Dear RMSEL Parent Community,

In the fall of 1988, I sat in Ms. Flarida’s Kindergarten Classroom at Louisa Wright Elementary School in Lebanon, Ohio. Each grade level was set up as a pod of four classrooms with a teacher workroom in the center of the four rooms. As curious kids we always wondered, “what was in the workroom?” On Tuesday, November 8, 1988, our class was allowed to enter the workroom which our teachers set up as a mock voting booth and we each got to vote for president. I share this as our teachers found it important to expose our kindergarten class to civic engagement at an early age. Our civic responsibility in our republic is to be an informed citizen and vote. In 1988 we were voting between Michael Dukakis and George H.W. Bush. This past week, no matter where we stand politically, we can all respect the humility and civility which George H.W. Bush brought to the office of President. Upon his departure from the office of President, he left a note for incoming President Bill Clinton that read, “When I walked into this office just now I felt the same sense of wonder and respect that I felt four years ago. I know you will feel that, too. I wish you great happiness here. I never felt the loneliness some Presidents have described. There will be very tough times; made even more difficult by the criticism that you may not think is fair. I’m not a very good one to give you advice; but just don’t let critics discourage you or push you off course. You will be our President when you read this note. I wish you well. I wish your family well. Your success is now our country’s success. I am rooting hard for you. Good Luck – George.”

Unfortunately, we have reached a time in which media is more about likes, shares, and fostering discontent than a national conversation about how to move forward. This resentment has led to polarization of our country, as identity is being constructed around politics and not civics. In Senator Sasses’ recent publication, he shared, “Let’s start here: turn off the television. Log out of Twitter or Facebook. Put your smartphone in a drawer. Go outside and throw a ball with your son or daughter. Read a book together. Bake cookies and take them to the new family that just moved in across the street. Sign up for a shift at the animal shelter. This is where the action is. It’s not in Washington. It’s not on Instagram. Real, rich, meaningful life is local. It’s face-to-face, shoulder-to-shoulder, hand in hand. Start here, now.”

Today our nation is recognizing a National Day of Mourning for the loss of a patriot and statesman who, in passing the torch from one president to the next, demonstrated humility and faith in our construction as a nation. Let’s not let this pass as just another day, but reflect on each of our own capacity as “we the people” to change the tenor of our dialogue; let’s start local! Former Senator Joe Donnelly shared, “I hear from everybody, and they say ‘Joe,’ nowhere but in Washington do they think not working together makes sense. We are not hired to fight.” “We” will not always agree but the act of engaged thoughtful conversation will define our strength as we move forward.
Colorado Gives Day Update

Thank you to our RMSEL community! Yesterday, approximately 100 RMSEL families and friends made one-time or recurring donations through Colorado Gives, pledged money, or made direct donations to the school. Together, we raised nearly $42,000 for RMSEL. On top of that success, RMSEL will receive a portion of the Colorado Gives Incentive Fund to be distributed at the end of December.

We cannot thank you enough for your support. Every dollar raised goes directly to elevating student learning.

If you were unable to give yesterday but would like to support RMSEL, our Colorado Gives site is now permanently open. You can give to RMSEL at any time throughout the year, or schedule donations on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual basis.

Moving forward, we're adding fundraising pages to our Colorado Gives site. Each page will focus on a specific program at RMSEL: adventure, crew fitness, high school science, art, and technology. Continue to watch this site each week to learn about these fundraising campaigns and how you can continue to help our amazing school.

If you have the opportunity, please extend a huge thank you to the members of the District Accountability Committee who worked to make this fundraiser such a success. At times, they were working around the clock to make sure we were up and running to participate.

Upcoming Events – Elevate Student Learning

Make sure to mark your calendars for our winter celebrations and demonstration of student learning over the next month. You are welcome to attend events even if your child is not in the same school level. If you have the opportunity to swing by for even a brief portion of time, I can ensure you it will be the highlight of your day!

Lower School Exhibition Night – 12.06.2018
Middle School Exhibition Night – 12.13.2018
High School Showcase – 12.20.2018

Please note that all evening events at RMSEL always begin at 5:30

January Re-enrollment

Please mark your calendars for re-enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year. Recommitments will be released to families who are current with all payments for the current school year on January 7, 2019 and due on January 11, 2019. Recommitments will not be extended to any family with an outstanding balance; please make sure to review your current school invoice and make payment accordingly. The recommitment process is required to calculate openings for the 2019-2020 school lottery, which closes on January 31, 2019 at midnight.
Chat with Chad

On Monday, December 10, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. we will gather in the community room for our quarterly community conversation. “Chat with Chad” is an opportunity to ask questions, address concerns, review systems and structures, celebrate student success, and connect as a community around all the aspects that make RMSEL an amazing place to learn and grow! We don’t have a specified end time, so come join us for part or all of the conversation. I look forward to seeing any of you that can make it out.

Sincerely,

Chad