September 4, 2013

Dear RMSEL Parent Community,

At this point in the year, each of our school levels has hosted their annual Back to School Night. During each presentation, crew leaders presented information regarding “My Big Campus,” and how this tool will be utilized throughout the school year to communicate with students and families. At a minimum, parents will receive a weekly update from crew leaders, calendar of events, and various important classroom and expedition documents. If you have not logged into “My Big Campus” at this point, you may be missing key information from your student’s crew leader. If you need additional assistance please contact Elizabeth at espruill@rmsel.org.

Already this school year, eight crews have been on their first crew trip or adventure experience with RMSEL. To ensure our trips leave promptly from RMSEL to maximize their time in the field, we require that all medications be dropped off in the Main Office with Nancy one week prior to the crew trip. We can accept medications up to the Thursday prior to the crew trip or fieldwork. We are no longer able to accept medications on the day of departure. We review all student medical documents and build an administration schedule for medications prior to each crew trip departure. This schedule must be created the week prior to ensure all medication is accounted for and properly administered. All medications must remain in the original packing and/or prescription packing. Any prescription must be authorized by a doctor on a RMSEL medical form prior to the Thursday of the week before the trip departure. We appreciate your attentiveness as we strive to provide a safe experience to your son/daughter while away from home.

This year you have seen the phrase, “Character Counts,” throughout the hallways, classroom, and communication. Each week RMSEL teachers meet in professional development, working collaboratively to fulfill our EL Work Plan Goals. This year we have a clear focus to ensure character education is dynamically interconnected to all aspects of our school. Student character and education are not taught in isolation of one another in an EL school. We focus on developing character all day, everyday. Over the past month, teachers have been engaged in initiatives and dialogue with students as they set expectations in their classrooms and crews. This week our team of teachers worked collaboratively to summarize clear school-wide expectations tied to our character values. These expectations will be revised next week and communicated with parents and students. We are excited to have common values and expectations that apply to all aspects of our school. An example of this work is located below:

Responsibility: I recognize and do my part to make everything better for my community, which is bigger than me.

Courage: I have the courage to stand up for the right: to learn, to have a voice, and to work hard, even through failure.

It is great to be a part of a staff focused on developing all aspects of each child in our school. I have the opportunity to work alongside a talented group of professionals everyday at RMSEL!

Sincerely,

Chad