Dear RMSEL Parent Community,

As the first trimester came to a close, I began to reflect on the number of amazing experiences in the first twelve weeks of school this year connected to the implementation of our new Fitness Program. To this point in the school year, most of my observations have been first hand interactions with students during class; hearing the students cheer on their crew mates, push to exhaustion to set a new personal best in the mile run, or learn new movements asking questions and trying something they may have never tried before. These types of interactions truly set a focused tone to the day that is connected to learning-centered behaviors in the classroom. A week ago, I had the opportunity to serve as a substitute teacher in the middle school for the first half of the day. We went from Fitness into Science class for the next period. Once again, I observed a difference in the level of attentiveness and engagement that is at times absent in 8th grade students with a substitute lesson plan.

Increasing personal health and overall wellness is our number one objective in implementing daily fitness. Personal health and wellness has a direct correlation to other school metrics such as daily attendance and discipline. I wanted to spot check where we are at after the first trimester and the results are astounding.

- Student Attendance is up 10.04% from the 17-18 school year to the 18-19 school year over the same number of days in first trimester. Students are in class as an overall population 10% more this year than last. WOW!
- Student Behavioral Incidents are down 10.25% from the 17-18 school year to the 18-19 school year over the same number of days in first trimester!
- Even more astounding is the number of Out of School Suspensions is down 36% from the 17-18 school year to the 18-19 school year!

I want to thank our dedicated team of professional teachers in their willingness to embrace something new and outside of the traditional box in pursuit of supporting students. I also want to thank our parent community who has embraced and supported the implementation of fitness. Finally, I have to thank and lift up the investment of our students who are truly pushing themselves to grow and strive for personal best in developing life-long healthy habits.
Veteran’s Day Appreciation

Abraham Lincoln stated, “Upon the subject of education, not presuming to dictate any plan or system respecting it, I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people can be engaged in.” This is one of my favorite quotes about the preservation of education within our constitutional republic. On Veteran’s Day, this always strikes me as one of the many freedoms that the men and women who served or are currently serving our country are striving to protect. Each school year, our students are afforded the opportunity to write to a friend, family member, and/or anonymous veteran, sharing appreciation for their service. Today our students shared 375 messages of appreciation to veterans in our community.

Each and every year this is a reminder and day of reflection for me personally; my great-grandfather served in World War II and lost his leg in service to our country, receiving the Purple Heart. I am fortunate to be the oldest grandchild and got to spend many years with my great-grandfather. Upon his return from service, countless surgeries, and the fitting of a prosthetic leg, he went on to work for the Ford Motor Company on the assembly line until retirement. I have fond memories of bass fishing, holidays, and Friday night dinners. When we went to Friday night dinners I was always struck that once my great grandmother passed away, he removed his handicap plaque from the car rearview mirror and always parked away from the main door. One day I asked him about it, and he simply said, “there are people worse off than me that need those spaces.” I think simple statements like this embody the spirit of the greatest generation and the values that today are still alive and well in the men and women that sacrifice and serve to protect the freedoms of our country. These values embody who we are as country. The Statue of Liberty reads “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free…send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp…” Senator Ben Sasse in his latest book (Them – Why We Hate Each Other and How to Heal) shares that “America is something different, America is an idea – it is a creed. The American idea is a commitment to the universal human dignity of persons everywhere. That is what America is. The millions of people who braved dangers of every sort to come to our shores: they believed in that idea of universal human dignity. That’s why they are Americans.” I am truly thankful to our veterans and active duty members of the armed services who protect our freedoms.

K-8 Trimester Progress Reports

Progress reports will be distributed by crew leaders for students to take home on Wednesday afternoon. Please provide time to dig into your child’s Progress Report. Each corresponding standard will have a final term grade. If you would like to understand how your child’s teacher calculated this final grade, you can log into your Infinite Campus Parent Portal and view corresponding assignments, projects, and assessments. If you have any questions regarding your child’s Progress Report, do not hesitate to contact the teacher directly and schedule a conference or phone call.

Colorado Gives Day – December 4, 2018

The RMSEL District Accountability Committee (DAC) has worked around the clock to receive eligibility to participate in the statewide day of giving this year. Colorado Gives Day is December 4, 2018, only 19 days away! Attached is the link to our Colorado Gives Day custom URL (https://www.coloradogives.org/RMSEL/overview). You can also link directly to the site from the front page of the RMSEL website. You can log on today and schedule your donation accordingly if
you would like to get a jump on the process. We appreciate the support of DAC and community-wide fundraising. One hundred percent of fundraising is allocated to Instructional Support Resources, every dollar donated directly impacts programing and student learning at RMSEL. We will send out weekly reminders regarding Colorado Gives Day over the next month, please feel free to share the link with anyone and everyone that may be interested in supporting RMSEL!

Sincerely,

Chad