

Dear RPEMS Community,

I hope you are all enjoying your summer break with family and friends. We have had a busy summer here already! Please take some time to read this long update in its entirety.

There have been some exciting staffing updates and partnerships established since the end of the school year. I am able to share now that we are fully staffed. Please know, that there are two priorities for as your school leader when it comes to staff and school-wide actions. First, for all strategic decisions, the leadership team takes time to gather qualitative and quantitative data. Every decision is grounded in multiple data points and aligned to our school performance plan goals. Second, it will always be my priority to communicate with all stakeholders with respect of sharing information with those impacted first. The personal communication we prioritize means that some communication is delivered at different times to ensure all have the opportunity to process.

Partnerships

I want to start by sharing two new partnerships for the upcoming year. We have partnered with Johns Hopkins Urban Teachers Cohort to have two full-time resident teachers in our elementary. An Urban Teacher resident is fully immersed in the classroom with a mentor teacher and opportunities to teach throughout the year. Additionally, our Urban Teacher residents will be working with small groups within their grade level to provide interventions and support to students who need the extra support. This partnership is directly aligned to our school performance plan and teacher placements are strategically selected to provide support to the grades/students most in need based on various data points. The partnership will also provide us with a pipeline of new teachers at Roland Park who will understand our vision and mission. This year we will have residents in kindergarten and 4th grade math. Once I have information about who will be our resident teachers, I will share.

We have also formed a partnership with the University Of Maryland School Of Social Work and their Positive School Center. This partnership will provide the leadership team year-long support with culture development and staff professional development. The partnership will enhance in our continued goals to bring restorative practices and equity into the fabric of our community. Further information will be shared about this partnership at the start of the year.

Other updates or changes with vendors and partners may be made once the instructional leadership team meets to review alignment with school goals and budget priorities.

Staffing

We had two additional staff members from our middle school who are taking on new roles in the upcoming school year. Ms. Mooney, who taught middle school Spanish, will be transitioning into a new role at the district with the Baltimore Teachers Union.

Additionally, Mr. Grouzard who taught 8th grade Social Studies will be moving to another school next year. We wish both of them the best in their new roles.

Based on changes in staff and a review of year end data, including preliminary PARCC results, the final staffing moves are listed here for your review.

For our middle school team we welcome:

- Mr. Brendan McFadden, Algebra 1 and 8th grade math
- Ms. Sally McFadden, 7th grade science
- Mr. Austin Fausnaught, 7th grade math and 8th grade math
- Ms. Grace Griffin, Middle School Art
- Mr. Gerald Jackson, Middle School Spanish
- Ms. Margaret Wexler, 7th grade Social Studies

For our elementary school team we welcome:

- Ms. Se'Kayla Harrell, 4th grade math/science
- Ms. Charelle Joyner, 2nd grade

Additionally, we have the following teachers moving teams and/or contents:

- Ms. Katherine Tavaréz, elementary self-contained teacher
- Ms. Emily Desimone, middle school special educator
- Ms. Gwende Walker, Kindergarten
- Ms. Ashley Ruff, 1st grade
- Ms. Amy Wood, 1st grade
- Ms. Linda Knedler, 2nd grade
- Ms. Tyra Jones, 2nd grade
- Ms. Alex Emery, 3rd grade ELA/Social Studies
- Mr. Donald Odoms, 3rd grade math/science
- Mr. Mark Wingfield, 5th grade math/science
- Ms. Sherry Bazinet, 5th grade math/science
- Ms. Yvette Schreiber, 6th grade science/Ingenuity
- Ms. Sierra Chase, 6th grade math
- Ms. Kathy Bacon, 7th grade Ingenuity science
- Mr. Spencer Hickok, 8th grade Social Studies
- Ms. Martina Vize, 7th grade science and school-wide SEL coach

Administrative Team

Lastly, with the addition of Ms. Pouncey to the administrative team, I wanted to share the grade level assignments for each administrator. Changes to grade level administrators will officially begin August 1st once registration and scheduling is complete.

- PK – 1st grade and ES SPAR, Ms. Natasha Pouncey
- 2nd grade – 5th grade, Ms. Melanie Carter
- 6th grade and MS SPAR, Ms. Michele Ferris
- 7th – 8th grade, Mr. Dan Hellerbach

A master organizational chart is currently being developed to support all community members with direct points of contacts for needs throughout the year. This will be shared during back to school nights in September. Please contact your students' grade level administrator directly for any questions this summer.

Student Scheduling

Now that staffing is in place for next year, I wanted to be sure community members know that not only are we reviewing data for staffing updates we also work closely with teachers and teams to review student data, student needs, and SPP priorities to make informed scheduling decisions. Again, all decisions are data-driven and strategically planned.

As you can imagine, the process for making schedules takes a great deal of time and there are many factors that influence this process. While we always respect family input and thoughts about schedules, we are not able to accommodate individual requests. If we were to take an individual request for one student, then we would need to take them for all students. Only in extreme circumstances would individual requests be considered. Individual student homeroom assignments and administrator letters will be sent by August 12th.

General Calendar and Information

Updates related to school year events will be sent next week. Our supply lists are now posted on classroom parent and our school website. If you have any other questions, the office is open from 8 am – 2 pm daily.

I invite all families to our summer meet and greet on **August 1st at 5 pm** on the newly updated back playground! Some staff and administrators will be there with PTA sponsored popsicles and fun. Please mark your calendars for this summer fun!

Enjoy the remaining of July and I hope to see you August 1st!

Best,

Amanda Brown

