Dear Parents & Guardians:

This Valentine’s week as you share the amazing, unconditional love of God, reflect on the following verses:

- *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* (Romans 5:8)
- “*He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love.*” (Mark 5:5)
- “*Beloved if God so loved us,* we ought also to love one another.” (1 John 4: 11)
- “*Love never fails.*” (1 Corinthians 13:8)
- **HAPPY VALENTINE’S Day!**

We continue our Black History & Valentine celebration month, emphasizing “love to your neighbor” through literacy, spirituality, and service. This week’s reminders and updates include:

**6th Grade Week of Prayer:** This week, **February 14-18, 2022**, please keep the 6th Grade students and their mentors in prayer. Mr. Swackhamer and Pastor Ben have been prayerfully preparing the Grade 6 students to lead RMES Annual Winter Week of Prayer targeted to the K-5 students. This activity provides many amazing spiritual and learning opportunities for the 6th graders. First and foremost, it provides opportunity to develop their own relationship with God. In addition, daily the students will engage in public speaking and various leadership experiences. Pastor Ben has challenged the 6th graders to fast from electronics this week and spend more time alone with God. They all committed to this goal. If you have a 6th Grade student, I solicit your support to help him/her honor this challenge.

**Jr. High Outdoor BRIDGE Days:** This Monday and Tuesday, the Jr. High students will participate in their 2nd BRIDGE indoor-outdoor innovative learning event this year. The purpose of this initiative is to provide intentional opportunities for the 7 & 8 grade students to participate in learning activities that engage them in creatively integrating STEAMS learning indoors, as well as outdoors (in nature and the community). Some of the exciting activities that their teachers, Mrs. Bailey & Mrs. Cancel have planned for the two days include, starting each day, exploring the Word of God with Rich Aguilera, creator and facilitator of One Mustard Seed Project, skating trip to the rink in St. Joseph, cooking experience, learning and exploring indoors and outdoors with professors at/from AU Science Center, to name a few. As you can imagine, both, students and teachers are looking forward to this innovative learning experience.
Dress Like a Friend Day: Great participation! Thank you, parents and students for demonstrating amazing school spirit by your participation in Dress Like a Friend Day, last Friday. Thank you, Mrs. Horton, for inspiring student participation by posting last year’s photos to promote the event. We will remain committed to cultivating a culture of kindness, where Proverbs 17:17 is fostered, “friends love at all times and a brother/sister is born for a time of adversity.”

Faculty & Staff Professional Development: FYI, this Friday, February 18, 2022, all faculty and staff will be attending a Professional Development training on Mental Health and Sexuality, immediately after dismissal. Please note: The office will be closed by 1:00 p.m. to facilitate this activity. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Please accept our apology for any inconvenience caused. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Love Your Neighbor Literacy Day: Thanks to those parents who have answered the call for participation in our Love Your Neighbor Literacy Day. We really appreciate you submitting your video recording by the deadline. You have saved the day, and put your leaders, Iveth and Kimberly at ease. Thank you, Pastor Ben Martin, another of our parents, who has volunteered to review and get the videos ready for showing on February 25. As you know, we will need volunteers to assist with distributing snacks to the classrooms on of Literacy Day. We are excited about how the plans coming together for this special event and value your part to make it a success. Please contact your H&S leader, Kimberly Westfall (jonandkimberly@icloud.com) and Iveth Ortiz, our Title 1 resource teacher (iveth.ortiz77@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Thank you, again for your participation.

AA & RMES Visitor’s Day/Move-Up Day: We would like to invite you to help us promote RMES Visitor’s Day to your family members, friends, and neighbors. On this day, Tuesday, March 8, 2022, AA & RMES will collaborate to have students move up to their next grade level and open our schools for visitors. At RMES, we usually invite potential students of Grades 1-8 to come and experience the classroom environment for half or the full day. Students of Grades 1-6 would visit from 8:15 – 11:30 and students for Grades 7/8 spend the entire day (8:15 – 3:30). Additionally, RMES students (K-8) move-up to get a brief experience of their grade for the next school year. 8th Graders move over to Andrews Academy. More information about Move-up Day will be forthcoming.

Important Upcoming Events:

- Principal’s Reading Challenge—Ongoing
- February–Black History Month
- February 14-18—Week of Prayer
- 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)
- March 8—AA & RMES Move-up Day
- March 9—MI Conference Elementary Music Festival
- Weather-Related School Closing: Reminder that for weather-related closing RMES follows Berrien RESA.

COVID-19 Updates:
Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation through these uncertain times. With your support we remain committed to doing our best to maintain a healthy, safe, teaching and learning environment for our students, staff, and families. God is keeping His promise not to leave nor forsake us. Most of the students who were in isolation or quarantine have returned to school. Last week Covid19-related absences remained very low, two new cases were reported after testing at home. No evidence of transmission in our building. We solicit your continued prayers, support, and adherence to the COVID-19 protocols of our school.

“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” 1 Corinthians 13:7