

# ROWE ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL ROCKET READER



September 2018 issue

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Hello to all of our Rowe families, friends, and supporters,

It is a tremendous privilege to welcome you all to the 2018-2019 school year! I cannot adequately put into words how excited I am for this school year. This summer has been filled with meaningful learning for my leadership team and I, as we prepare to lead Rowe to our best year yet. Specifically, we participated in a professional development event this summer that has refocused our efforts on the relationship between equity and instruction to ensure that we are actively, aggressively, and consistently deconstructing the impact of unconscious racism within our school context, so that every scholar at Rowe has the opportunity to pursue the best version of themselves. This will most prominently be on display via the work we put in front of scholars every day. At Rowe, college success is the ultimate outcome for every

scholar, that means the work scholars are doing every single day must reflect that, and we must all embrace the productive struggle that comes with that.

With that in mind, we have set some really ambitious goals for ourselves moving forward. The three big goals heading into this school year are:

On the 5E Survey, Rowe will earn a score of **Organized**

On NWEA, by the end of school year 2020-2021, Rowe will be in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for attainment

On our interim assessments, by the end of school year 2020-2021, Rowe scholars will average a 75% in ELA and Math

Why these goals? Let me start with 5E. There are many factors that go into a school being an exemplary school – specifically, **Effective Leaders, Collaborative Teachers, Ambitious Instruction, Involved Families**, and having a **Supportive Environment**. We are aiming to be excellent in each of these categories so we can ensure our goal of being an excellent school for all scholars and families is achieved.

With respect to NWEA – at the time of me writing this letter, we are not yet sure of what our SQRP rating will be this past school year. With that said, we are very confident in the work our teachers, our staff, and you all did on behalf of our scholars. Regardless of how strong the outcome will be; we know we need to always strive for better. NWEA is important not only for the SQRP score, but for its role in serving as a data point to predict college success. The short of it, scholars, on average, need to be at least in the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile to be deemed *college ready*. Being college ready, however, is not the goal at Rowe. The goal at Rowe is for scholars to be beyond readiness, we want our scholars to be successful – Dean's List, Fulbright winners, Rhodes Scholars. For our scholars to be on that trajectory the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile is not enough. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is our goal.

Lastly, a huge part of our work this year is consistent exposure to grade level content. NWEA is not the best measure for strictly grade level content, our interim assessments are. That data point combined with NWEA will assure us sufficient information to make sure Rowe scholars are learning and growing at the highest levels.

The next question is how. How will we achieve these ambitious goals? That's actually simple to answer, though not simple to do. We will accomplish these goals by continuing to build strong, trusting, and respectful relationships with all of you; and we'll achieve these goals by continuing to make sure that every child at Rowe has an excellent teacher in front of them every single day. With that in mind, I cannot wait to welcome you all in for **Meet Your Teacher Night on August 30<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 6:00pm** so you can meet your teachers, both returning and new, as well as our new additions to the leadership team.

From a personal standpoint, September 4<sup>th</sup> cannot come soon enough. Through my 3 years as principal at Rowe, I've learned and grown so much as a person, as an educator, and as a leader. There have been so many wonderful moments that have affirmed what an honor it is to call Rowe home, and there have been moments that have challenged me to get better. I embrace both experiences with the same growth mindset: learn from it and get better.

My promise to you all is that we will continue to learn and continue to get better.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Best,



## Meet Your Teacher Night

Join us on Thursday, August 30th  
from 4:00—6:00 pm.

You and your scholar can meet your  
new 2018-2019 teacher, check out the class-  
room, & meet other families and scholars.

Mark your calendar!

## Upcoming Events

**Sept. 4th** - First Day of School—  
Doors open at 8:10am—School  
starts at 8:30am. **Be on time!**

**Sept. 13th** - All Star Parent In-  
formation Session—5pm to  
6pm

**Sept. 18th** - PAC Meeting  
8:30am RES

**Week Sept. 25th** - Smencil Sale

**Sept. 27th** - Back to School  
Night - 4:30pm to 6pm

## Smencil Sale

The PAC will be selling  
Smencils the week of  
September 25th  
at dismissal.



### Attention Parent

Please update your information  
with the main office. We need:

- ☺ Your current telephone number
- ☺ Your current email address

**Please contact the school clerks at RES  
312-445-5870 or RMS at 773-799-2730**

## PARENT ACADEMY

Join us for the  
After-School All-Stars  
Parent Information Session  
Scholars 6th thru 8th grade  
Thursday, 9/13  
5-6pm  
Rowe Middle Atrium



## Tips for a Great First Day of School

1. Get uniform set up the night before
2. Get a good night sleep
3. A good breakfast at home or at school (8:10am to 8:30am)
4. Smile and be friendly
5. First day of school is just another day at school.

Failure to prepare is  
preparing to fail.

*Benjamin Franklin*

## First Day of School Play list

My scholars are usually pretty nervous the first day of school. In order to calm their nerves and pump them up, I create a "First Day of School Play List." Here are some recommendations:

1. Can't Stop this Feeling—Justin Timberlake
2. Happy—Pharrell
3. We're Going to be Friends—The White Stripes
4. I Will Survive—Gloria Gaynor
5. The Middle—Jimmy Eat World

## Back to School Night

Join us on  
Thursday, September 27th  
from 4:30pm—6:00 pm.

Stop by your scholar's classroom to see  
what they have been up to. Check in with  
your scholar's teacher.

Mark your calendar!

## RMS High School Fair is coming!

Mark your calendar for our  
RMS High School Fair  
October 4th  
4pm-5:30pm at RMS.  
Mark your calendar!!



Mrs.  
Velasco