Greetings, fellow co-workers, here are a few important reminders for your attention this week:

- **Thank you!** Special thanks to those who demonstrated flexibility and collaboration to share devices so that MAP Testing was conducted smoothly. Your teamwork made it possible for every classroom to meet their testing deadline. Know that it is still the prayer and vision of administration to keep increasing our Chromebook library until we achieve the goal of one-to-one Chromebook. I want to thank you that despite the overlapping schedule of MAP Testing and P-T Conferences taking place during the same time frame, you have all done a great job to make both activities successful.

- **MAP Testing This Week:** MAP Testing is extended this Monday for those grades and students who missed the test for some valid reason and/or make up testing.

- **Black History Month Integration & Celebration:** This is a gentle reminder to make intentional plans to integrate and celebrate Black History across the/your STEAMS curriculum this month. It means I’ll be looking to see evidence in teaching and learning in various subjects, as well as on bulletin board displays in and outside of your classrooms. Can’t wait to see and hear and touch the amazing outcome of creative integration, critical-thinking and collaboration.

- **February Black History Assembly:** Our Black History Assembly rescheduled for this Wednesday, February 9, at 8:30 a.m. As usual, we ask that all classes are ready by 8:25. Our guest speaker is Dr. Michael Nixon, Vice President for Diversity, Inclusion and Culture at Andrews University. Mrs. Curnutt and her excellent students will coordinate and lead the program

- **Highway to Happiness:** Mental Health Education Tuesday, with Dr. Miller, for Grades 6-8 starting at 8:30 a.m.,

- **Faculty Meeting:** You are invited to our in-person Faculty Meeting this Wednesday, February 9, at 4:00 p.m. We will meet in Mrs. Cancel’s room.

- **Love Your Neighbor Literacy Day:** As you know this is our COVID-19 version of our annual Parent-Teacher collaboration literacy event, which used to be known as RMES Winter Wonderland Literacy Night. Please follow-up to encourage your classroom parents to participate. Junior High students are also invited to submit reading videos for selection.

- **Approval to Access Online Learning:** This reminder has been shared with parents RMES first priority is to provide full in-person school, as such there is no online option for students who stay at home for non-Covid-19 related reasons. For students who must isolate or quarantine at home due to COVID-19, the Google Classroom will be available to help them keep up with class instruction and assignments. Per RMES policy, students who stay at home
due to COVID or Non-COVID-related illness must receive approval to access Google Classroom, or any online option. Please inform the office and homeroom teacher about your child’s absence and request clearance to access Google Classroom and/or other online resources. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

- **Dress Like a Friend Day:** This is a reminder for your support of school Spirit Day with your participation to Dress Like a Friend on this Friday, February 12. In case you need an idea of what to do, reach out to Juliette, our school spirit queen, I’m sure she will have a few interesting ones to share.

**Quote of the Week:**

*"Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy to a friend."* — Martin Luther King, Jr.

Let us Take a Stand for love,

Dr. Savory

**Upcoming February Activities:**

- Principal’s Reading Challenge—Ongoing
- February–Black History Month
- February 8–Highway to Happiness-Mental Health Education Tuesday for Grades 6-8
- February 10—Kindergarten Dads & Kids Night
- February 14-18--Week of Prayer, Mr. Swackhamer and the Grade 6 students will lead and minister to the rest of the lower elementary students (K-5)
- February 14-15—Jr. High BRIDGE Days—
- February 21—No School-President’s Day
- February 25—Love Your Neighbor Literacy Day (Coordinators-Reading Resource, ELA Teacher and H&S)

- **Weather-Related School Closing:** Reminder that for weather-related closing RMES follows Berrien RESA.

**COVID-19 Updates:**

**Reminder Information: RMES COVID-19 Guidelines & Changes:**

Following the recent Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) changes in guidelines for isolation and quarantine for K-12 schools, RMES is also change its isolation and quarantine time frame to align with the Andrews University (AU) and Andrews Academy (AA) recent implementation:

**New Guidance for Positive Test**

- **Positive Test:** Students and staff who test positive may not attend school and must isolate at home for five (5) full days after symptom onset (or five days after the positive test if they do
not have symptoms). They may return to school on day six (6) if they have no symptoms and must wear a well-fitted mask.

Guidelines for Exposure to COVID-19:

- **Up-to-date on vaccines and boosters:** Students and staff without symptoms (cough, sore throat, congestion, fever) do not need to quarantine. Must wear a well-fitted mask.

- **Not Up-to-date on vaccines and boosters:** Students and staff must home quarantine from days 1-5 and test on day 5. Then must wear a well-fitted mask.

OR

- **Test-to-Stay:** Students and staff may test-to-stay for days 1-6 and must wear well fitted mask.

- **Mask Wearing:** RMES will continue to require a well-fitted mask while indoors (nose and mouth covered) and will continue to monitor and seek guidance from the appropriate agencies as we navigate through the semester.

- RMES students and staff, irrespective of vaccination status are required to stay at home 3-5 days if they feel sick or have any unexplained symptoms (cough, sore throat, congestion, runny nose or fever).

- Last, but not least, please remember to record your daily Jupiter Health Screening/check (for symptoms) before coming to school.

Highlights from the new guidance to reduce risk of transmission in schools:
The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends…

- local health departments and schools work together to quickly isolate COVID-19 cases among students, teachers, and staff,
- identify close contacts of those cases, and
- adopt quarantine policies that reduce the risk of transmission in schools while allowing in-person learning.
- When evidence-based prevention measures are utilized, such as vaccination and masking, students, teachers, and staff exposed to COVID-19 cases may not have to quarantine at home and can stay in the classroom.

Guidelines for Isolation and Quarantine:

- You **isolate** when you are already infected with COVID-19 and have tested positive, even if you do not have symptoms. Isolation is used to separate people who are infected with COVID-19 from those who are not infected.

- You **quarantine** when you might have been exposed to COVID-19. This is because you might become infected with COVID-19 and could spread COVID-19 to others.