



Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning

"As a K-12 community, the mission of the Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning (RMSEL) is to empower students and staff to be learners, thinkers, citizens, and explorers engaged in and inspired by the real world. We are crew, not passengers."

July 30th, 2025: Message from the Executive Director

Dear RMSEL Community,

The staff and I are thrilled to kick off the school year with your students and our supportive families. Today, we head to Curt Gowdy State Park for a staff retreat focused on team-building and preparing for safe, adventurous crew trips that reflect Expeditionary Learning principles. Our team will be well-equipped to guide students through experiences that challenge them, build connections, and create lasting memories.

Over the next week and a half, staff will focus on strategies that foster belonging and align with core Expeditionary Learning practices. We're also partnering closely with our new EL School Designer, Linnea Kizsan, to ensure consistent, high-quality learning experiences that support both character development and academic excellence. As shared for the 2024–25 school year, staff will implement crew-building and student-empowerment strategies rooted in Dr. Jane Nelsen's Positive Discipline approach.

We've listened closely to community feedback and are pumped to launch an incredible school year in which students feel empowered to embody the RMSEL character values of responsibility, integrity, courage, compassion, and discipline.

Please read the updates below to prepare for the first day of school.

First Day of School Expectations

Since RMSEL has a K-12 model, we will welcome students back over two days:

- **1st Grade-12th Grade – August 11th, 2025**
- **Kindergarten – August 13th, 2025**

The main entry doors at the east end of the school parking lot are the only access points for all kids. The building opens to students at 7:30 am (M/T/Th/Fr) and 8:30 am (W). We urge students to arrive on time, starting at these designated hours, since it gives them up to fifteen minutes to get settled in, connect with other crew members, and prepare for class. A tardy slip must be obtained from the office for each student who arrives after the start of class. If a student arrives on campus late more than once, administrative action will be taken. See RMSEL absence policy [here](#).

School hours:

Grades 9-12: M, T, Th, F 7:40 am – 3:10 pm W only 8:40 am – 3:10 pm

Grades 7-8: M, T, Th, F 7:40 am – 3:00 pm W only 8:40 am – 3:00 pm

Grades K-6: M, T, Th, F 7:45 am – 3:00 pm W only 8:45 am – 3:00 pm

Lunch

The first serving of school lunch is free to all students each day. If a student requests a second or third serving on any given day, the student's account will be charged. Lunch is served in four blocks of time daily. The lunch block consists of 20 minutes indoors and 20 minutes of outdoor recess time.

- Kindergarten-3rd Grade: 11:35 am - 12:15 pm
- 4th-6th Grade: 12:00-12:40 pm

- 7th-8th Grade: 12:25-1:05 pm
- High School: 11:14 am - 12:04 pm – High school students are permitted to go off-campus for lunch.

Students must be in good academic standing (no NE/LE grades) to participate in off-campus lunch.

End of the Day Dismissal

At the conclusion of the school day, students will be dismissed to the following locations for pick-up. Please pick up your child in their designated location, this helps streamline traffic flow during dismissal.

Kindergarten-5th Grade

- Students will line up with their crew leader at the conclusion of the day at 3:00 pm on the playground.
 - Parents may:
 - Remain in your vehicle in the car line and an administrative team member will walk each student to the car.
 - In the event you need to exit your vehicle, please park in the parking lot and walk to sign your child out from their teacher.
 - All K-5 students are required to be dismissed to a parent/guardian.

6th - 12th Grade Students

- 6th grade students will exit the east doors. Students can wait independently in the pickup area and/or walk/ride home.
 - Parents are encouraged to park alongside Ashgrove Park for 6th grade pickup.
- 7th-8th grade students will exit the east doors and cross Holly St. at the crosswalk to be picked up at Ashgrove Park.
 - Parents are encouraged to park alongside Ashgrove Park for 7th/8th grade pickup.
- High school students are dismissed at 3:10 pm and permitted to exit campus independently.

Parking Lot and Virginia Village Neighborhood

As a community, we need to be good neighbors to those adjacent to the school in Virginia Village. You can expect daily congestion in our parking lot within the first and last fifteen minutes of each school day. We welcome 400 students and their families to our campus daily, commuting from a variety of distances, all to arrive in a brief period of time. We are efficient in moving through the carpool line, often within 10 minutes. During the time of daily congestion, we request that you remain understanding and patient. Also, do not park within a car length of any neighbor's driveway and if you are waiting in line on Holly St. at any time, do not block residential access for community members. We have been fortunate to maintain positive relationships with our neighbors in this community for more than two decades, and we aspire to sustain these relationships for the next two decades.

MEDICATIONS

All medications must be turned in immediately. We must receive all medications by the Friday two weeks prior to the fall crew trip. See the schedule of fall crew trips [here](#).

Back to School Night: 8/14/25 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm

The school-to-home connection is critical to the success of our students. To gain a strong understanding of what is expected at each grade level this upcoming year, we encourage you to thoroughly read the Continuum of Community [Systems and Structures](#) that you will receive for your child's school level. This document contains a vast amount of valuable information to help you start the year. **RMSEL Back to School Night is scheduled for Thursday, August 14th, 2025.** Your crew leader will inform you of your planned time before the first day of school. Back to School Night is scheduled to

begin at 5:00 pm and will conclude promptly at 7:00 pm. During this period, every family has the chance to meet the team of teachers at their specific school level.

Girls on the Run

Girls on the Run Registration opens next week!

Girls on the Run creates a welcoming environment where girls feel like they belong. Girls will learn tangible tools to handle big emotions, communicate their needs, reframe negative self-talk, form healthy friendships, and much more! Over the 10 week program, coaches help girls unlock their unlimited potential. Girls on the Run will start the week of September 8. We will meet at RMSEL on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:15- 4:30. Open to all 3rd, 4th and 5th grade girls. Registration opens August 4th. For more information about the program go to: <https://www.girlsontherunrockies.org/>. Question or want to help coach? Contact Emily Brown, emily@estersdenver.com.

Students' crew assignments will be sent out on Friday, 8/1/25.

In crew,

Tiffany Almon (she, her, hers, and why they matter)

Executive Director, RMSEL