

Salt Brook Elementary School

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“RISE UP”

2021 - 2022 NPSD Character Education District-wide Theme

October 7, 2021

Dear SB Families,

What an exciting day at SB! In keeping with our Salt Brook tradition, today we unveiled our new NPSD 2021 - 2022 Character Education theme “RISE UP” at a school-wide surprise assembly. Once gathered outside on the playground, our School Counselor, Mrs. Evans-Roglieri greeted the students and directed their attention to last year’s Character Education theme, Stronger Together. A brief discussion followed. As Mrs. Evans-Roglieri was concluding her comments, a large hot air balloon began to inflate on the lower fields. During the inflation, NPHS Senior Kyra Trumball accompanied by SB Vocal Music Teacher Mr. Mango beautifully sang Andra Day’s song “Rise Up”. Towards the end of the song, the hot air balloon began to slowly “Rise Up”. What an incredible moment! This visual captured the attention of all and helped to symbolize one rising up and reaching one's goals. Following the school-wide assembly, the students returned to their classrooms where they watched a school-based video [SB School Let's "Rise UP"!](#). Then, they discussed the theme “RISE UP!” and participated in a Hot Air Balloon Goal Setting activity.

This year’s theme “RISE UP” is a theme focused around **perseverance, courage, and confidence**. The global pandemic that we have all experienced has created a mix of emotions in us all. At times, we have witnessed unkind acts, short tempers, and negativity. While at other times we have experienced kind acts, laughter, and positivity. When we look carefully we can easily see the “Good News” within our community and nation. Perhaps this “Good News” was food shopping for a neighbor who was quarantined, making cards for local health care workers and first responders. Gathering on one's porch at a designated time to have a neighborhood sing, or organizing a car parade for a special event. It is at those times that our theme “RISE UP” took on meaning. This simple, yet meaningful message empowers us all to “RISE UP”, look for the “Good News”, and find the determination and power from within to effect change.

As the school year progresses, we will engage our students in meaningful activities that will give them the power to choose their own path. We will provide them with the skills, practice, courage, and confidence to persevere and grow. We will encourage the students to “RISE UP” and be part of solutions. We will guide them to “RISE UP” and choose to be positive. We will support them as they “RISE UP” and work to make a change. We will all look for the “Good News” around us and “RISE UP” as we inspire others to be kind and compassionate.

As a family, we invite you to “RISE UP” and share your “Good News” with the SB community. Each evening when you sit down to dinner together, take turns answering the questions:

- *What was the highlight of your day?*
- *How did you “RISE UP”?*

On Fridays during morning announcements we will “RISE UP” and begin our day by sharing some “Good News”. Your family can also submit their “Good News” on this [Family/Student RISE UP submission form](#). All “Good News” submitted will be either announced in the morning announcements or posted on our “RISE UP” hallway display.

We are excited about this year-long project and believe it will help to both further foster kindness and respect among our students as well as teach them about the effects of being kind to others and their community. Please be on the alert for further “RISE UP” information and updates that will be shared throughout the year.

I thank you in advance for your support of this program. I look forward to watching us all “RISE UP”!

Sincerely,

Jean M. Drexinger

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