Dear RMSEL Students and Parent Community,

I hope that each of you had a safe and rejuvenating summer filled with new experiences. During the course of the summer months, we have focused on overhauling our campus. This renovation project completes the first phase of possible future renovations on campus. The extent of the campus renovations include the reconditioning of teacher classrooms, with new carpet being installed in each RMSEL classroom and common space this summer. Along with new building-wide carpet, our gymnasium was refinished to the original wood surface, repainted, and sealed. It truly looks brand new. This project will support the growth of the middle school athletics programs, as well as physical education opportunities for students during the school day. Finally, we hope that you no longer feel as if the enamel of your teeth will rattle off as you enter our parking lot. The parking lot also received a much needed resurfacing this summer.

The overall condition of our campus has improved dramatically during the past two months. School facilities and the management of resources is an important aspect of any administrative team but ultimately serves as an environment for the work that happens during the course of the year in each classroom. Each year a team of teacher professionals, administrators, and support staff members complete an annual review of performance with Expeditionary Learning, titled the Implementation Review (IR). The IR is a tool for targeted improvement through the design of annual EL Work Plan goals. The IR is a collective tool placing equal weight into the results from staff members. As we worked together to evaluate our IR results, we discovered that our focus on the development of student performance character through habits of scholarship is an area for overall improvement. This goal and rationale is included in our work plan this year, guiding our professional learning to ultimately positively impact student achievement.

**Student Achievement Goal:** RMSEL students and staff will demonstrate responsibility in service of high engagement and academic excellence.

**Rationale:** In the 2013-14 EL Implementation Review, the area of Fostering Character was indicated as an area of need for RMSEL. Throughout our 22-year history, RMSEL has clearly defined our relational character values, but we have not clearly defined habits of scholarship. We believe that the place to start with identifying habits of scholarship is to define a keystone habit for students and staff, outlining specific success criteria and leadership actions that will propel our work defining habits of scholarship forward.

This school year during crew, class, learning expeditions, and crew trips, we will focus on building the habit of responsibility with our student body. By focusing on the creation of the “keystone habit” tied to responsibility, we will have a greater impact on the quality of student work,
which impacts student growth and development. Our staff is excited to embark on this work supporting the deep integration of character and academic excellence.

As you return to campus this year, you will see a few new faces on campus. Last spring we welcomed new staff to our community. Since that time, our Physical Education Teacher candidate has resigned. We were fortunate to have a diverse pool of applicants for the position. Colin Dodunski will be joining our team and school community next school year. Colin has 14 years of teaching experience with grades K-8 at Stanley British Primary in Denver, CO. Colin has also worked with high school students and professional athletes as a hockey coach. We are fortunate to have Colin join our team and look forward to the wealth of knowledge he will bring to our physical education and fitness programs.

Also, when you get to school on August 18th, you will be greeted by a former familiar face. Marie Penny has rejoined our team in the position of part-time administrative assistant in the office. Marie missed her experience at RMSEL and working in a school environment. When we posted for the position, she was eager for the opportunity to once again join our staff.

This Friday, each family will participate in Registration. The hours are 7:00 a.m. thru 12:00 noon and 1:00-6:00 p.m. Prior to coming to RMSEL on Friday, your family should have completed the online portion of registration (https://rmselapplication.com/apply/enroll.php). To be as efficient as possible during registration, please print and completed all required forms. Unfortunately, I will miss you this Friday at registration. I have once again qualified to race in the Leadville Trail 100 MTB race. The “race across the sky” requires an annual mandatory medical check-in on Friday between 7-10 am. This is an amazing race with athletes from around the world, as well as our own regional athletes. It is an amazing opportunity each year, but falls at the dawn of a new school year. I look forward to seeing you next week or on the first day of school.

Sincerely,

Chad