

June 7, 2023

Dear RMES Parents,

Happy first week of the Summer Vacation! I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health and high spirits as we have successfully ended another wonderful school year. The purpose of this Newsletter is to say THANK YOU and share initial updates for the new school year.

First, on behalf of RMES teachers and staff I would like to express sincerest gratitude for all those wonderful ways that you supported our school (teachers, staff, events, and/or needs) this year. Know that it is your dependable support and prayers that carried us through.

Second, I want to share some exciting news as we have begun preparation for the new school year. Please be aware that for the new school year there will be some faculty changes due to various reasons including God's blessing of increased enrollment. To God be the glory for growing our school from 228 students in the fall to ending with 235!

During the last two months the Personnel/Search Committee of the School Board has been prayerfully at work to find new teachers for the 2023-2024 school year. I am happy to let you know that under God's direction the School Board has accepted, by unanimous vote, the individuals recommended for the following positions, 3rd Grade Teacher, 7th & 8th Grade/Language Arts, and 7th & 8th Grade Math teachers, effective July 1, 2023. Please know that Mr. Swackhamer will continue as the 6th Grade Math teacher.

We are excited to introduce to you to the wonderful additions to RMES faculty for the upcoming school year...



Mrs. Anuradha Tompkins, 3rd Grade Teacher:

Mrs. Anuradha Tompkins holds a Bachelor's Degree in Education and a Bachelor's Degree in Science, with specialization in Biology and Language Arts. She brings with her six years of teaching experience from her home country, India, where she began her career and honed her skills and expertise in the field of education. Furthermore, she has been actively involved with our school since 2011, dedicating her time and efforts to serve in different roles in various classrooms. Her commitment to Adventist Education and our institution became even more evident when she officially joined as a substitute

teacher in 2015 and quickly became one of our preferred substitutes. Over the years, Ms. Tompkins admirably served as a Teacher Assistant to many teachers at RMES, supporting the class's academic and administrative needs. Additionally, she has held long-term substitute positions at our school and several public schools within our local district, showcasing her adaptability and versatility in different educational environments.

At different times throughout this 2022-2023 school year, Mrs. Tompkins has served in our 3rd grade classroom as both, Teacher Assistant, and substitute teacher. During her time in the classroom, Mrs. Tompkins demonstrated exemplary teaching abilities across all subjects while maintaining strong classroom management and upholding administrative expectations. Through her dedication and expertise, she has fostered a positive and conducive learning environment, enabling the students to flourish academically and gain confidence in their abilities. Based on comments from the 3rd-grade students and their parents, it is evident that Mrs. Tompkins has garnered their trust and confidence. I am confident that she will continue to provide an enriching educational experience for our 3rd graders setting them on a trajectory for success and preparing them for the next grade level.



Mr. William Whiting, 7th & 8th Grade, ELA Teacher:

Mr. Whiting, a certified, committed Seventh-day Adventist teacher comes with a wealth of experience in both elementary and high school education. Mr. Whiting holds a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) and Bachelor of Arts in Political Science both earned from Andrews University. He also holds NAD certification and MI State licensure, possessing the necessary qualifications and expertise required for his role. With six years of experience teaching English/Language Arts to upper middle school and high school students, Mr. Whiting brings a wealth of knowledge and skills to our institution.

Describing himself as an enthusiastic and engaging teacher, dedicated to creating an environment that fosters student engagement, encourages collaboration, and nurtures relationship building. He firmly believes in the power of active participation and aims to create an inclusive and interactive classroom atmosphere. His former and current principal describe Mr. Whiting as being a team player, a gifted communicator and teacher who knows how to effectively communicate with students and parents. Furthermore, his current principal highlighted his strong commitment to Adventist Education and exemplary teaching abilities. With his strong educational background and unwavering commitment to Adventist Education, Mr. Whiting will undoubtedly be a valuable addition to our teaching staff.



Jeremy Steinkraus, JH/7th & 8th Grade, Math Teacher:

Mr. Jeremy Steinkraus is a certified and dedicated Seventh-day Adventist teacher with 17 years of experience in both elementary and high school education. Teaching Math is his passion and has honed his skills teaching math for 10 years to 5th-10th graders, the age group he enjoys working with. Mr. Steinkraus holds a Master of Science Degree in Outdoor Education from Southern Adventist University, a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies Pk-8 with specialization in Education, along with NAD Professional Certification and Teaching Licensure for the States of Michigan and Georgia. He is committed to Adventist Education and believes "a strong but supportive classroom management style is key to positive, healthy, engaged students." Co-workers describe Mr. Steinkraus as, great teacher, team-player, loved by students, mission and community service minded. We feel confident that his expertise, passion, and dedication will create an enriching and dynamic learning environment for our Junior High students.

Please join the School Board, Faculty, and Staff in welcoming and praying for our three new teachers, Mrs. Tompkins, Mr. Whiting, and Mr. Steinkraus as they join our Ruth Murdoch Elementary School Family.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. We value value your partnership in your child's education, and we look forward to a successful and fulfilling academic year together.

Thank you for your continued trust and cooperation. Together, let us embark on this exciting journey of learning and growth for our children in the 2023-2024 school year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Savory

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