



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 22nd, 2025: Message from the Executive Director

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Dear RMSEL Community,

This week marks the launch of quarter 2 and our staff is kicking off this next chapter of the school year with exciting fieldwork opportunities and intentional planning to provide our students with learning experiences that develop skills within the Expeditionary Learning realms of craftsmanship, complexity, and authenticity. I am proud to share that this week alone, students from across grade levels are engaging in seven different fieldwork activities including visits to the state capitol, interactions with astronomers at the Fiske Planetarium, connecting with nature and teambuilding at Balarat, and many other exciting adventures.

We are also prioritizing reinforcement of our Character Values: Responsibility, Integrity, Compassion, Courage, and Discipline. Please continue to reinforce these values at home, as we are able to best support our students' character growth when the school-to-home connection is cohesive and strong.

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

Executive Director

Spirit Week

Encourage your students to show their school spirit and pride next week by dressing up!

Monday: Mismatched Day

Tuesday: Crazy Hair Day

Wednesday: Pajama Day

Thursday: Twin Day

Friday: Dress up in your Halloween costume

Halloween/Fall Celebration Expectations and Details

The Fall Harvest Celebration and Parade will be held from 2:30 - 3:00 on the 31st of October. Celebrations can occur in the classroom from 2 - 2:30 if a teacher chooses to have one, snacks at celebrations will be healthy choices. Parents are welcome to be outside on the blacktop for the parade, but need a visitor's pass if they are inside the building. Trunk or Treat Street is from 4:30 to 5:30 on 10/29.

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.