



FIELD NOTES

August 13, 2025

Tiffany's Corner

Click [here](#) to access Tiffany's latest communication to RMSEL parents. These communications are posted to RMSEL's website, under the News link on the home page.

Important Dates

- **Aug 14** Back to School Night **5:30 pm (4-6, 9-12)**
- **Aug 14** Back to School Night **6:30 pm (K-3, 7-8)**
- **Aug 18** High School Crew Trip
- **Aug 21** Ask a Crew Parent **3-6 pm**
- **Aug 21** DAC Meeting RM 201 **3:45 pm - 4:45 pm**
- **Aug 25** 7/8 Crew Trip
- **Aug 29** Lost and Found Clean Out
- **Sept 1** Labor Day - No School
- **Sept 4** Open House **8 am**
- **Sept 4** Picture Day
- **Sept 5** PTSC Meeting, **8-9 am**
- **Sept 5** RMSEL Carnival, **5-8 pm**
- **Sept 7** 6 th Grade Crew Trip

Medication Deadline

In order to have adequate time for preparation of student medications and paperwork for crew trips, the following deadlines have been established for turning in medications for trips to the office. Please remember that all medication requires a completed and signed (by the physician) medication form. Medication must be in the **original, labeled container, with the student's name, dosage instructions, and expiration date.** Medications cannot be accepted after the stated deadline.



- **Aug 22** Grade 6
- **Aug 29** Grades 2-3
- **Sep 5** Grades 4-5
- **Sep 19** Grades K-1

Back to School Night

Parents are invited to attend Back to School Night on Thursday, August 14th. This is an opportunity to meet the teacher and gain more information about what to expect in your child's classroom. The schedule is as follows:

- **5:30-6:30 pm – Grades 4-6 and 9-12**
- **6:30-7:30 pm – Grades K-3 and 7-8**

Remember that our parking lot has limited parking, and plan accordingly.

We ask that you be respectful of our neighbors and make sure not to block access to or from their home. Due to limited space in each classroom, we request that children not attend with parents.

Middle School Sports

Hello RMSEL Families,

As we prepare to begin the new school year, I wanted to share important information about our upcoming Fall Sports Season at RMSEL Middle School.

For our more popular sports, we will be offering Open Practices—a great opportunity for students to try out a sport for a few days before officially committing to the team. To participate in Open Practice, students must turn in a completed registration [packet](#), which is attached to this message and also available in the front office.

Fall Sports Season

- Season Dates: August 13 – October 8

Sports Offered:

Girls Volleyball

- Open Practice: August 13–15
- Tryouts: August 18
- Official Practices Begin: Tuesday, August 19

Boys Soccer

- Open Practice: August 13–15
- Official Practices Begin: August 18

Cross Country

- Practices Begin: August 18 at Ash Grove

Ultimate Frisbee

- *Tentative – awaiting final confirmation from coaching staff*

Practice Schedule

Practices are held Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 3:20 PM – 4:30 PM.

Girls Volleyball will also practice on Tuesdays time TBD.

A Parent Meeting will be held after practice on Friday, August 22. It is strongly encouraged that at least one parent or guardian attend.

Games & Competitions

Games are held on weekdays and typically begin between **4:00 PM – 4:30 PM.**

“We are crew, not passengers!”



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A season-ending tournament will follow regular season play. For Cross Country our League championship is **10/9** and the State Championship will be on **10/23**.

Registration & Spirit Wear

Registration Fee: \$225 per sport

Payment Due Date: All registration payments are due by August 22. Failure to submit payment by this date may result in your child being removed from the team.

Optional Spirit Wear (team hoodie and shirt) will be available for purchase at the start of the season for each sport.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to reach out. We're looking forward to a fun and active fall season!"

Thank you!

Carolyn

PTSC



*** **DATE CHANGE** ***

RMSEL K12 Carnival

Friday September 5th, 2025

Food Trucks! Games! Cake Walk! Crafts! and more!

Save time at the gate: click [HERE](#) to preorder your tickets and T-shirts or scan:

If you have already purchased tickets for the previous date and would like a refund, please email ptsc@rmsel.org.

OR you can hold onto your tickets for the new date!



High School Crew Trip Chaperone Meal Signup:

RMSEL has a longstanding tradition of providing meals for our incredible crew leaders, chaperones, and wilderness first responders (WFRs) upon return from a crew trip as tokens of appreciation.

Each adult receives gift cards to one of their favorite restaurants or food stores and favorite beverages. If you'd like to help, please sign up [HERE](#).

Ask a Crew Parent Event

We're excited to invite **both new and existing families** to our upcoming event:

Ask a Crew Parent – a fun and informal gathering designed to build community and share wisdom across grade levels and Crew experiences! Whether you're just starting your RMSEL journey or you've been here for years, this is an excellent opportunity to connect, ask questions, and offer insights.

Parents of all grade levels are encouraged to come, whether you're looking for answers or happy to share what you've learned along the way.



Event Details:

What: Ask a Crew Parent

When: Aug 21st, drop in anytime between 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM

Where: Outdoor Classroom (east side of the building)

Who: All RMSEL families – new & returning

Why: To connect, support each other, and strengthen our school community

This is not a three-hour event—**feel free to come and go anytime during the window** that works best for you. No presentations, no pressure—just relaxed, real conversations about Crew life, Fieldwork, Expeditions, volunteering, and those “I wish I had known...” moments.

We'd love to see you there—come with your questions, your stories, and your Crew spirit!

“We are crew, not passengers!”

PTSC Fundraising



A new school year means new opportunities to support RMSEL! Keep your eye on Field Notes every week for easy, fun ways to raise money for our school, including:

- Monthly dine-outs
- Shopping rewards programs with companies like King Soopers and Oliver's Labels
- Corporate sponsorships
- Fun events

And we would love help on the Fundraising Committee! If you'd like to join us, please email Greg at glestikow@gmail.com.

RMSEL Gear Swap



Who: All RMSEL families & staff

What: Donate your child's gently used, outgrown, or unneeded crew trip gear. Take what you need for free - no donation required to shop!

When: Thursday, August 14, 2025 - during Back to School Night

Where: RMSEL lobby/hallway, next to Natalie's office

Bonus: Can't make it that night? Drop off gear anytime in the labeled bins in the lobby near the front entrance doors.

Community Clean up Success!



Thank you to everyone that attended our first Community Clean Up! There were a total of **69 participants**; 26 families, 32 adults and 37 students.

Special thanks goes to Cody for organizing the tasks and showing up on his day off to supervise the clean up.



Also, a big thank you to Tanis Humes for sourcing the funds for all the materials!



Students can get a service log from their Crew leader to start tracking their volunteer hours. Family members, be sure to log your volunteer hours [here](#).



Girls on the Run is coming to RMSEL Fall of 2025!



Calling all 3-5 grade girls! Join our new team starting in early September. Practices will be twice a week for 75-90 mins, including a GOTR lesson and time for training for the 5K GOTR race in November. Program cost is \$195 for the 10 week session. Registration opens 8/4. The team will meet

on Monday and Wednesdays from 3.00 - 4.30 PM. Please contact Emily Brown for further details emily@estersdenver.com

Volunteer and Bus Driver Certification

All RMSEL volunteers must go through a background screening that includes fingerprint processing through the CBI and FBI. Fingerprinting only has to be done one time; it does not have to be renewed annually. You may access the Volunteer Packet at this [link](#) on our website. Bus driver certification is required before volunteers may drive RMSEL vehicles for trips. Information for getting bus driver certification is included in the volunteer packet.

To complete your volunteer packet:

- Submit your fingerprint / background check
- Complete the volunteer packet paperwork

To be bus certified you must also complete these steps.

- Take the online bus driving tests
- Sign up for the road test

If you have any questions, please contact the office at (303)759-2076.

Volunteer Hours

Please use this [form](#) to log your volunteer hours for RMSEL. Add an entry each time you volunteer so we can accumulate an itemized record of each family's hours, and the overall community's service hours. As a reminder, each family is asked to give 20 hours per family annually. Thank you for modeling the Expeditionary Learning design principles of service and compassion for our students.

Student Attendance

You may email Gemma Marshall gmarshall@gmail.com with any concerns about attendance. If your child is absent from school, you may call the attendance line no later than 8:30 am, at **303-759-2076** and press "1" to notify the office, or email Gemma. Unverified absences will be marked as unexcused.

RMSEL Office Hours

The RMSEL office is open daily from **7:30 am until 3:30 pm.** All visitors to the campus must ring the doorbell for access and present a driver's license for identification at the office.



Clothing Donation Bin at RMSEL

85% of textile waste ends up in landfills, which equates to an astounding 22+ BILLION POUNDS of unnecessary dumping of clothes, shoes, and textiles into landfills each year. You can donate textiles (sheets, blankets, clothes, backpacks, jackets, stuffed animals, shoes, tablecloths, towels, purses, bags, etc.) Items should be bagged and dropped in our clothes bin located near the west end of the parking lot.

Lost & Found Update

Missing items? Check out the lost & found area located at the bottom of the stairwell to the left of the main door. The lost & found area is emptied prior to every school break or long weekend. Here are the clean out dates for the remainder of the school year: **Aug 29th, Sep 19th** (after conferences), **Oct 10th, Oct 31st, November 21st, December 19th, January 16th, January 30th, February 20th** (after conferences) **March 20th, April 17th, May 8th and May 19th.**

New Address or Email?

If you have recently moved or changed your preferred email address, please notify the office of the change. New addresses require a new proof of residency, usually a copy of a utility or water bill. Updating your email address is critical since the majority of RMSEL's parent communications take place via email blasts. Please email Natalie at nnewton@rmsel.org.



Belay Fund

At RMSEL, we are aware that a variety of factors, combined with changes in the economic climate, can cause financial difficulties for families. Expenses that might contribute to hardship include the fieldwork and landmark trip fees at RMSEL. No child should ever be denied access to RMSEL's program because of financial constraints. We are fortunate to have families in our community who have both the means and the heart to provide support for students in this situation. This relationship is formalized through the RMSEL Belay Fund.

As those of you who have some experience in rock climbing know, when you are climbing, there are others who are on the ground handling your safety line.

These folks are "on belay" for you. Our Belay Fund is available to provide some financial support for families who need it.

Please click [here](#) to learn how to apply for Belay Fund scholarships or donate to the Belay Fund.

My RMSEL Experience

Please complete this [short questionnaire](#) if you would like to share your RMSEL experiences for marketing purposes. Your quotes will be shared through our brochures and on our website to spread the word about the magic of RMSEL.

RMSEL Spirit Wear Online Store

Our online spirit wear store is open! Click [here](#) to shop the store. You'll find everything from t-shirts and hoodies to crew trip essentials. New items and designs will be added monthly, so check back often.

All items are shipped directly to customers, and RMSEL receives a portion of every sale. Nalgene water bottles may be purchased from Natalie in the office, and are \$13 each.