



January 11, 2024

Dear RPS Community -

As you are aware, recent storms left our fields littered with piles of debris and silt. Today, we learned that this debris may also contain wastewater, affecting the stadium, Stevens Field, and Brookside Field. All three fields have been and will continue to be marked "Field Closed". Our investigation into short- and long- term cleaning and preventative solutions will, of course, include this concern.

For health and safety reasons, the gates surrounding both the stadium and Stevens fields have been locked. We understand that many of our students use the pathway around the stadium and Stevens Field as a shortcut to their cars or homes. With the gates locked, some students are walking around and behind the fields, which is currently the safest route, but others are walking through neighboring properties, across Stevens Field, and jumping the gates. To find a safer alternative, several of our administrators, including principal Jeff Nyhuis and our Athletic Director Keith Cook, walked the path today to identify any potential solutions. Unfortunately, we found the pathway to be in very poor condition, and there is currently no safe way to open this path for use. For this reason, and in light of the potential contamination, we are keeping the field gates locked until the pathway is safer for everyone. In addition, for Brookside Field, "Fields Closed" signs have been added to the fencing surrounding the field.

We are working on a more permanent solution, but we ask that everyone remain off of the fields and walk around the property, which is currently the safest route. In addition, please be respectful of the private properties adjacent to our high school, and do not use personal driveways or yards as a shortcut to and from school.

We will continue to keep you informed of our plans and any progress. Several storms are expected in the week ahead, so we do anticipate that this will be the situation for the foreseeable future, and we thank you for your cooperation and support.

Regards,
Mark Schwarz