

# RMS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Effective middle schools are known to promote advisory programs as a way to strengthen connectedness within the school community. The RMS Mentorship program is designed so that a teacher advisor meets daily with a small group of students to provide academic and social-emotional mentorship and support.

## PURPOSE



The purpose of the Mentorship program at RMS is three-fold:

1. To teach the SD23 Attributes of a Learner—each student will have opportunities to develop and demonstrate their skills as a learner, thinker, contributor, collaborator, and innovator.
2. To Build Community – the Mentorship program hopes to build a sense of community within the Mentorship classroom, RMS, as well as the surrounding community. We hope to provide an array of play-based inquiry activities that encourage community-building through questions such as:
  - *What did you notice?*
  - *Why does that happen?*
  - *Does it happen in life/school?*
  - *When?*
  - *Now that you notice this, what does it mean moving forward?*
3. Prepare for the year end Presentation of Learning – we

want to build on the success of last year's POLs. POLs provide students an opportunity to "think about their thinking." This type of metacognition helps students to learn in much more depth because they begin to recognize personal strengths while improving or allowing for weaknesses.

## THEMES

During the year, you will see three distinct themes. Each theme is related to the three core competencies that is pervasive throughout British Columbia's new curriculum:

**Communication**, **Creative & Critical Thinking**, and **Personal & Social**. The curriculum describes each core competency accompanied by several "I can" statements which help identify the set of abilities students need to be able to demonstrate the attribute. See below for a sample "I can" statement from each competency as well as several key words from the competencies' description.

1. Positive Personal and Cultural Identity (Sept. – Dec. 2015)
  - "I can reflect on my strengths and identify my potential as a leader in my community."
  - Key words: personal identity; learning is continuous; personal relationships, culture, values, choices, attributes; contribute to self, family, community
2. Communication (Jan. 2016 – Mar. 2016)
  - "I recognize that there are different points-of-view and I can disagree respectfully."
  - Key words: connect, engage, contribute, listen, learn, interpret, collaborate, plan, carry out, review, explain, reflect

3. Creative & Critical Thinking (Apr. 2016 – Jun. 2016)
  - "I can work with others to achieve a common goal; I do my share."
  - Key words: ideas of novelty & value; to generate ideas; to learn; to develop ideas; collaborative critical thinking; ideas as innovations

## School-wide PBL

### Activity Theme :



### ***How can I contribute to community (classroom, school, neighbourhood, country) without collecting?"***

The "Contributing without Collecting" theme allows for individual classroom voice-and-choice under the umbrella of a school-wide PBL service project. Classes are discouraged from collecting money or sell products. Rather, students are encouraged to come up with service projects which allow their classes to contribute to the greater good of the RMS community.

See the reverse side for some ideas that allow your class to "Contribute without Collecting" or brainstorm your own!

## **Rutland Middle School Mentorship "Contributing without Collecting" Ideas**

1. Adopt a bulletin board. Keep a bulletin board near your classroom brightly decorated with awesome student work, inspirational quotes, or pictures of activities from around RMS.
2. Beautify RMS by painting the brown outdoor garbage cans with bright colours or murals.
3. Clean/tidy a neglected property near the school.
4. Clean/tidy a neighbor's yard who cannot do it themselves.
5. Create a play, poster, or song that teaches students from our feeder schools to stay safe at home (or at school, walking to school, or riding their bike to school).
6. Establish a program where students in your class call, text, or visit a sick friend in order to cheer them up.
7. Explore history by interviewing a nursing home resident about how they grew up.
8. Form a band or choir with your friends and give free concerts in the morning, lunch, or after school.
9. Make birthday cards for other students and staff in our school community
10. Make Holiday Cards (or drawings or decorations) for elderly residents of retirement or nursing homes
11. Organize a recognition program for RMS volunteers or contributors
12. Organize your class to plant, tend and harvest a school flower or vegetable garden.
13. Plan a Cultural/Ethnic Awareness day for RMS (ie, Celebrate Chinese New Year or an Aboriginal Day)
14. Practice random acts of kindness.
15. Recognize veterans in our community by writing cards or letters to the local Royal Canadian Legion before Remembrance Day.
16. Set up a buddy system with kids in your class with kids from the RMS resource room
17. Start an Energy Conservation Project at RMS. For example, track your class's consumption of juice boxes and sandwich bags. Then, create large colorful bar graphs that can be posted on bulletin board hallways for other students to see.
18. Take photos during a school event and donate them to the event organizers.
19. Volunteer to separate cans and bottles from other recycling
20. Adopt a display cabinet to show off student work or school activities.