunch Order Form.