

August 7, 2017

Dear Rose Creek Families,

Welcome to a new year! We've been busy getting ready for another successful year and I am personally looking forward to having the students and staff back at Rose Creek. We will continue our significant work in several areas this year: Comprehensive Mathematics Instruction, Leader in Me, Growth Mindset, and growth in reading and writing.

Teachers will continue to look deeply at student thinking and understanding of mathematical concepts as they engage in lesson study. All teacher teams are writing carefully crafted math units and will implement them as a way to deeply study their craft, in much the same way a team of doctors might conduct action research. Teachers will not be out of their classrooms as much as they have been the past two years. That phase of our training has ended and we are now in the application mode of our work. It's an exciting time at Rose Creek and the students are the beneficiaries of the teacher's excellent and thoughtful work. Our Rose Creek teachers ROCK!

The school leadership team felt it important to align our programs so that we're focusing on fewer but the most important things. As a result, we will be offering more specialized instruction on the 7 Habits to all students as part of our daily rotations. This will replace the Spanish program that was in effect last year. Again, we want to be more focused and purposeful in our work.

Along with the 7 Habits, we will again teach students the difference between a growth and fixed mindset. As you might recall from last year's welcome letter, I mentioned Carol Dweck who is a researcher at Stanford University. She coined the phrase "growth mindset" and in essence it is a belief that hard work is the number one indicator of success. Therefore, we are working hard to teach our students about the power of hard work and positive self-talk. Our students are familiar with the motto, GROW (Give your best, Read every day, Own your mistakes, and Wonder). Feel free to use this motto in your home.

Finally, we will continue to help our students progress in their reading and writing. Our science and math scores have shown significant growth over the past few years. However, our reading scores are lagging behind these two tested areas. We will continue to make a concerted effort to ensure that our students are academically strong. Please watch for information about a new program we'll be using that you may access at home called Lexia Learning. The program is designed to allow students to progress at their own rate while filling any holes in learning that are uncovered through the embedded diagnostics. Teachers will receive data from student participation in the program and will also be able to fill holes or provide acceleration as skills are identified.

Rose Creek families, I absolutely love being part of your community and having the privilege of working with your children. The work is personally fulfilling and brings me a great deal of happiness. We have a wonderful staff, AMAZING students, and the best community in the state. I can't wait for school to start!!

Life is Good,

Tami Bird