



# 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."

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## August 13th, 2025: Message from the Executive Director

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Dear RMSEL Community,

"Service and Compassion" is one of the Expeditionary Design Principles that our RMSEL community strives to embody each day. This past weekend several of our families and students demonstrated the principle of service and compassion with flying colors during the Community Clean-Up event. I want to give a huge shout-out to all of the folks who participated in this event and to the organizers, Heather Colwell, Ruthie Beugg, and Cody Cano. Through collaboration and hard work, the volunteers helped teachers prepare for the school year and relocated and upgraded the gaga pit, mulched, painted, and cleaned! The Parent-Teacher-Student-Crew (PTSC) will be organizing more events like this and providing families and students with more opportunities to demonstrate service throughout the school year, so be on the look out for this information in Field Notes.

If you missed previous communications for the 25-26 school year, please check out our website under [RMSEL News](#).

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### Back to School Night

Back to School Night is TOMORROW night and is an excellent opportunity for you to connect with your child's teachers and learn critical information regarding the school year, crew trips, fieldwork, grading, and homework practices. Please note that the PTSC and I will be in the Community Room for a presentation that will update you on improvements for the 25-26 school year, volunteer opportunities, and how to continue to support the RMSEL mission and vision. We will hold 20-minute sessions from 5:10 to 5:30 pm and from 6:10 to 6:30 pm in the Community Room. I look forward to seeing you there!

### Positions

It is with great dismay that I share Natalie Newton resigned from her position as Enrollment Coordinator. Her positive energy, humor, and way of connecting with people will be greatly missed. I am also deeply saddened to share that Gemma Marshall resigned from her position as Academic Secretary. Her bright smile, nurturing demeanor, and superior attention to detail will be a huge loss for RMSEL. Both of these positions are posted on the RMSEL website [HERE](#). Please email me at [talmon@rmse.org](mailto:talmon@rmse.org) if you are interested in either of these positions or share the posting with someone you know might be interested.

### District Accountability Committee Community Member Vacancy

The wonderful Jay Leaver has stepped down from his Secretary/At-Large Community Member position on RMSEL's District Accountability Committee (DAC). We are looking for someone from our community who can provide a unique and informed perspective to serve in this position. The DAC meets on Thursdays once a month from 3:45 pm to 4:45 pm. See the DAC

[bylaws](#) for more information regarding how the DAC serves as an advisory board to preserve RMSEL's mission and vision. Please email me at [talmon@rmsel.org](mailto:talmon@rmsel.org) if you are interested in applying for this position.

### **Nutrition Policy**

As we continue to nurture a healthy and inclusive learning environment, we want to share some thoughts and reminders around food, snacks, and celebrations at school. We highly encourage families to send snacks and treats that support student energy, focus, and well-being. In particular, we ask that snacks and celebration items be minimally processed and low in added sugars when possible.

Research shows that ultra-processed foods and high-energy-density snacks (like candy, chips, and sugary drinks) can impact student behavior, focus, and long-term health. At the same time, we recognize that sometimes convenience, access, and family resources play a role in what's packed. We never want to shame any student for what they bring to school. Socio-economic factors can impact food choices, and we strive to hold compassion and understanding at the center of all conversations.

*To help maintain a healthy classroom culture:*

- Soda and energy drinks are not allowed. If these drinks are seen in school, they will be disposed of.
- Candy should not be used for regular snacks or classroom celebrations.
- For Crew parties or birthdays, we welcome simple, wholesome options—fruits, veggies, popcorn, etc.—that all students can enjoy.
- If you're planning to send in a special treat, feel free to check in with us ahead of time to ensure it fits within our classroom needs and dietary considerations.

Thank you for partnering with us in building a community that supports both health and kindness. We appreciate your flexibility and support as we continue to grow together.

In crew,

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

Executive Director, RMSEL