

From the Desk of the Principal

October 25, 2020

Re: 2nd Quarter Reminders & Updates

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The following are important reminders and updates to ensure a successful 2nd quarter experience for you and your students. Please mark your calendars...

School Closed Tomorrow: This is a reminder, teacher in-service day is **Monday, October 26, 2020**. There is **NO SCHOOL** for students, tomorrow.

Parent Teacher Conference: Mark your calendar for **November 4th and 5th**--your first official appointment with your child/ren's teacher/s. Please note on those days school will be **dismissed at 12:15 p.m. No hot lunch will be served. Extend Ed will be available.** You will soon be receiving an invitation to set up your appointment electronically. In case you were wondering, the P-T conferences will be virtual. Each teacher will provide his/her meeting information (Time & Zoom link). Please do not miss this opportunity to connect with your child's teacher and talk candidly about how you can continue collaboration for a successful school year in your child's spiritual, academic, social-emotional, and physical progress in his/her new grade. . Since this is the first meeting with your child's teacher we encourage students from Grades 5-8 attend these conferences with you. If you have questions about P-T Conferences please do not hesitate to contact your teachers.

COVID-19 Update: RMES teachers and students have been diligent in adhering to the COVID-19 protocols. We are grateful for the privilege of being able to have in-person school and maintain the health and safety each other. Know that we continue to work in partnership with the Health Department, Andrews University, and RMES board to consider the best way to keep our students, faculty, and staff safe during this time of uncertainty. Please be mindful that the decisions each person makes regarding activities, travel, and honest reporting about contact with anyone who has tested positive or is showing symptoms, determines our destiny regarding this pandemic. Every member of our school community has a responsibility to help mitigate this virus. Thank you for your collaboration and support as we seek to think about the health and safety of others.

Thanksgiving Break -- November 25-27, 2020: As you plan for this special celebration with family, please be mindful that the decisions each person makes regarding activities, travel, and reporting about contact with anyone who has tested positive or has showed symptoms, determine our destiny regarding this pandemic. We praise God for His protection and a successful 1st Quarter of in-person school. By faith, RMES faculty and staff are committed to continue in-person and synchronous remote learning to the end of the 2nd quarter, which ends December 18. Let us keep praying and taking all precautionary measures to mitigate the virus spread.

Christmas Break: Christmas Break for RMES is **December 21-January 08, 2021**. Please note that we have changed the start date for 3rd Quarter from January 4 to January 11, 2021. This is to give parents/students and staff, who travelled for the Christmas holidays, adequate time to complete the AU testing and quarantining requirements. In addition, to aligning RMES return with date with Andrews Academy and Andrews University, please be aware that on January 11, 2021, RMES will be ready continue with full in-person and synchronous remote learning. This plan is an attempt to avoid the hassle of the K-8 students having to be set up for one week of remote learning. Please do not hesitate if you have questions.

Travel, Testing, and Quarantining: If you travel for the holidays, RMES requires that students and employees follow AU Travel guidelines, which require COVID-19 Testing three to four days after travel and submission of a negative report **before** returning to school or work. Students under age 14 will need to be tested by their pediatrician at the medical center/hospital, older students can use AU testing facility. Recognizing that there is an uptick of COVID-19 across our nation (including in our Berrien community) and destinations throughout the world, AU/RMES strongly recommends no travel for the holidays. AU Travel Advisory states, *"We strongly discourage international or domestic personal travel."* In addition, please refer to and follow CDC travel guidelines at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>) and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-risk.html>..

Dates and Events for the 2nd Quarter & End of Year:

- December 15 RMES Virtual Christmas Concert
- December 21-January 8 Christmas Break
- January 11, 2021 School Resumes/Start of 3rd Quarter, in-person and SRL

Wishing you a productive and happy week!

In His service,

Evelyn P. Savory