

RHEEMARKS: October 18th

October 18, 2020

Good Evening Rheem Team Families,

I hope you are having a pleasant weekend and were able to spend ample quality time with your loved ones.

As most, if not all, of you know, last Thursday night the Governing Board voted to reopen schools in a tiered approach utilizing cohorts. The Board will meet again this Thursday for an update from Superintendent Burns on what that will look like. MSD will continue to communicate with families this process including: safety and cleaning protocols; the instructional hybrid model; student and family expectations; an intent to return form and more.

With all that said, we have another busy week at Rheem. This week each grade level will hold an assessment day, with teachers providing asynchronous activities in lieu of synchronous instruction (dates and grade levels listed below). Without further adieu please dive in to the rest of this week's Rheemarks.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, October 19th:

- Art & Kindness Club: Art & Kindness Club: ([Zoom Link](#))

Tuesday, October 20th:

- Regularly scheduled Tuesday

Wednesday, October 21st:

- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades holding Assessment Days
- Storytime Club: 12:30-1:00 ([Zoom Link](#))

Thursday, October 22nd:

- Kindergarten holding Assessment Day
- Special MSD Governing Board Meeting (???-???PM)

Friday, October 23rd:

- 4th, and 5th grades holding Assessment Days
- Fun Fridays Club 12:30-1:00 ([Zoom Link](#))

School News and Highlights

Kindergarten Butterfly (Car) Parade: For over 40 years Rheem's kindergarten students have participated in the "Butterfly Parade." This year saw a parade like no other, as our

kindergartners made their way through the bus loop in their cars as teachers and staff cheered them on. The flight of the Monarch was aided by their loved ones behind the wheel, but still an inspiration to those of us who were able to celebrate them. The “Butterfly Parade” has always been a culmination of work the kindergartners have done over the course of the first several months of school, as they learn of the transformation a caterpillar makes in becoming the majestic Monarch Butterfly. Like their own journey thus far, our kindergartners showed us how far we can go in a relatively short amount of time. Thank you Ms. Gessling, Mrs. Kathan, Mrs. Lorie and Mrs. Maher for all your amazing work making Friday a thing of beauty.

Fun(d) Run: Be sure to share photos with Rheem's PTA (and me) of any pictures you may have taken of your students (and family) participating in this year's Fun(d) Run. The run goes from now until October 30th.

Special School Board Meeting

Thursday, October 22nd at 5:30PM

Superintendent Burns will be providing an update to the Board on reopening plans this Thursday, October 22nd starting at 5:30PM.

October Assessments

As mentioned above, this week Rheem teachers will have a day where they are assessing students throughout the day. Teachers will host a class meeting to begin the day from 8:25-8:45 and then the rest of the day will be asynchronous (independent assignments).

Below are the grade level assessment days:

- Kindergarten: October 22nd
- 1st grade: October 21st
- 2nd grade: October 21st
- 3rd grade: October 21st
- 4th grade: October 23rd
- 5th grade: October 23rd

The Last Word...

This past Thursday the Governing Board voted to reopen schools in a phased in approach with, TK-2nd graders returning in cohorts the weeks of November 16th, and 30th, and 3rd–5th beginning the weeks of December 7th and 14th. As all three elementary schools prepare for the reopening, it's important that we begin to think of how to prepare our students who plan on attending in person instruction. Some of the most basic things you will want to practice with your children is proper mask wearing, hand washing, and social distancing. Below are some kid friendly videos that can help with that preparation:

Mask Wearing: [HERE](#) is a short video talking about proper mask wearing and how to adjust one to make it fit appropriately.

Handwashing: [HERE](#) is another short video sharing the proper way to wash hands as well as why it's so important.

Social Distancing: [HERE](#) is another video describing social distancing and why it's important.

These three basics are essential to staying safe, but above all of these, we don't send our kids to school if they are feeling sick or exhibiting the following symptoms:

Fever or chills; Cough; Nasal congestion or runny nose; New loss of taste or smell; Sore throat; Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; Diarrhea; Nausea or vomiting; Stomachache; Tiredness; Headache; Muscle or body aches

I will continue to update families on tips to prepare your student(s) for in person learning and Superintendent Burns will continue to message families the steps our district is taking to open schools in the hybrid model.

This will be the largest, and most complex, undertaking Rheem has ever performed and we will need to show now more than ever what it means to be a part of a Team.

Thank you as always for all you do, and please be sure to reach out if you have any questions or concerns about the process moving forward.

There's no place like Rheem!

Mr. Sullivan