Dear RMSEL Parent Community,

I am so excited to see the direct correlation and success between our school professional development, spring case study implementation, and fieldwork opportunities. As I shared in my last communication, our teachers planned independent case studies for implementation this semester with the support of our instructional coaches and professional development time on Wednesdays. We are only two days into this week and I am elated to share that our kindergarten students connected with the community and attended the National Western Stock Show, 2/3 crews got out and practiced cross-country skiing, and our senior students attended an art installation in Denver connected to light and sound as they continue to study optics. I appreciate the leadership of our staff and parents in making these experiences possible for students. If you haven’t had a chance yet, take a walk through the lower level west hallway to see all the teacher case studies on display.

Re-Enrollment Celebrations

On December 4 and December 18, 2019, we communicated with families that this year’s recommitment window would begin on January 6 and close on January 10, 2020. Along with this, it was communicated to families that the deposit toward 2020-2021 school year student fees of $300 would be due to secure a spot. As with all school fees, we provide financial aid and work with families who have experienced unexpected hardship, providing payment plan options if they do not meet the guidelines for full or partial financial aid.

We are beyond excited to share that in the past nine years, this is the highest retention rate of students and families at this point in the enrollment process.

- Overall, 91% of RMSEL families have committed to re-enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year.
- We have the opportunity to welcome 28 siblings for next year and 4 children of RMSEL alumni across grades K-12 that have enrollment preference to join their family members and carry on the legacy of excellence at RMSEL.
- In Kindergarten, we currently have 13 siblings and 1 student of an alumni that have enrollment preference to join their family members next year.
- 96.2% of current students in K-5 are returning for next year.
- 100% of current students in 6th grade are returning to join 7th grade.
- 98% of current students in 7th grade are returning for 8th grade.
- And the biggest celebration is for the second time in five years, our 8th to 9th grade transition exceeds our target capacity of 26 returning students.
Our community is stronger and more excited than ever before to continue the legacy of RMSEL as an outstanding founding Expeditionary Learning School!

**Read, Read, Read**

Current news media surrounding education is constantly evolving and changing, however the fundamental aspects to success and achievement remain unchanged. As we continue into the new year, I want to revisit the importance of all students K-12 reading paper-based books every evening with you for at least 30 minutes. Literacy is the gatekeeper to future achievement and the cornerstone in establishing habits as a lifelong learner. In addition to the amazing stories, historical events, and fictional fantasy, the act of establishing this habit enhances students’ ability to read more in the same period of time as they practice. This morning in professional development, we were asked, “What have we, as adult learners, learned recently?” Almost all of our table group responses included the use of literacy to access learning. If you need a book or books to support this at home, please come in and check out resources from our school library. What we model for our children now will impact them for decades. Read, Read, Read!

Sincerely,

Chad