

Sent via Synergy on August 10 @ 11:30 am

Greetings, Roosevelt Families!

We hope this communication finds you enjoying an uncommonly beautiful August... and connecting with friends and family for some summer fun!

On behalf of our administrative staff, I'm writing for three purposes: to share my excitement in joining the RMS community, provide some updates about the fall, and give information about our facilities.

Our RMS Community

First, what a time for all of us to be in such transition! I'm pleased to be joining an incredibly strong teaching and learning community and one with outstanding parent and family support. As we head into the fall, moving together-- students, teachers, admins and families-- will be critically important. We'll do our best to share timely and important information beyond our districts' updates. To that end, you can expect weekly emails from your administrative team.

Middle school is a specific time in a student's life. Having spent many years at high school and coming most recently from elementary school, I'm curious and eager to witness a period absolutely critical to our students' intellectual and social development. As middle schoolers, we know our students are uniquely receptive to positive, rigorous and stimulating environments. Middle school is a perfect time to shape idealism and identity and encourage a growing interest in the world, engaged citizenship and care for others. I'm looking forward to being a part of the middle school world in all its complexity and our current context... and I believe we can work together to re-imagine our students' experiences this fall.

Fall Updates

As you know from following district conversations, 4j will be in a comprehensive distance learning model until at least December. Given metrics from the state, the district will re-evaluate in November if we will return in person at the end of the first trimester. If you aren't getting updates from the district, you can [subscribe to 4j School News via the website](#).

With that in mind, at RMS, we are in full planning mode for welcoming students back online. Currently, several district-wide work groups are convening to finalize particulars around schedule, instructional models, 6th grade transition, social and academic support, and community and family partnerships. We have a significant focus on shifting from what was "emergency remote learning" last spring to a more robust online model where students will meet with their teachers regularly, work with peers intentionally, and engage deeply with content. We will be using [Canvas as a learning management system](#) which will replace Google Classroom and allow for a more organized approach to online teaching and learning.

We know some of you have expressed interest in the **Eugene Online Academy (EOA)** and we encourage you to consider all your options for the fall. We also want you to know that comprehensive distance

learning with teachers at RMS with whom your students have some familiarity is an important consideration in your decision to attend EOA, as is the model and curriculum being offered in both settings. Please don't hesitate to be in touch with us if you have specific questions, considerations or concerns.

In the next two weeks, we hope to have additional information for you about our middle school **schedule**, **6th grade transition** plans, and **math placement** for all grades. Thanks to those of you who have reached out to us on these topics. We are on track to offer math placement assessments at the end of September for 6th grade students and hope to have more detailed information for all grades from the district soon. We are also planning for special 6th grade transition activities... please be on the lookout for information just to those families!

And, when we have more information about fall start-up, we certainly will be sharing about **iPad** distribution and **Lost and Found** pick-up... and hopefully at the same time, if you ordered a **yearbook** and they have been delivered to us, you can grab that, too!

Thanks for your patience and understanding-- as you can imagine, there are many, many details to consider as we move into the fall.

Staffing updates

No summer would be complete without some shifts in our teaching staff.

In the wake of **Catherine Wiebe's** retirement-- congrats again, Catherine!-- we have hired **Davina Mattox** and **Melanie Williams** to teach 6th grade and 8th grade French Immersion, respectively. Both come to us from the University of Oregon and we are thrilled to have them to round out our team. *Bravo et bienvenue, Davina et Melanie!*

We wish a fond farewell to 6th grade teacher **Adrienne Pierce** who will be leaving us to take on a new role as assistant principal at Guy Lee Elementary in Springfield. She is well-suited to the position having taught elementary in an immersion program for several years-- Guy Lee is a Spanish dual language school. Adrienne will be an enormous asset to her new school with her focus on equity and school culture and we wish her all the best.

Building updates

Currently, our building is closed to visitors. If you need to come by for any reason, we invite you to make an appointment with one of us or with our office manager, Karen Kingzett (kingzett@4j.lane.edu). When and if you must come in, please wear a mask and plan on signing in and out for contact tracing purposes.

We've seen many students gathering in front of school on bikes and scooters and chatting together-- it's been fun to wave and introduce ourselves (at a distance, of course!) and to know students are finding ways to connect with friends despite the circumstances.

In closing

Many of us are still working to process last spring and anticipating now what the fall will be like, for ourselves and our students, personally and professionally. I have absolute faith that our work together will create a safe, supportive and optimal environment for online learning. As I land at RMS, I have heard time and again about the supportive and involved community... and together, we will work to take care of each other, connecting our classrooms and community as we head into an uncertain fall.

As soon as we are able, we'll schedule a parent meeting via Zoom to share with you more particulars about the months ahead and learn from you what information and support will be helpful as we embark on the 2020-21 school year.

Until then, enjoy these last weeks of summer!

All our best,
Courtney Leonard, Principal
Mike Yocum, Assistant Principal