

Rocky Mountain Deaf School

March 2010



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March 1-12 - CSAPS

March 3 - Architect's Workshop

March 12- End of CSAP Party

*March 19- Middle School Fun
Night*

*March 24- Parent/Teacher
Conferences*

March 25- Board Meeting

March 29- April 6 Spring Break

Dear RMDs Families,

The beginning of March is here and spring is just around the corner! March will bring CSAP Testing for our students in grades 3-6. Testing will take place from March 1-12. As many of you know, the No Child Left Behind legislation determines a school's annual yearly progress on test performance and participation rate. It is important that your child be in attendance on testing days. Help our students do their best by getting lots of rest each night.

News regarding the new school building initiative: Currently, a team of 12 people are working quickly to create a strong and compelling application for the BEST grant. Our next architect workshop is March 3rd. Please come & share your ideas on the new design!

Spring Wishes,
Dr. Janet Dickinson

ASSEMBLIES

At the end of every month RMDs hosts assemblies and special guests for our students. Family and Community members are welcome to join us for these events!

THIS MONTH:
Friday, March 12th
12:30-1:30 pm

YoYo pro, Jon Gates, will be coming and performing some outrageous YoYo tricks. This will be sure fire fun!



What's Happening at RMDS

CSAPS

CSAP stands for Colorado Student Assessment Program. It is a test designed to measure student achievement in relationship to the Colorado Model Content Standards. These standards are expectations specifying what students should know at particular points in their education. The CSAP provides a snapshot of student achievement in reading, writing, mathematics, and science.

CSAP testing will be occurring during the weeks of March 1-12. During that time, we will be setting aside time every morning to allow your student time to relax, focus, and eat a healthy breakfast. RMDS will be providing a variety of breakfast items each day

Here are some tips for parents to help their students do their best everyday and especially during the CSAP testing period. We ask for your help in the following areas.

Please help your child prepare by doing the following:

- Get a good night's sleep (at least 8-10 hours)
- Arrive at school on time and is here for the testing period (please reschedule any appointments for after the testing if possible)
- Have a positive "can do" student attitude

What are some test taking tips that will help my child take CSAP? Remind your child:

- Read the test directions carefully
- Read the questions carefully and be sure to read all of the answer choices before responding
- If you don't know an answer to a question, skip it and go on to the next question
- If there is time at the end of the test, then return to the unanswered question
- Eliminate any answers that you know are wrong, and then consider only those that might be right.
- If you finish early, check your answers

We know that as a partner in your child's education, you will do all you can to help ensure your child's success and we greatly appreciate your support.

END OF CSAP PARTY for.... PARENTS & STUDENTS

**Friday March 12th
1:30-3:00pm**

Parents are invited to RMDS to congratulate student's hard work during CSAP testing. Pizza and desert will be provided.

ALSO.... The tables will turn and teachers will be answering questions game show style with the students as the hosts! Question can require anything from trivia to cartwheels. Don't miss this fun!

How Can I get Involved

Save the date for Rocky Mountain Deaf School's

Spring Gala

Saturday, May 8th

6:00pm-10:00pm

Location TBA

Cocktail Attire • Silent Auction

Proceeds to benefit Rocky Mountain Deaf School

This is an adult only event.

Registration



Look for the Registration Packets to be sent home at the beginning of this month. We ask you to complete these forms and return them to school by **Friday, March 31**.

Early enrollment allows us to plan for a strong school year as we consider staffing; as well as purchasing the books and resources we need to give students the best education possible.

Remember that if you need any clarification or support with the forms, we are available and eager to help you complete them. If you have any questions, please contact our receptionist, Gwen Walton, at gwen@rmdeafschool.net or call (VP) 720-235-0565 / (Voice) 303-984-5749.

How Can I get Involved



PARENT – TEACHER CONFERENCES

March 24th, 2010
6:00 – 8:00

Parent-Teacher Conferences are the perfect opportunity for Parents to connect with their child's classroom!

Find out about your child's progress, and get your questions answered.

Stay an active member of your child's education!

All parents are encouraged to attend.
Interpreters will be provided.

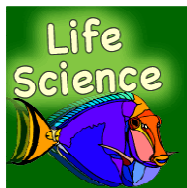
Board Meetings

Parents and community members are encouraged to participate in the monthly Board meetings held at Rocky Mountain Deaf School.

This month the meeting will be on **Thursday, March 25th at 6:00pm**. You may view the meeting agenda one day prior at the front desk.

You may also contact our **Board Members** anytime with questions or concerns.

Science Homework Signs



Looking for homework help with science?

The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind has created a very nice website to help with science homework signs.

Visit:

http://www.fldb.k12.fl.us/academics/science/signs/life_science/

The website offers signs and concepts for:
Earth Science, Life Science, & Physical Science

Important Info For Parents

Parents Can Assist with Homework at all Stages

Many researchers have shown the importance of parent involvement in the school life of a child.

Parent involvement includes such at-home activities as: encouraging reading for fun and for information, maintaining high expectations, and helping with homework. Reading together, talking to children about books, and building a habit of reading, all help children become better readers and better students.

High but realistic expectations for school become increasingly important as children grow. When students understand their parents' high expectations, they try harder and work to meet these expectations.

Parent involvement also means helping with homework. It's important that parents set a time and a place for their children to do homework and check to see that the assignments are completed and turned in. Some additional tips to help children with homework are:

For all grade levels:

- Remember that each child is unique and learns differently. Let your child decide what works best, as long as he or she does the homework
- Make homework a priority in your child's schedule. Let your child know you expect it to be completed regularly and on time.
- Watch for sign of frustration or anger when your child is doing homework. Contact the teacher if this happen often.

Elementary School

In general, homework should increase as children grow: 10 minutes of homework for each grade level. A second grader should have approximately 20 minutes of homework, while a fifth grader can expect 50 minutes.

- Ask your child daily if he or she has homework. Check backpacks for assignments or worksheets that may have been forgotten.
- Help your child develop the habit of placing completed homework back into his or her backpack or in a designate spot in your home.

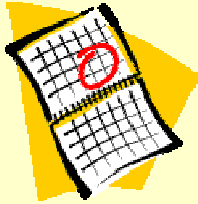
Middle School

- Help your child build responsibility for tracking, completing, and turning in assignments by learning to write them down in a school planner or on a calendar.
- Work with your child to break down larger, long-term assignments into smaller pieces.
- Introduce the idea of studying as homework. Work with you child to review notes and tests daily, even when he or she doesn't have any written homework.

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Looking Forward...

Upcoming Events



March 29 -
April 6 - **SPRING BREAK**

April 9 - **Picture Day**

April 28 - **Art & Science
Show**

April 29 - **Board Meeting**

May 31 - **No School
Memorial Day**

June 3 - **Last day of
School**

How Do I Know If School Has Been Cancelled or Delayed?

1. Watch television channels 2, 4, or 9 for up-to-date information regarding school closure. Rocky Mountain Deaf School will be listed on the captions.

*Even if we are open, evaluate your decision to bring your child to school based on the road conditions near your house, temperature, etc. Our highest priority is for you to be safe!

We have three additional days built into our calendar, so that we would not have to make up days for closing due to weather. If we have more than 3 snow days, then we may need to revise our original calendar.

Early Years Program and Parent Group at RMDS



The Early Years Program provides a place for families to come together to build relationships with other families, adults who are Deaf / Hard of Hearing, and professionals. The Early Years Parent Group provides support to families and creates networking opportunities within their community.

Upcoming Dates

March 4, 2010 from 5:00-7:30 PM
March 18, 2010 from 5:00-7:30 PM
April 8, 2010 from 5:00-7:30 PM
April 22, 2010 from 5:00-7:30 PM
May 6, 2010 from 5:00-7:30 PM
May 20, 2010 from 5:00-7:30 PM