

From the Desk of the Principal

To: Parents & Guardians

Date: January 5, 2025

Welcome Back to school & Happy New Year to you, parents, guardians, and students!

As we begin the 3rd quarter and start of 2025, I am looking forward to seeing and reconnecting in person with all of my students, teachers, and staff after a well-deserved break. I believe the faculty and staff will concur with my sentiments that we are excited to continue partnership with you in educating the head, hearts, and hands of the children that you have given us the privilege to help nurture. Know that we (your administrators and teachers) accept your trust and wholeheartedly embrace the awesome responsibility.

The following are the pertinent updates and reminders for you this first week of school:

End of Second Quarter Updates:

Student Reports: Just a reminder to please be patient with your teachers regarding 2nd Quarter reports as they need time to complete grading and reporting for the period. Please be reminded that you will have another opportunity to meet and conference with the teachers about your students' overall 2nd Quarter performance. They will share Report Cards along with MAP assessment results.

Parent-Teacher Conference (PTC)-January 22 & 23: I encourage you to save time on your calendar, Wednesday, 1/22 or Thursday, 1/23 to meet in person and dialogue with the teachers about your student's progress. Please expect further communication from the office and/or your child/ren's teachers to ascertain how and when you can make your appointment.

If you are new to our school, please take note of RMES 2nd Quarter PTC arrangement, as the first day, Wednesday, 1/22, will be a half-day school session, up to 12:15 p.m., the second day, Thursday, 1/23, students will have full-day school (with dismissal at 3:30pm), while teachers will have regular school in the morning and Parent-Teacher Conferences in the afternoon, starting at 1:00 p.m. Be aware that while classroom teachers conduct conferences, faculty & students from Andrews University Dept. Of Teaching, Learning, & Curriculum will cover the classrooms. Our students and school are blessed by this amazing partnership. If you have questions about PTC, please do not hesitate to contact the homeroom teacher or office.

January Assembly: This Wednesday, Ms. Bell and the 5th graders will lead our first schoolwide assembly. Our guest speaker is Pastor Jacob Gibbs. Students this is a gentle reminder to have your January Nature Challenge ready. For those who forgot--your challenge is to do something creative that involves the theme of Snow. Can be art, poetry, story, any creation of yours. Surprise Mrs. Bailey and the rest of us! Can't wait to see what you come up with.

Principal's Reading Challenge: This is to give everyone, especially our new students and parents, a heads-up about RMES Principal's Reading Challenge (PRC). The primary goal of the PRC is to encourage students to increase and develop a love for leisure reading and participate in the challenge to be the top reader in the class. The reading challenge will run for the entire third quarter, January-March. Students are allowed to read books of their interest and at their grade level, but must maintain a Reading Log indicating the *Book Title, Number of Pages, Start and End Date* of each book. Please be aware that classroom teachers may add other requirements relevant to his/her classroom. Students were encouraged to start selecting and reading their favorite books during the holidays.

MAP Testing: MI Conference has set January 21-31 as the MAP Testing window this quarter. As usual all grades will be taking the test but as customary, start dates may vary based on student's grade level. Students are encouraged to have a good night's rest and a hearty breakfast to help them perform at optimum during testing.

Dress for the Weather: While we are in winter weather and in preparation for the low temperatures here in Michigan, the students need to be dressed appropriately to come to school and for recess. Coats, hats, mittens or gloves, and boots **are a must** for all students this time of year. Please be aware that during the cold season, students are also expected to dress appropriately for indoors, so winter coats are not worn in the classroom. In full transparency, we request your understanding and support for students to be prepared in the event classroom HVAC equipment may malfunction.

Weather-Related School Closing: Reminder that for weather-related closing RMES follows Berrien RESA.

Partnerships with Andrews University Department of TLC and Social Work: We are so grateful for our connection and partnerships with Andrews University. This semester two students from the Teaching, Learning, and Curriculum department will join our team at RMES for their student teaching internship. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Bianca Loss, who will be in the 4th grade under Mrs. Kelly's mentorship and Mr. Andrew Todd, who will be working in the 6th grade with Mr. Swackhamer as his mentor teacher. Ms. Loss and Mr. Todd are very familiar with our school and many of the students as they have done various aspects of their fieldwork in our building during their four-year journey at the University. Please continue to support and make our student teachers and social work interns, Mr. Nathan and Ms. Osei feel welcome.

RMES January Prayer Calendar: We continue to pray for our students one child at a time, each day. This week I have included the names from January 1st. **Please lift-up each one on the Prayer Calendar this week (1/1 – 1/11)** are: *Ariana H (7), Austin (1), Kara (4), Kate (6), Claire (8), Juliesia (4), Nathan H (4), Samuel H (6), Andrew (4), Amelia (K), Cassia (7).*

RMES/PMC Grow Group: We continue to invite you to consider joining us on Thursdays, 8:15AM to pray for our students. When you can, please meet us in the Extend Ed Room. Look forward to seeing you.

Tuition Payment: This is a gentle reminder that tuition payment is due on the 25th of each month. Please contact Mrs. Giddings to discuss your tuition payment or use the Touch Net option. Thank you for being faithful patrons.

Important Dates & Events to Remember:

- January 6-- Principal's Reading Challenge begins
- January 8 – Assembly
- January 20 – NO SCHOOL-Dr. Martin Luther King Day
- January 21-31 – MAP Testing
- January 22-23 – Parent-Teacher Conference
- January 22 – Dismissal at 12:15pm with Extend Ed
- January 23 – Dismissal at 3:30pm with Extend Ed
- February–Black History Month
- February 10-14—Student Led Week of Prayer by Mr. Swackhamer & Grade 6
- February Annual Family Engagement & Literacy Event (Coordinators-Title 1 Teacher, ELA Teacher and H&S Leader)
- March 3-4 – RMES Accreditation Visit

OUR THEME: **This is My Father's World**

OUR TEXT: ***"How many are your works O Lord; in wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures."*— Psalm 104:24.**

In His service,

Dr. Savory