Dear RMSEL Parent Community,

I am excited to share with you a goal of our community this school year to “Elevate Student Learning.” In 2001, Jim Collins authored *Good to Great – Why Some Companies Make the Leap and Other’s Don’t*, which became a research text for organizational success and change. In his text he states, “greatness is not a function of circumstance, greatness it turns out, is largely a matter of conscious choice and discipline.” To be great and to pursue greatness for our students is a choice and requires discipline on our behalf to continuously work to elevate our learning. At RMSEL, we are afforded countless opportunities as a community and our students do excel, however, to accept the present as greatness would mean that we have achieved our ultimate goal to advance student learning and that is simply not the case.

This school year, with the support of the District Accountability Committee (DAC), Crew Parents, and Staff, we are focused on building community through the elevation of student learning. The process of elevating student learning is to build upon the work currently taking place in the classroom and provide support and resources to take each product to the next level. This type of elevation can happen in a number of ways across our K-12 community. In first grade, students are studying the creation of their own robot. During this expedition they get to build, tinker, think, and explain their process as a learner. To elevate this work, the crew recently traveled to the Craftsman and Apprentice Workshop for fieldwork. This was an awesome experience for students, but to attend multiple times is cost prohibitive on our fieldwork budget. To continue this work in the classroom, parents can collaborate with the teacher and crew parent to recreate this workshop in the classroom, providing tools, materials, and volunteering to help students in small groups. In addition to Lower School, I recently reviewed a proposal to elevate our middle school linear Algebra unit by creating Stained Glass Windows in the classroom. Students will be required to write equations and design their own window, upon the completion of their design they will construct their window and display it on campus.

These examples are just a few of many that we are looking forward to supporting this year. As a community, this provides parents and students the opportunity to engage in learning and build relationships with other families. It also centralizes the importance of this community and that is at all times to focus on supporting student learning and working toward greatness. I look forward to more projects like this throughout the school year.

**Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST)**

At the beginning of last year, I shared our intent to apply for a statewide BEST grant for the renovation of our school campus. We have been located in the Ash Grove facility since 2000 and have
recently worked to extend our lease for an additional 30 years. This lease extension is favorable as our campus location is optimal in our shared district structure. Last year, we worked to negotiate the terms of our lease extension in preparation for our grant application this year.

In the next month, we will be hiring an Owner’s Representative to work with our team to apply for the grant and design a master plan for campus renovation. This is very exciting for our team, as this process will afford us the opportunity to create an architectural design for campus along with a corresponding construction budget.

This information is public and available for view on our website, if you are interested in taking a look into where we are in the process.

http://www.rmsel.org/Governance/BEST-Grant/index.html

We will continue to update the community as we progress through this exciting process.

**Amendment 73 – CASB Fact Sheet**

This fall you will see a school funding amendment on the ballot. As school officials, we cannot take a position of opposition or support of any ballot measure as we must remain neutral in a professional capacity. Our school board elected to pass a motion stating, “The Expeditionary BOCES feels it is important at this time to share information in regard to the consideration of Amendment 73.” As a school and district, our board will allocate the increase in resources to three key areas if passed: 1) Teacher and Staff Salaries, 2) Continued Professional Development Opportunities, and 3) Safety and Security.

The link below is to the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB), who has provided a non-partisan fact sheets for districts to share at their discretion.


We encourage families to be invested as citizens of our republic when heading to the ballot box in November.

**Lower School Educational Assistant**

We are excited to share that all of our lower school classrooms have an Educational Assistant at this time. We understand that the process of finalizing hires was not optimal as we did not have any applicants for the positions when posted in June of 2018. In an effort to attract applicants in a fully employed economy, we increased the salary by 15% and extended the number of available hours for employment. It is great to have the following staff members join our crew!

Jennifer Baker – Kindergarten
Alexis Maxfield – 1st Grade

Jessie Cramer – 2nd / 3rd Grade
Lillian Leaver - 2nd / 3rd Grade
Samantha Brown – 4th / 5th Grade

Sincerely,
Chad