

SNOWY RANGE ACADEMY

Falcon Flier

December 2023

January 2024

From the Principal's Desk

Snowy Range Academy Community,

December is upon us and it is sure to be a busy month for all. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving spent with those most cherished in life in spite of the weather. However, as this is Wyoming, it is something we can expect any time of year.

There is much to consume our attention this time of year and I hope all are able to find a peaceful balance. On Saturday, December 2nd, SRA's PTA will host a fundraising skate at the Laramie Ice Arena. The purpose of this event is to raise money for SRA, increase community awareness and understanding of Snowy Range Academy and of course celebrate the holiday season. Please join us if you can, as it is always entertaining to watch me ice skate. Additionally, SRA's Singing Falcons will be performing at the UW Art Museum at 5 pm on December 14th. Our choir will also perform for the school community on Friday, December 15th at 2:15 pm. Parents are welcome to join us for this event.

As this has been a unique and challenging start to the school year, I would like to thank everyone for the patience, flexibility and understanding displayed by all. It shows the true strength of our school community and demonstrates our ability to overcome and maintain focus on what is important. To the staff, students and parents, thank you for your support.

As we continue moving into this busy time of year, I would like to remind students and parents to do their best to maintain a regular routine. With so much excitement and so many events, it is difficult to focus on school and the work which must be done. Maintaining a consistent routine will increase the likelihood that students continue to be successful.

I wish you all the best of times during the holidays. I hope it is a time spent with those you love, doing that which you enjoy doing.

Best,
John Cowper
Principal



- December 2: Field Trip - Lego Competition in Casper
- December 2: Falcons on Ice
- December 5: Field Trip - 3rd Ice Skating
- December 8: Jeans Day
- December 8: Papa Murphy's Pizza Night
- December 14: Choirs Perform at UW Art Museum
- December 15: Winter Music Concert @ SRA, 2:15 pm
- December 19: Field Trip– 1st gr Gymnastics
- December 20: Field Trip– Kindergarten Bowling
- December 20: SRA Board Meeting, 6:00 pm
- December 21: Field Trip– 2nd gr LEAP
- December 21: Early Release, **11:15 am**
- December 21: Field Trip - 3rd-5th to LHS Holiday Concert
- Dec 22-Jan 5: NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK
- January 8: PTA Meeting, 6:30 pm
- January 12: Papa Murphy's Pizza Night
- January 17: SRA Board Meeting, 6:00 pm
- January 18: End of 2nd Quarter
- January 18: Movie Day
- January 18: Early Release, **11:15 am**
- January 19: NO SCHOOL - Staff Development
- January 26: Jeans Day

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Substitutes Wanted!

SRA has an urgent need for SUBSTITUTES. We are seeking qualified applicants to serve as substitute teachers and ask that you visit our website at www.snowyrangeacademy.org or call 307-745-9930 for more information.

All interested individuals must hold a current Wyoming Substitute Teacher Permit. Please go to the following link <http://wyomingptsb.com/licensure/substitute-teaching/> to learn more



EVERY STUDENT should have a COAT, HAT, AND GLOVES for recess every day!

Our playground receives a lot of wind. Students can much better enjoy the fresh air and some time for movement and play when they are toasty and not feeling the chill of Old Man Winter.

Per policy, we do go outside until the temp and/or wind chill reaches 0 degrees or below.

Be Safe! Be prepared!

*SRA has very limited supplies to loan to students. Please help us care for your child by sending them to school with proper winter outerwear. If you need assistance acquiring these items for your child, please let us know.

What's for Lunch?

The school lunch menu can be found posted on the district website. There is a quick link on the right side of our page, under family Resources.

Join Us for the Next Board Meeting

SRA Board Meeting
6:00 pm, December 20th, 2023
All are welcome!

Notes from the Nurse



All medications, **including cough drops**, must be kept in the nurse's office during the school day. Medications need to be sent in their original packaging and cannot be expired. There must be a medication form filled out and on file for all medications, **including cough drops** per district policy. These forms can be found at the front office, nurse's office or on our webpage under medication forms.

It is important to send your children with warm clothing. Tights or leggings underneath skirts and dresses, warm coats, snow pants, snow boots, hats and gloves can help your children stay warm as they go out to recess to enjoy some fresh air.



Just a reminder on the illness policy. If your child is home sick, please keep him/her home from school until they are 24 hours fever free (without the use of fever reducing medicines) and/or 24 hours vomit free. Please keep them home if they are coughing often, or if they do not feel good enough to get through the whole school day.

Please remember to call the front office if your child will be out of school that day for illness or other reasons.

Thank you!
Lori Smith
lsmith@acsd1.org

Dress Code

REMINDER: SRA has a dress code. Please make sure your child is in compliance.

A few basics:

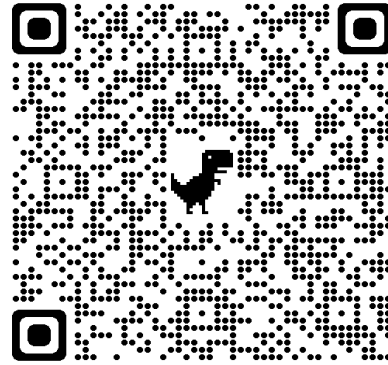
- All students should wear a polo shirt, no button-up shirts. Colors for tops are navy, burgundy, white, hunter green (no black).
- Shirts should be tucked in.
- Belts are required for all students grades 1-8.
- Girls' jumpers and skirts can be khaki, navy, black, or French Toast burgundy plaid (but not solid burgundy or green). Hem no more than 3" above the knee. No dresses.
- Pants should not have elastic waist or hems.
- No light up shoes, no crocs.
- Socks must be solid, in the following colors only: navy, white, black, burgundy, forest green, khaki, or gray.
- Hair accessories should be small and conservative.
- Uniforms must be modest, clean, and orderly (no rips/tears, or heavy stains).
- No visible tattoos (game-day temp tattoos should be removed before returning to school).
- Snow boots may not be worn inside all day. Students should have a change of shoes to wear inside.

Office Notes & Reminders

- ◇ ATTENDANCE: please make sure you notify the office each time your student is absent. You may phone in, 307-745-9930, or email Mrs. Hubenthal at chubenthal@acsd1.org. For pre-arranged absences, please submit this [form](#) found on our website.
- ◇ CHECK-IN MADE EASY WITH KEY FOBS: We issue bar-code key fobs for parents who frequently visit school. This makes your computer check in/out **fast** and **easy**. Please fill out [this form](#) to request a fob. Key fobs are name-specific and are assigned to you for the duration of your child being enrolled at SRA, so please hang onto them! Kindly notify the office if your fob is lost or damaged. Thank you.
- ◇ MESSAGES TO STUDENTS: Parents requesting messages to be sent to their student (ex: change of plans for parent pick-up or riding bus), must notify the office no later than **2:45 pm**. Beyond that time, we cannot guarantee your child will receive the message. Thank you for your understanding.
- ◇ LOST AND FOUND: Our lost and found is full! Please find a time to look through and claim any items belonging to your child(ren). **All unclaimed items will be donated over winter break.**



Laramie Interfaith Christmas Basket Meal Sign-Up Link The deadline for signing up is Monday, December 11th.



Student Council

Jeans days will be on December 8th and January 26th

Periodically, the school will hold Jeans Day. Students who choose to pay \$1.00 will be allowed to wear denim jeans with their uniform top. Denim jeans will only be allowed on designated Jeans Days. If denim jeans are worn any other time, a uniform citation will be issued, and parents will be called to bring uniform pants. The money raised on Jeans Day will go to the Student Council for projects in the school.

Guidelines for jeans worn on Jeans Day are as follows:

- No words or logos on the jeans (besides Brand logo)
- SMALL amounts of embroidery and bling will be allowed as long as it is a school appropriate design such as flowers or butterflies. (Not allowed: words or skull and crossbones, excessive bling.)
- Must wear regular school belt (with the exception of Kindergarten)
- No rips or holes
- No key chains
- No baggy or excessively wide-legged jeans
- Denim must be blue or black in color (no pink or purple jeans)
- No denim jeggings or skirts are allowed
- Shirts need to be tucked in and jeans need to be clean.



Students who forget their money will be given a chance to call home for money or uniform pants. Students who do not follow the Jeans Day guideline will be asked to call home for an appropriate school uniform. If the problem cannot be fixed, a uniform citation will be issued. Students will pay for the jeans in their classroom.



January 18th will be movie day.

The November food drive has ended. The two winners, one from K-5 and one from the Middle School (6-8), will be announced at the assembly on December 6th. The winning classes will select which movie their grade grouping watches for the Q2 reward on January 18th, 2024. Since we have surpassed our school-wide goal to get more cans than last year, the Student Council will also be providing an individually wrapped snack to eat during the movie. Students may bring a small pillow that day and their water bottle to watch the movie.

Board Notes

Hello from the SRA Board of Directors,

At the November meeting, the board heard a presentation from the Development Working Group, which has been researching fundraising practices at other charter schools. During the past few months, the group identified a list of similar charter schools and explored how those schools raise and spend private-support funds. The group is recommending that SRA hire a consultant to help us shape our own fundraising goals and strategies. We will be considering this suggestion at our December meeting.

The board has advertised for bids for Phase 1B of our expansion project, and we plan to approve a bid in December, with construction to start next year. The board also approved a proposal for a property survey, which is one of the first steps in improving our playground.

The December board meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Dec. 20. The January board meeting is set for 6 p.m. Jan. 17. All meetings take place at SRA and stream online via Zoom. To view agendas and meeting minutes, visit the Board of Directors page on the website and click on the link for BoardDocs.

Best,

Eve Newman

Snowy Range Academy Board Chairman

PTA News

Secret Staff Adoption

As the days are getting shorter, the opportunities to help our teachers and staff feel valued are growing. One of the most anticipated ways of giving back to SRA each year is the annual Secret Staff Adoption. Here's how it works: email pta4sra@gmail.com to express your interest by December 8. You'll be matched with a staff member and provide a monthly pick-me-up for them based on their survey of preferences.

Book Cover Volunteers

We are still requesting volunteers to cover books for the new ELA curriculum. We're happy to teach you how to cover the books and all it takes is 15 minutes. After that, you can cover books from the comfort of your own home and at your own pace. It's an easy way to help our teachers, and we appreciate your consideration in helping with this endeavor!

Ice Skating

Have you ever wondered what it's like to ice skate with our very own SRA Falcon? If so, come one, come all to the Laramie Ice and Events Center on December 2, from 11 am- 1pm for **Falcons on Ice**. The entry fee is \$5/person (cash or check preferred). Pizza and beverages will be available for sale, too.

Thank you to Scholastic Book Fair Volunteers

We deeply appreciate all the volunteers that helped make this fall event possible! Extra special thanks to: **Erika Christiansen, Magda Soliman, Skiy Martin, Alexia Jones, Chelsea and Nathan Janzen, Brittany Graham, Leticia Henderson, Priscilla Phan, David Mounts, Monique Zemtsop, and Rita Brechlin.**

Next Meeting

The next PTA meeting will be January 8, 2024, at 6:30 pm in the SRA library. If you can't make it in person, please consider joining via the Zoom link provided. <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/87443490740?pwd=0p9SIsl5ZLH70wFhjXeLbgjBmRL7fL.1>



SPECIALS



GENEROSITY



What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.
~ Albert Pike

For December in character education students will discuss the character trait generosity. Generosity incorporates sharing what you have with others, saving in order to be able to give, not expecting anything in return, giving of your time and talents, and being kind and encouraging. We will discuss generosity through stories including “The Legend of the Bluebonnet” by Tomie DePaola, and “The Quiltmaker’s Gift” by Jeff Brumbeau. We will also practice sharing and be on the lookout for “Time and Talent” coupons coming home this holiday break.

As the month comes to an end, I am encouraging students to go into this holiday season with open hearts to give generously to their parents, siblings and extended relatives with smiles, grateful hearts, and free hugs. Have a wonderful break and see you next year!

Those who are not looking for happiness are the most likely to find it, because those who are searching forget that the surest way to be happy is to seek happiness for others.

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

FORGIVENESS

To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover the prisoner was you.—Unknown

The character trait for the month of January is forgiveness. Character First Education defines forgiveness as letting go of bitterness and revenge stating, “forgiveness is not a feeling, and it does not take away or excuse what others have done. Real forgiveness is recognizing the problem and all the pain and hurt that comes with it – and then choosing to let go of any bitterness, anger, and desire for revenge so you can move on with life.”

In forgiving others, we will discuss and practice using the “4-Part Apology”. The “4-Part Apology” is a technique for forgiveness that I learned from Quantum Learning for Teachers and Students. It encourages individuals to maintain good relationships with others. In the “4-part Apology” the offender first acknowledges what they have done wrong, then apologizes, asks what they can do to make it right, and finally recommits to trying not to make the same mistake in the future. Practical ways like the “4-Part Apology” can help ease the severity of holding on to grudges that can make one unhappy and bitter.

There are many benefits to forgiving according to the Mayo Clinic. Some of these benefits of forgiving include healthier relationships, less stress, lower blood pressure, fewer symptoms of depression and anxiety, and lower risk of alcohol and substance abuse.

Ultimately, the desire at SRA is to have an atmosphere that is safe and understanding. We want students to leave SRA with a remembrance of a good experience. Regardless of where you go to school, work, or live, without forgiveness one could have a miserable experience.

The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.

~ Mahatma Gandhi



Upcoming Events:

- **UW Art Museum: Tis the Season Winter Events & Art Show (December 13th-16th)**

Kindergarten- Line, Color, Sculpture and Native American Art

Featured Art: *Purple*

Robe and Anemones, People and Dog in the Sun, Lobster Trap and Fish Tail, Blue Atmosphere, The Hunters in the Snow, Lullaby, Snowman, Gathering Paradise

1st Grade- Ancient Egypt, Architecture, Color and Line

Featured Art: *Great Pyramids of Egypt, Teotihuacan: Pyramid of the Moon, Retablos, Alebrijes, Popocatepetl Volcano, Explosion Floral, Emile de'Erlanger La Baronne, Parade, The Swan, Shell, Trumpeter Swan, El Bano, La Presa, Fire Hydrant, ata Ortiz Pottery*

2nd Grade- Landscapes

Featured Art: *View from Mount Holyoke Massachusetts after a Thunderstorm (The Oxbow),*

View of Toledo, Virgin Forest at Sunrise, The Starry Night, Murals (Hunter), Vista, Urban Fiction No. 13

3rd Grade- Ancient Rome and Byzantine

Featured Art: *Le Pont de Gard, The Pantheon, Hagia Sophia, Byzantine Mosaics*

4th Grade- Islamic Art and Architecture

Featured Art: *Illumination of the Qur'an, Handwritten Qur'an, The Sultan with His Court, Court of Lions, The Ardabil Carpet, Untitled (Madiha Omar), Mirrat, Dome of the Rock, Great Mosque of Damascus, Taj Mahal*

5th Grade- Baroque Art and Architecture and American Art during the 19th century

Featured Art: *View of Toledo, Self-Portrait (Rembrandt), Esther before Ahasuerus, Self-Portrait*

(Leyster), San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane, Sant' Andrea al Quirinale, Landscape with Rainbow, The Oxbow, Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak, Fur Traders Descending the Missouri, Eel Spear-ing at Setauket, Civil War Photog-raphy of Mathew Brady and col-leagues

Middle School- 20th Century Photography & 20th Century Sculpture

Featured Art: *The Steerage (1907), Raccoon Couple in a Car (1932), Fort Peck Dam (1936), Migrant Mother California (1936), Moonrise Hernandez New Mexico (1941), Washington D.C. Government Charwoman (1942), The Berlin Wall (1962), Our Lady of Iguanas (1979), Cindy Sherman Film Stills (1977-80), When I hear the word culture I take out my checkbook (1985), KCarrie Mae Weems Kitchen Table Series (1989-90), The Thinker, Monu-ment to Balzac (1898), Bird in Space (1923), Two Forms (1934), Object (1936), #2 Mask (1939/1941), Lobster Trap and Fish Tail (1939),*

Bull's Head (1942)



December Spanish

Kindergarten- Colors and Family

First- Hola Niños: Early Civilizations of the Americas: Maya, Aztec, Inca

Second- Spanish End Rhyme Poem: Feliz Navidad

Third- Hola Niños: Unit 6 (Countries and Languages)

Fourth- Hola Niños: Unit 7 (Weather Reports and Hemispheres)

Fifth- Spanish Novel, "Pobre Ana"

January Spanish

Kindergarten- Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see? En ESPAÑOL

First- Hola Niños: Unit 3 (Food and Emotions)

Second- Hola Niños: Unit 4 (Body)

Third- Hola Niños: Unit 6 (Countries and Languages)

Fourth- Hola Niños: Unit 7 (Weather Reports and Hemispheres)

Fifth- Finish Spanish Novel, "Pobre Ana"

MUSIC



Kindergarten

- Instrument Recognition

•**Composer:** Victor Herbert: “March of the Toys” and Edward Grieg: “Morning and In the Hall of the Mountain King”

•**Songs:** John Jacob Jingle Heimer Schmidt; Jingle Bells; Go Tell Aunt Rhody; The Bear Went Over the Mountain; BINGO; This Old Man

First Grade:

•**Composers:** Tchaikovsky: “Nutcracker Ballet” and Paul Dukas “The Sorcerer’s Apprentice”

•**Songs:** There’s a Hole in the Bucket; Skip to My Lou; On Top of Old Smokey; She’ll Be Comin’ Round the Mountain

Second Grade:

•**Composer:** Chavez: “Toccata for Percussion”

•**Songs:** Casey Jones; John Henry; Good Bye Old Paint; Home on the Range; De Colores

Third Grade:

•**Composer:** Rimsky Korsakov: “Scheherazade”

•**Songs:** Li’l Liza Jane; Alouette; Ding Dong Diggidiggidong; The Man on the Flying Trapeze; Down in the Valley; The Earth is our Mother; The Sidewalks of New York

Fourth Grade:

• **Composers:** Britten: “Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra”; Mozart: “Variations on a French Song”; Handel: “Hallelujah Chorus”

•**Songs:** Auld Lang Syne; I Love the Mountains; My Grandfather’s Clock; Comin’ Through the Rye

Fifth Grade:

• **Composers:** Beethoven: “Symphonies #5&6”; Mendelssohn: “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”; Mussorgsky: “Pictures at an Exhibition”

•**Songs:** Dona Nobis Pacem; The Elements Song; Havah Nagilah; Sakura; God Bless America; Tenting Tonight

Middle School:

- Musical Theater
- Instrument ensembles



Middle school students will begin their Invasion Games mini-unit in December followed by Rhythm and Dance in January. 3rd – 5th graders have begun their Team Handball season to be followed by sampling of a variety of invasion games with Rhythm and Dance beginning in January. K-2nd graders will wrap up their locomotor and manipulative exploratory unit and begin volleying and striking skills which will lead into a sampling of net/wall games with a few weeks of Rhythm and Dance mixed in at the beginning of January.

K-3rd graders will going on field trips in December with K visiting Laramie Lanes for a game of bowling on December 20. 1st graders are scheduled to participate in a variety of gymnastics stations to be led by WSG coaches at the Wyoming School of Gymnastics (WSG) on December 19th and 2nd grade will visit LEAP Ninja Warrior Fitness on December 21st. Finally, 3rd graders will visit the Laramie Ice and Event Center for ice skating and hot chocolate (donated by the Human Bean) on December 5th.

Snow Day? Blizzard Bags are the Answer

In anticipation of snow days throughout our school year, we have compiled a "Blizzard Packet" for students to keep at home. The activities/lessons in your student's packet reflect grade-level work to be completed if a Snow Day is called during our unpredictable winter season.

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

The Temporary Virtual Education Plan for K-5, outlined by SRA and ACSD#1, calls for Blizzard Packet to be sent home with students. Completing the Blizzard Packet will account for your student's attendance should we need to be closed for winter conditions.

How does this work?

Blizzard Packets are sent home early in the school year and are expected to be kept at home and used if needed. A second Blizzard Packet will be sent home if the school is closed on two separate accounts. **Students are to complete the grade level classroom activities/lessons and at minimum one activity/lesson for a special class (art, music, technology, library, PE).**

What do we do with the Blizzard Packet?

Please keep the Blizzard Packet in an accessible place until it is needed. The activities/lessons included only need to be completed by students if an official Snow Day is called.

When do we return the Blizzard Packet?

The student will have three days from the time we return to school after an official Snow Day to return the lessons/activities to their classroom teachers for attendance to be recorded. If the Blizzard Packet is not returned within three school days your child will be marked as unexcused for the day.

Are we able to receive Blizzard Packet electronically?

Yes, teachers are encouraged to have digital copies of their Blizzard Packet that can be shared with parents/guardians.

Does this mean we will not make up snow days in June?

Yes, Blizzard Packets are intended to turn official Snow Days into Virtual Education Days, meaning additional days will not need to be made up at the end of the school year.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Please see additional information specific to grades 6-8 [here](#).

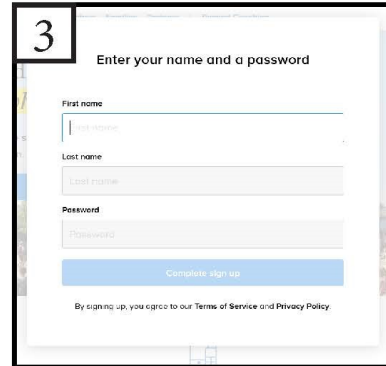
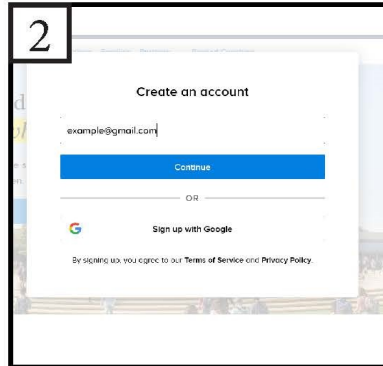
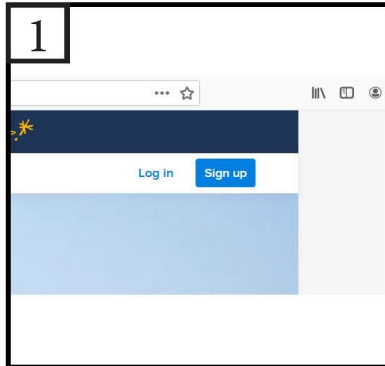


REMIND APP

Get updates for Snowy Range Academy right on your phone!

To provide you with the most recent news we will begin using the **Remind** app which sends information by text, email, and/or push notifications. This will eventually replace our BlackBoard Connect notification system.

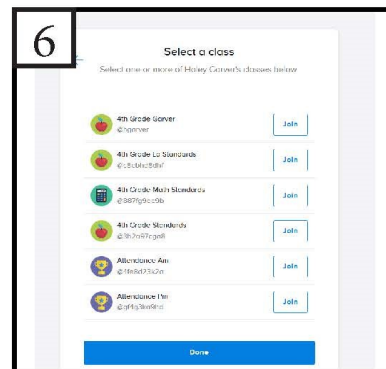
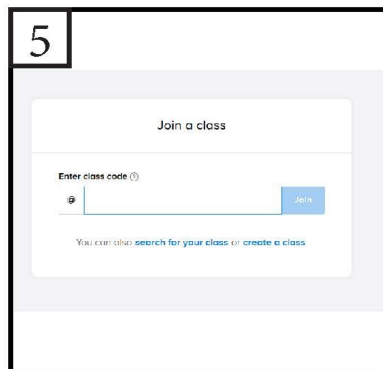
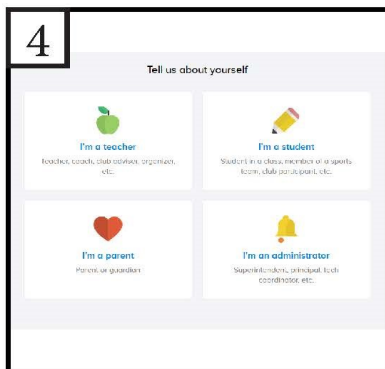
How to Join Remind for Updates from Albany County School District #1 and its Schools



1. Head to the Remind website, and click on “Sign Up” in the upper right-hand corner.

2. Create an account by using either an email address or phone number. You will then be asked to enter a code that has been sent to the phone or email address you gave.

3. Enter your name and a password you would like for your account, and click “Complete sign up.”



4. You will select “I’m a parent” when Remind prompts this screen. After that, you can add a phone number if you began with email.

5. You can then join a class by entering a class code if you know it, or by searching for your child(ren)’s school and teacher.

6. Once you find the teacher, you can join the class your child(ren) has with that teacher. When you have picked all the classes, select “Done.” You are all set to receive notifications from Remind.

December 2023

Generosity

You're a Grand
Old Flag

ASSEMBLY RECITATION SCHEDULE

- * December 6th: Character
- * December 13th: Kinder A & B
- * December 20th: 2nd A & B

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2  Field Trip -Lego Competition 
3	4	5  Field Trip - 3rd Ice Skating	6	7	8  PAPA MURPHYS PIZZA NIGHT JEANS DAY 	9
10	11	12	13	14 	15  	16
17	18	19  Field Trip - 1st gr to Gymnastics	20  Field Trip - Kindergarten Bowling 	21  Field Trip - 3rd-5th Choir LHS Field Trip- 2nd gr to LEAP 	22 WINTER BREAK 	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
WINTER BREAK 						
31						

January 2024

Forgiveness

*My Country 'Tis
of Thee*

ASSEMBLY RECITATION SCHEDULE

- * January 10th: Character
- * January 17th: Operational Goal Focus
- * January 24th: 8th
- * January 31st: Honor Roll

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<h1>WINTER BREAK</h1> 						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	<div style="border: 2px dashed red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> PTA Meeting 6:30 pm </div>				PAPA MURPHYS PIZZA NIGHT 	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> SRA Board Meeting 6:00 pm </div>	END 2ND QUARTER MOVIE DAY <div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> EARLY RELEASE 11:15 </div>	Staff Development <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> NO SCHOOL </div>	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
					(A+) REPORT CARDS JEANS DAY 	
28	29	30	31			