



High School Summer Letter - SY 2026-2027

Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning

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Dear RMSEL High School,

Why do we choose to learn and grow at RMSEL?

We are crew, not passengers: In a passenger mentality, school is a place where students show up and go through the motions. With a crew mentality, students build their experience and take the opportunities available to them (while also creating opportunities that were not considered before) and practice thriving. A simple example: A passenger student waits for teachers to "police" their phones and take them away. A crew member proactively has Yondr'd their phone because they know that it is worth not scrolling for a school day. The RMSEL HS experience is NOT a buffet. I.e. it is not a program that you can pick and choose aspects from as a student. The RMSEL HS experience IS a FEAST. It is a curated set of experiences and opportunities that all together produce exceptionally rounded people who are prepared for the next step of their lives. They have become better versions of themselves by embracing these opportunities.

It is time to **lean into AND embrace** the pillars of our program that set us apart as a haven where students' creative and intellectual spirit can thrive.

- We choose to practice being kind to each other and ourselves.
- We choose to be a part of something bigger than ourselves.
- We choose to be inspired and to practice curiosity. We make big things happen.
- We choose to go on expeditions to see the world in an unfiltered, real way.
- We choose to do fitness because at our school everyone should have a healthy body, not just the athletes.
- We choose to have a cell phone-free environment because learning to be present and engaged in your community has far greater value than scrolling for entertainment.
- We choose to avoid ultra-processed foods because this slows our bodies and minds down.
- We choose to be a part of a learning cohort that lifts each other up to achieve greatness.

We want all of our Crew to step into and champion what makes us different. Be bold. Take advantage of the incredible opportunities that RMSEL offers you. Learning to thrive is on purpose.

Sincerely,

The High School Team

Included with this packet are the following resources:

- ❑ [Supplies Needed](#)
- ❑ [Summer fitness plan and log](#) (All four crews are backpacking in the fall and so you need to prepare mentally and physically)

Students come back from summer with:

- ❑ Fitness log signed by parents

[Please take some time to fill out our Spring Trip Feedback Survey](#)