Hello RMSEL 6th Grader and Family,

We hope that your summer is off to a great start! The RMSEL staff is excited to spend next year getting to know your family!

Crew Leaders
Erich Ball is the literacy and humanities teacher for sixth grade. This is his seventh year teaching in Colorado and his second year as a crew leader at RMSEL. He enjoys running, biking, climbing, watching sports, traveling, and walking his dog. Erich is originally from outside of Syracuse, New York, but prefers the mild winters and sunshine in Colorado.

Mackenzie Harper will be joining our staff as the 6th grade Mathematics and Science Crew Leader. Mackenzie has been a teacher and instructional coach since 2016 at Highlands Ranch STEM. Prior to her experience at STEM, Mackenzie was fortunate to conduct her teacher practicum at EL Schools in Durango while attending Fort Lewis. While she has been an outstanding and accomplished STEM teacher she sees the opportunity to connect the work of expeditionary learning to enrich technology in the field of Mathematics and Science.

Summer Homework

**Literacy:** Please continue to have your child practice his/her literacy skills by reading for fun this summer! Aim for 20 minutes/day, 4 days each week. This will ensure that your student will be ready to grapple with the expectations of sixth grade literacy. Keep a log of any books completed this summer as reference for when we return in August.

**Math:** Students will be entering their 6th grade year coming from many different schools and with different math backgrounds. To make sure we are all on the same page and ready to jump into 6th grade material, it is expected that all students demonstrate competency with the following foundational skills in order to begin the year:

- Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers
- Addition, subtraction, and multiplication with decimals
- Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and simplification of fractions

Community Service Hours
All sixth graders at RMSEL will be asked to complete **ten hours** of community service outside of school service projects. Your child may complete community service activities during the summer to count toward their school service hours. All service hours must be completed by the end of February. More details will be shared you after the school year begins.

Sixth Grade Meet and Greet
We have a combination of returning RMSEL families and new families joining our crews this year! We are working with our Crew Parents to organize a picnic and meet and greet for all sixth grade families and crew leaders. Please watch for an email communication that will be sent as details are finalized.
**Gear List Highlights**
At RMSEL, we spend a great deal of time in the field. This can include both urban and outdoor settings. In order for your child to be well prepared and safe, they need to have the items below in their closets (make sure gear still fits) by the start of the school year.

- Rain Jacket – waterproof
- 2 one-liter water bottles
- Sturdy shoes for hiking / full days of walking (hiking boots or trail runners with traction)
- Non-cotton warm layer (fleece or wool sweater)
- Non-cotton athletic or hiking pants (no cotton sweatpants or jeans)
- Base layers (top and bottom)
- Hiking backpack with chest and/or hip straps (this can also be used as a school backpack)

These items are part of the larger gear list for our first trip. The items above are the ones we recommend investing in since they will make the most difference in your child’s comfort in the field.

**Class Supply List**
Throughout the year we expect students to develop and enhance their organizational skills by keeping track of assignments and homework. Learning to manage time, materials, and organize work takes on greater significance in the middle grades. We ask that you purchase the supplies on the list attached, and bring them on the first day of school. Students in sixth grade will be assigned a locker to store supplies and personal items during the school day.

**Important Dates**
Please ensure that you add the following dates to your calendar. A full calendar for 2019-2020 is located on the RMSEL website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Day of School</td>
<td>August 12th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back to School Night</td>
<td>August 21st at 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor Day (no school)</td>
<td>September 2nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introductory Camping Trip</td>
<td>September 4th-6th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Crew Trip</td>
<td>September 22nd-27th (please note the Sunday departure)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal-Setting, Student-Led Conferences</td>
<td>October 10th-11th</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(all students are required to attend with a parent/family member)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fall Break (no school)</th>
<th>October 21st-25th</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development Day (no school)</td>
<td>October 28th</td>
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Thank you for your attention to this lengthy communication. Please contact us at eball@rmsel.org or mharper@rmsel.org if you have any questions. We will be traveling quite a bit this summer but do plan to check email every few weeks. We hope you enjoy the sunny summer months and look forward to meeting you in August!

_Erich Ball and Mackenzie Harper_
_Sixth Grade Crew Leaders_
RMSEL 6th Grade Supply List

Individual Supplies

- 2 inch D-ring Binder with Clear Cover Insert (white)
  - Please make sure your binder has a clear front and a clear spine so that we can slide pictures and name cards into them.
- 75-100 Clear Plastic Page Protectors
- 1 Pack Of 10 Dividers
- Accordion Folder / Binder Combo With Zipper and 4 (or more) Folder Pockets Please try to avoid 4 inches (or wider). They tend to be harder for kids to pack in backpacks.
- Homework/Day Planner (RMSEL planner preferred; available at registration) If you choose one that is not from RMSEL, please make sure that the spaces for each day are big enough to accommodate notes about homework for each class.
- Pencil Pouch
- 24+ Pencils (wood or mechanical)
- 24 Colored Pencils (Prismacolor or art quality preferred)
- 4 Lined Composition Notebooks (sewn bindings only)
- 2 Graph Composition Notebooks (sewn bindings only)
- Headphones/earbuds aux connection (must be compatible with laptop)

Crew Supplies

- 1 Box Kleenex/Tissue (boys)
- 1 Roll Paper Towels (girls)
- 1 Package Dry Erase (Expo) Markers 4+ (boys)
- Clorox/Disinfecting Wipes for Surfaces (girls)
- 24+ Pencils (all)

Supplies to Keep At Home

- Pencils
- Lined Notebook Paper (filler paper)
- Internet Access

Optional Personal Supplies (not required)

- Handheld Pencil Sharpener (mechanical)
- Magic Rub Erasers
- Personal Laptop (Chromebook recommended) with Keyboard - (School owned devices will also be available)