



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."

October 29th, 2025: Message from the Executive Director

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Dear RMSEL Community,

We are excited for our 2nd annual Trunk or Treat event this afternoon from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. I want to give a huge thank you to the volunteers who are decorating their vehicles, donating candy, and helping to organize this community event. I look forward to seeing many of you in our parking lot this afternoon for the fun and community building.

I also want to take a moment to urge all licensed drivers in our community to adhere to traffic laws and drive the 20 mph speed limit on Holly and 5 mph speed limit through our parking lot. We have noticed an uptick in aggressive and unsafe driving, including cars from the RMSEL community running the stop sign at E. Colorado Ave. This puts our students' and families' safety at risk, and that is not okay. Thank you for your attention to this matter and to those who are driving safely consistently.

Please read below for important updates.

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

Executive Director

Update on Personnel

After many years of dedicated service as a parent and a RMSEL employee, **Margaret Bierman, our Director of Finance, will be retiring effective October 31, 2025.** Margaret's commitment to the financial health and stability of RMSEL has been extraordinary, and we are deeply grateful for her contributions to our community.

To ensure a smooth and sustainable transition, we have hired **G and G Consulting** to provide ongoing financial and operational oversight and support. Additionally, we are making several strategic organizational adjustments to strengthen our internal systems and alignment across teams.

- **Bryan Terry** will assume the role of **Director of Community and Culture**, expanding his leadership to include **K-12 discipline and restorative practices**.
- **Lindsay Emery** will step into the role of **Director of Operations**, serving as our in-house point person for **Finance and Accounting, Human Resources, Operations, Special Services, and Accountability**.

Margaret is committed to working closely with both Lindsay and G and G Consulting over the coming months to ensure a seamless handoff of responsibilities and continued operational excellence.

Please join me in expressing our gratitude to Margaret for her years of service and in welcoming Bryan and Lindsay into their new roles. RMSEL is in a strong position to continue its mission of providing meaningful, expeditionary learning experiences for all students.

Halloween Costume, Parade, and Party Reminders

Please work with your child to ensure their costume aligns with school-wide expectations, as we want all of our students to have fun while dressing in appropriate costumes. Students will be asked to change if their costume does not follow these expectations:

- For safety reasons, masks or makeup should not cover the student's face in a manner that makes the student unrecognizable.
- No hard plastic toy or facsimile guns or weapons (swords, play knives, etc.) are allowed.
- Costumes that are overly graphic, promote violence, or otherwise might logically be assumed to be offensive to others are not acceptable.
- Costumes should not violate RMSEL's dress code.
- Costumes should not include items with sound effects, lights, or other components that would disrupt the classroom learning environment.
- If your costume is not clearly addressed by these guidelines but you have concerns as to whether it will be approved, please get pre-approval from one of our directors prior to wearing it to school.

Candy Guidelines:

In order to help our students regulate their moods, bodies, and emotions, we will not allow students, parents, or crew to distribute candy during the school day on 10/31.

Parade:

The Halloween Costume parade will begin at 2:30pm and parents are welcome to line up on the blacktop to create a tunnel for students to walk through. If you plan to enter the building during this time, you will need to get a visitor's badge.

Attendance Reminders

Please read RMSEL Policy JH on what defines an excused absence below and [HERE](#).

Excused absences

The following shall be considered excused absences with adequate documentation and contact of the main office:

1. A student who is temporarily ill or injured, or whose absence is approved by the administrator of the school of attendance on a prearranged basis. Prearranged absences shall be approved for appointments or circumstances of a serious nature only, which cannot be taken care of outside of school hours.
2. A student who is absent for an extended period due to physical, mental, or emotional disability.
3. A student who is pursuing a work-study program or fieldwork under the supervision of the school.
4. A student who is attending any school-sponsored activity or activities of an educational nature with advance approval by the administration.
5. A student who is absent in observance of an established religious holiday.
6. A student who is suspended shall be considered excused.
7. A student whose absence is approved by the executive director at the request of the parent or guardian.

The district may require suitable proof regarding the above exceptions, including written statements from medical sources.

Unexcused absences

An unexcused absence is defined as an absence that is not covered by one of the foregoing exceptions. Unexcused absences may be deemed unacceptable by RMSEL regardless of prior notice or knowledge of the parents. Absences not properly reported by parents are unexcused. Continued absences and/or repeated tardiness may be considered cause for disciplinary action.

In accordance with law, the school may impose academic penalties that relate directly to classes missed while unexcused. The administration shall develop procedures to implement appropriate penalties. Students and parents/guardians may petition the BOCES for exceptions to this policy or the administrative procedures, provided that no exception shall be sustained if the student fails to abide by all requirements imposed by the BOCES as conditions for granting any such exception.

When a student returns to school after a period of absence, a note signed by one of his or her parents should be sent, which indicates that the student was absent with parental permission. The note must contain the parent's full name, the date, and the number of days the student was absent. A parent may also contact the RMSEL Academic Secretary to report student absences. In the event that a student is placed on an attendance contract, the parameters of the contract may require sustainable proof, including written statements from medical sources.

Any student who has been absent from class for six consecutive weeks or more in any one school year, except for excused long-term illness or death, is considered a "dropout" and shall be reported to the Department of Education by the school. However, if the student is in attendance at the end of the school year or enrolled in another school, home study course, or online program, such student is not considered a dropout and shall not be reported.