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From the Director

Summer Greetings!

Hope yours is off to a fine start. Here are some bits of information that pertain to various levels of students / families but might of interest to all. Please know that summer updates will come as needed, not on a weekly basis!

1st / 2nd Grade Update

The two 1st / 2nd grade classes look to have about twenty or twenty one students next year. Each of these rooms will have two full time teachers who will devote to their respective rooms full time. Those pairings will be Sara/Angela and Sean/Amy Biro (new to 1st/2nd). We will do this to accommodate the larger rooms.

Middle School (6th-8th) Technology Update

Starting this coming year, all middle school students will need to supply their own laptop / iPad / notebook equivalent. This is really how most independent schools have gone in recent years because it makes so much sense from both the family's and school's perspective. Most middle school kids already have such a device, or their school life would vastly improve if they had one. Removing machines from the school's management is always welcomed. We still have a 5th grade set of iPads and numerous laptop carts for Primary to manage, but this will help.

There are certain specifications needed on machines to operate efficiently for both Ricks' use and DU matching. Please see this link to access those specifications: [Middle School Tech Specs.pdf](#) Please know that all of the requirements found in the Acceptable Use Policy document you should have read and signed also apply to technology brought from home.

We are in the midst of replacing our Tech Coordinator, so if you have questions, try the link on the Specs document or contact Dan Cohen at dan.cohen@du.edu.

Middle School Fall Trip

All 6th – 8th graders and teachers will venture to the 100 Elk Outdoor Center in Buena Vista from September 23rd – 25th. This is a tremendous facility that offers ropes course, hiking, cooperative games, canoeing, rock climbing, and other activities. We will be using these two and one half days to set tone, review the start of the year, set goals, and establish the culture of school leaders. Estimated cost is approximately \$220 per student. Visit the program at www.100elk.org. More to follow.

Summer Garden Care at Ricks

We need help with maintenance in the "outdoor classroom", and you are welcome to harvest veggies for the family to enjoy as they ripen. There are a series of two week slots available through vacation. For more information about what is involved in caring for the garden, please see the attached [Summer Garden Care](#) document.

To sign up, go to:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0D45ADAB2FA1F49-2015/7104055

BRICKS FOR RICKS

Please have all orders in by June 30, 2015

Ever wonder how you can join those who are commemorated within the brickwork along the entrance walkway to Ricks Center? For a donation of \$100 (\$75 for each additional brick), you can have a brick engraved with your children's names, your names, or any other fantastic saying (up to twenty characters for two lines.) The bricks are long-lasting tributes to the many people who have helped the Ricks Center grow! The engraving is filled with a colored compound that seals the engraved area against weather and improves legibility. If you would like to order a brick, fill out the form attached and return it with your check to the Front Desk. Need to see examples? They line the brick walkway to the door of the school! [Order Form attached here.](#)

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