

Dear RTMSD Parent/Guardian,

This email is a follow-up to the voice message that was recently sent about the YouthTruth Survey.

Last year, to support our efforts to create learning environments that are safe, inclusive, and facilitate a sense of belonging for all our students, faculty, and staff, we utilized the national non-profit YouthTruth Survey. We are using this same survey again this year for all our stakeholders. The YouthTruth Student Survey is a nationally recognized survey used in hundreds of schools and districts across the country, surveying hundreds of thousands of students. The survey asks students about their experiences in school and with their teachers, including how engaged they are at school, the rigor of their coursework, and their preparedness for the future.

For information about this survey, please visit <http://youthtruthsurvey.org>.

You may also view last year's survey results and questions on our website at this link [2021-22 YouthTruth Results](#).

The survey is completely anonymous for all takers. The survey will be administered to students in grades 3-12, and to all faculty and staff, as well as all parents/guardians. The survey takes about 20 minutes to complete. Building principals will send more details about the survey and the dates for administration at each school. **The window for administration for the family survey is February 27 – March 10.**

Please use this link to access the family survey starting on February 27: <http://www.ytsurvey.org/rtdmsdfamily23>.

We strongly encourage parents and students to participate in the survey so that we can collect as much information about our schools as possible. If you have any questions after reviewing the link, please email me at rharrison@rtmsd.org. If you would like to opt your child out of the survey, please click on the school link(s) below to access and submit an opt-out form. You will need to submit a form for each of your children. Please complete the **opt-out process no later than Monday, February 27.**

[Glenwood Elementary School](#)
[Indian Lane Elementary School](#)
[Rose Tree Elementary School](#)
[Media Elementary School](#)
[Springton Lake Middle School](#)
[Penncrest High School](#)

The survey for our parents/guardians can be found at this link: <http://www.ytsurvey.org/rtdmsdfamily23>

Please take the family survey between February 27 and March 10.

Please note:

- The survey needs to be completed in one sitting.
- We ask that one member of each household fill out the survey.
- If you have more than one child who attends the same school, you may respond to the survey multiple times - one time per child.

- If you write any comments, please do not include your name or anything else that might identify you. Your responses are anonymous, and they will be combined with the responses of other parents and guardians before being shared back with school and district leadership.

Research suggests that efforts to improve school culture and student achievement should be informed by staff and family perceptions alongside student perceptions. Making informed decisions requires hearing diverse perspectives from these integral groups of stakeholders. While test scores and teacher value-added measures can be useful in measuring overall performance, it can be difficult to act on these measures because they are often reported after the student has left the classroom, and because they offer little guidance about how to improve. Feedback from staff and family members can serve as an actionable, real-time barometer of factors that influence student success.

Our goal is to analyze the data from the survey to help us create goals and plans as we strive to continuously improve our schools.

Thanks for your continued support of our schools and the success of all our students.

Ralph Harrison
Administrator for Safe and Inclusive Schools
The Rose Tree Media School District