

Dear School Communities,

We are happy to share an update on our journey toward becoming the **Sarah Parker Remond Elementary School**. As we prepare to bring our two school communities together next year, a dedicated cross-functional team of educators, administrators, parents, and paraprofessionals has been working collaboratively to ensure this transition is as smooth as possible.

Our focus is on building a shared identity and ensuring every student, staff member, and caregiver feels at home in our new school. Here is a look at the transition activities currently in development:

### **For Our Students: Building New Relationships**

Helping our students feel connected to their new peers and educators is our top priority. To foster these bonds, we are planning:

- **Penpals:** Students from both schools will begin corresponding to get to know one another before the first bell rings.
- **Sarah Parker Remond Research Project:** A shared project to help students learn about the incredible legacy of our school's namesake.
- **School Tours:** Opportunities for students to explore their new learning environment later this year.
- **Joint Celebrations:** We will host a **Joint Field Day on May 29th** and a community **BBQ on June 16th** to celebrate our new beginning together.

### **For Our Educators: Growing Together**

A successful school starts with a unified staff. Our educators are engaging in several team-building initiatives:

- **Collaborative Meetings:** Our first joint staff meeting on 3/25/26 set the stage for our shared mission and work together.
- **Staff Retreat:** On **August 17, 2026**, our combined staff will gather for a dedicated retreat.
- **Morale & Connection:** We are launching a "Morale Pal" program and a Family/Educator Pottery Night to build personal connections across the two schools.

### **For Our Caregivers: Planning & Partnership**

We know you have questions, and we are committed to transparency and collaboration:

- **Stay Informed:** We are building a comprehensive website page linked to [saalemk12.org](https://saalemk12.org), [spscarlton.salemk12.org](https://spscarlton.salemk12.org), and [spssaltonstall.salemk12.org](https://spssaltonstall.salemk12.org) where you can find information about the merger as planning unfolds. This includes a section on

**Frequently Asked Questions** that will be updated regularly as inquiries come in. Please feel free to use [merger@salemk12.org](mailto:merger@salemk12.org) as a dedicated email address for your questions.

- **Merger Meet-Up Caregiver Event:** During the **week of August 17, 2026** (exact date to be determined), we plan to host an evening event at the Sarah Parker Remond Elementary School where caregivers can hear from students about the life of Sarah Parker Remond, learn more about the innovation plan, hear about important logistical information such as pickup/dropoff and lunch schedules, and share their hopes and dreams for their child/children.

We are building more than just a school; we are building a community where every voice is heard and every student thrives. We are incredibly proud of the work our transition team has done so far, and I look forward to seeing these plans come to life.

With Gratitude,

Bethann Jellison and Lauren Weaver