



4/5 Summer Letter - SY '25-'26

Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning

1700 South Holly Street

Denver, CO 80222

303-759-2076

303-757-7442 (fax)

June 2025

Hello 4th and 5th Grade Families!

We hope you're having an incredible summer spending time with family and friends. We can't wait to hear the stories of family adventures and all the fun times had with friends. We are so excited for this fall when the 4/5 crews will be together for the first time! We wanted to share some information with you now so that you know what is around the corner, as summer always flies by. Expect to find out more closer to August as the details get settled.

Fall Crew Trip Dates: September 22-26, 2025

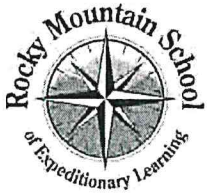
As you are getting ready for the new school year, we wanted to let you get to know us a little bit.

From Enya:

This will be my fifth year at RMSEL, and I couldn't be more excited! I grew up in Colorado Springs and graduated in 2021 with a degree in Inclusive Elementary Education. During my college years, I was fortunate to engage in multiple internships across both urban and rural areas of Colorado, including a CDE-endorsed immersive experience focused on rural education. Outside of the classroom, I spent summers at Camp Chief Ouray, leading backpacking trips and weeklong excursions with children of all ages through the YMCA of the Rockies. Additionally, I've worked closely with the unhoused population in the Denver metro area, an experience that deepened my understanding of resilience, humanity, and compassion. Since joining RMSEL, I've grown tremendously, not only as an educator but also as a lifelong learner. I hold close to my heart the belief that everyone carries a unique light within them, and sharing that light only makes our crew community shine brighter. My co-teacher Haley and I work hard to create a space that is grounded in clear expectations, deep connections, and opportunities for students to apply their learning to real-world experiences. We believe in nurturing compassionate learners who are discovering not just what they know, but who they are. This year, I'll be teaching Literacy to our 4th and 5th grade students and co-leading Expedition with Haley. I'm thrilled to continue this journey with our incredible crew!

From Haley:

I am so excited to be back at RMSEL for my second year of teaching. I grew up in Wilmington, NC and went to college at Appalachian State University. I graduated with a degree in elementary education in December of 2021 and moved straight to rural Alaska where I taught 1st, then 5th grade. This experience built my foundation of being an educator by putting me in many different situations with students of all backgrounds, families, and levels. This past year at RMSEL was such a learning curve and I had so much fun figuring out the ins and outs of



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this job. I am extremely grateful to my teammate Enya for believing in me and helping me succeed at this amazing school. I teach 4th and 5th-grade students math and will continue to collaborate with Enya to make this a rewarding year for your students.

Both crew leaders will hold **scheduled classroom visits on August 8th, 2025**, for 4th and 5th graders to get to know their new crew leader before the start of the school year and swap stories about the summer. This will be a time to bring in school supplies, meet or reconnect with your Crew Leader, and prepare for the school year! We are excited to have students see their new classroom, bring a few special items to share, and learn about what inspires each student. RMSEL and Expeditionary Learning highly value deep connections between teachers, students, and their families. We believe that powerful learning starts with powerful relationships. We look forward to this time with your child; please look for more specific information in your email regarding days and times as we get closer to August.

Included with this letter you'll find a School Supply List and a Summer Learning Plan. ***Please read the summer learning plan, as there are summer readings that will help support your child for our first few Expeditions.***

You're welcome to send any classroom supplies on the first day of school or bring them during the classroom visit, should you choose to attend. Thank you in advance for your generosity! Please feel free to adjust the list to meet your needs. It is not necessary to provide everything on the list, but we do appreciate any supplies that you can contribute.

Email is the best way to get in touch over the summer, although we plan to spend time away from technology - so, it may take us some time to respond! You can reach Enya at ebrass@rmsel.org and Haley at hbolduc@rmsel.org. Enjoy the summer, and we are so thrilled to start our school year together in August!

Enya and Haley



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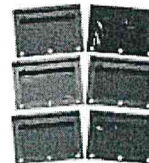
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4th and 5th Grade Crew Supply List

All Crew Supplies will be shared between 2025-2026 Crews and our adopted specialist (Michelle and Alisha).

- ☐ 3-inch D-ring Binder with Clear Cover Insert (white)
*Please make sure your binder has a clear front and spine so that we can insert pictures and name cards
- ☐ 5th Grade Only → 1 inch D-Ring Binder with Clear Cover Insert (white)
- ☐ 100 Clear Plastic Page Protectors
- ☐ Accordion Folder / Binder Combo With Zipper and 4 (or more) Folder Pockets
 - o For Personal Use
- ☐ Pencil Pouch (Fits in a 3-ring binder)
 - o For Personal Use



- ☐ 2 Spiral Lined Composition Notebooks
 - o For Personal Use
- ☐ A pack of highlighters of any color
- ☐ 2 *packages* of 24 pencils (wood or mechanical)
- ☐ 1 package of ziplock bags (gallon or sandwich)
- ☐ 1 package of loose leaf paper (wide ruled preferred)
- ☐ 3 large boxes of Kleenex/Tissue
- ☐ 2 Package Dry Erase (Expo) Markers 4+
- ☐ 2 large Clorox/Disinfecting wipes for surfaces
- ☐ 1 two-pocket folder (any color)
- ☐ 1 pack of ballpoint pens (blue or black)
- ☐ 1 pack of fine-point sharpies (black)
- ☐ 1 pack of Notecards
- ☐ 4th Grade Only → 1 pack of Cardstock Paper
- ☐ 5th Grade Only → One pack of 5 tab dividers
- ☐ Personal Headphones (to be used for testing and other digital materials)
- ☐ 1 pack of erasers
- ☐ 1 pack of post its
- ☐ 1 pack colored pencils
- ☐ 1 pack markers: fat, medium, or thin
- ☐ Glue sticks

Additional Supplies (OPTIONAL)

- ☐ Handheld Pencil Sharpener
- ☐ Magic Rub Erasers
- ☐ Prisma Colored Pencils
- ☐ Eucerin Lotion (for Michelle)

Appreciated Classroom Donations: (OPTIONAL)

- * Favorite books for our classroom libraries
- * Colored Cardstock Paper
- * Any extra supplies
- * Snacks for Students who forgot snack



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My Summer Plan to be Prepared for 4th or 5th Grade

After teaching 4th and 5th grade for multiple years, we have mastered the preparation cycle for entering 4th or 5th grade. This being said, we have created a "Summer Plan" to get you as prepared for 4th and 5th grade as possible. Obviously, please go and enjoy your summer break, but these are some great tools and benchmarks for you to be able to see some of the skills that will be helpful for the beginning of your 4th and 5th grade year. If you get to some of these and you find that your child is unable to complete it, it is not a problem at all. We will continue working on these skills throughout the year!

<u>Upcoming 4th Graders</u>		
Subject Title	Skills Required	Link to Resource (as needed)
Expedition	<p>Required Summer Reading: SeaMan: The Dog who Explored the West with Lewis and Clark by Gail Langer Karwoski .</p> <p>*** Reading this book will help to support background knowledge for our upcoming Expedition about Westward Expansion and Colorado History.</p>	Amazon Link
	<p>Create a Constellation Chart</p> <p>****Go outside to a park, lake, or another outdoor area and observe the night sky. Take note of the stars and how they appear to be connected. Use your observations to create your own Constellation Chart by drawing a pattern of stars and giving it a name. Write a short explanation of your constellation, including the story or meaning behind its shape.</p>	Constellation Video
Literacy	<p>Informative Essay</p> <p>****Using a topic sentence, 3-5 supporting details and a concluding sentence, write an informative piece on the following prompt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If you had one month in school to work on a passion project, what passion project would you want to work on? How would you divide your time to work on this project? Why did you choose this project? 	How to write an informative essay video
	<p>Spelling</p> <p>*** Using the resources linked, pick a list that is challenging for you (but not too challenging) and learn that units words.</p>	4th Grade Spelling List
Math	Multiplication Skills	Multiplication Resource



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	***Basic 1 digit by 1 digit multiplication facts using numbers 1-12	
	<p>Addition and Subtraction Skills</p> <p>***Three digit by 2 and 1 digit subtraction and addition skills using standard algorithms and showing your work.</p>	<u>Addition and Subtraction Resource</u>
Crew Trips/Field Work/Fitness	<p>Crew Trips</p> <p>***Students will be backpacking this fall so the ability to hike 2 miles with a small filled backpack is crucial.</p> <p>*** Students will be biking at [REDACTED] in the Spring, so the ability to bike is crucial.</p>	<u>Kid Friendly Hikes</u>
	<p>Fitness</p> <p>***Students should be able to walk/run one mile in under 20 minutes.</p>	
	<p>Fieldwork/Behaviors</p> <p>***Students should be able to pack their own sleeping bag and duffle bag for Crew Trips.</p> <p>****Students should be able to adhere to rules of an organization or a local area with little to no assistance from adults.</p>	
General Crew and Specialists	<p>Typing</p> <p>***Students should have proficiency in typing paragraphs and familiarity using Google Classroom and other Online Resources.</p>	<u>Classroom Zen Typing</u> <u>Typing Tests</u>
	<p>Conflict Management</p> <p>***Students should be able to resolve conflict by speaking to one another, advocating for their needs before they become a problem, and stepping away as needed.</p>	
	<p>Initiative and Perseverance Mindset</p> <p>***Students should take initiative and become accountable for their own learning by keeping track of their own belongings, emailing teachers when questions arise, and holding each other and themselves accountable.</p>	

Portfolio	<p>Character Letter</p> <p>***Students will need a total of 2 (one from 4th grade and one from 5th grade) character letters written on their behalf.</p>	<p><u>Character Letter Template</u></p> <p>Due November 14th</p>
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	<p>Service Project</p> <p>***Students will need 10 hours of an outside service project completed for the 25-26 school year. This will need to be documented through a picture or a brochure. This can be started over the summer!</p>	<p><u>Service Project Template</u></p> <p>Due February 2nd</p>
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<u>Upcoming 5th Graders</u>		
Subject Title	Skills Required	Link to Resource (as needed)
Expedition	<p>Required Summer Reading: SeaMan: The Dog who Explored the West with Lewis and Clark by Gail Langer Karwoski .</p> <p>AND Your Choice of at least 1:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse (mild)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Race to the Sun (medium)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rez Dogs (medium)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Everything You wanted to know about Indians but were Afraid to Ask: Young Readers Edition (spicy)</p> <p>(all of these stories are from the perspectives of Natives in/around Colorado and provide a diverse perspective of Westward Expansion and Colorado History. The spicy version is if you and or your child would like to have deeper conversations regarding historical events of Native Americans.)</p> <p>*** Reading these books will help to support background knowledge for our upcoming Expedition about Westward Expansion and Colorado History.</p>	<p>Required :Amazon Link</p> <p>Choice:</p> <p>In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse</p> <p>Race to the Sun</p> <p>Rez Dogs</p> <p>Everything You Wanted to Know about Indians</p>
	<p>Create a Constellation Chart</p> <p>****Go outside to a park, lake, or another outdoor area and observe the night sky. Take note of the stars and how they appear to be connected. Use your observations to create your own Constellation Chart by drawing a pattern of stars and giving it a name. Write a short explanation of your constellation, including the story or meaning behind its shape.</p>	<p><u>Constellation Video</u></p>
Literacy	<p>Required Summer Writing for Portfolio Informative Essay</p> <p>****In a typed or handwritten (blue</p>	<p><u>How to write an informative essay video</u></p>



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	handwriting) 3 paragraphs (Using a topic sentence, 3-5 supporting details and a concluding sentence for each paragraph) write an informative piece on the following prompt: - If you had one month in school to work on a passion project, what passion project would you want to work on? How would you divide your time to work on this project? Why did you choose this project?	
	Spelling *** Using the resources linked, pick a list that is challenging for you (but not too challenging) and learn that units words.	5th Grade Spelling Lists
Math	Multiplication ***Proficiency in solving basic, single digit, two digit and up to three digit multiplication problems while using the standard algorithm.	Multiplication Practice
	Division ****Ability to divide 1 and 2 digit numbers by 1 digit numbers.	Division Practice
Crew Trips/Field Work/Fitness	Crew Trips ***Students will be backpacking this fall so the ability to hike 3 miles with a medium filled backpack is crucial. ***Students will be sailing this spring, so exposure to water this summer is vital. Students should be able to swim 4 laps in a pool and tread water for 2 minutes without touching the floor of the swimming pool.	Kid Friendly Hikes Swimming Lessons in Denver
	Fitness ***Students should be able to walk/run one mile in under 15 minutes.	
	Fieldwork/Behaviors ***Students should be able to pack their own sleeping bag and duffle bag for Crew Trips. ****Students should be able to adhere to rules of an organization or a local area with little to no assistance from adults.	
General Crew and Specialists	Typing ***Students should have proficiency in typing multiple paragraphs using their whole hand and familiarity using Google Classroom and other Online Resources.	Classroom Zen Typing Typing Tests



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	<p>Conflict Management</p> <p>***Students should be able to resolve conflict by speaking to one another in an empathetic and understanding tone, advocating for their needs before they become a problem, and stepping away as needed.</p>	
	<p>Initiative and Perseverance Mindset</p> <p>***Students should take initiative and become accountable leaders for their own and other's learning by keeping track of their own belongings, emailing teachers when questions arise, and holding each other and themselves accountable.</p>	
Portfolio	<p>Character Letter</p> <p>***Students will need a total of 2 (one from 4th grade and one from 5th grade) character letters written on their behalf.</p>	<p><u>Character Letter Template</u></p> <p>Due November 14th</p>
	<p>Service Project</p> <p>***Students will need 10 hours of an outside service project completed for the 25-26 school year. This will need to be documented through a picture or a brochure. This can be started over the summer!</p>	<p><u>Service Project Template</u></p> <p>Due February 2nd</p>

<u>Fun Summer Activities for All</u>		
<u>4th grade families: Get a free museum pass!</u>	<u>Sailing Camp through LAMI</u>	<u>Overnight Summer Program</u>
<u>4th grade families: Free National Park Pass</u>	<u>Day Camp Summer Program</u>	<u>MyDenver Card</u>

VOLUNTEER Registration Process

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www.rmssel.org



We LOVE our Volunteers!

RMSEL's successful programming directly results from all the fantastic volunteers who have helped us whenever we need additional support. These volunteers do several things, such as:

- General Classroom Support
- Fieldwork Group Leader
- Activity Bus Driver
- Crew Trip Attendance

For the safety of our students and staff, all RMSEL volunteers who will have any direct contact with students must first be cleared through our volunteer registration process.

RMSEL Volunteer Packet

Step 1: Fingerprinting and Background Clearance

Step 2: Sign the RMSEL Volunteer Confidentiality Agreement

**If you also want to be a driver -*

Step 3: Provide a copy of your Driver's License

Step 4: Online Test

Step 5: Road Test - CLICK HERE to sign up for your road test on **July 14th & 15th, 2025**

- *Please note: Before signing up for your road test, you must complete your background check, DMV screening, and BOTH online tests.*

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

