


The Five Star FOCUS

VOLUME 3

2023-2024



Thriving students,
thriving futures.

Adams 12 
Five Star Schools



In Adams 12 Five Star Schools, we know if our students are thriving in school, they're more likely to thrive after they graduate.

ELEVATE, our strategic plan, serves as a road map for creating and sustaining an environment in which our students thrive. Three conditions are equally important to elevating student success in the Five Star District.

- 1. Student Achievement.** We commit to raising achievement levels for all students.
- 2. Social-emotional Well-being.** We value knowing every student by name, strength and need.
- 3. Climate and Culture.** We prioritize students, families and staff taking pride in and feeling connected to the district's positive culture.

In the pages that follow, you will find stories of how we're supporting student achievement, social-emotional well-being, and climate and culture in the Five Star District.

- *Three thriving students. Three different paths. Three bright futures.* On Page 8 read about three students and how they will continue to thrive after graduation.
- *Students taking charge.* On Page 12 experience how the amazing students at Century Middle support each other's social-emotional well-being.
- *Proud to belong.* On Page 16 see how McElwain Elementary embraces its diverse community and creates a family culture.

I hope these personal stories give you a sense of what it means to be #FiveStarProud.

Welcome! We can't wait for you to experience "thriving students, thriving futures" in the Five Star District.

CHRIS GDOWSKI

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Gdowski".

FOLLOW ALONG ON TWITTER:
@SUPTGDOWSKI

The Five Star FOCUS

2023-2024



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Five Star Schools

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*Three thriving students. Three different paths.
Three bright futures.*



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Students taking charge



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CLIMATE AND CULTURE:
Proud to belong



Student Achievement

The district celebrated a four-year graduation rate of 83.9 percent for the Class of 2022, surpassing the state. The district remains committed to providing students with rigorous, relevant and engaging learning experiences so we can see growth for years to come.



Building Improvements

The district successfully completed the 2016 Bond Program, investing in every student, every school and every community. Focusing on careful planning and management of dollars, the district was and continues to be able to use additional savings to complete new projects beyond the original bond plan.



Scan to read the full bond report.

Earning Tuition-Free College Credit

There are many opportunities for Five Star students to get a head start on their college careers. For the 2022-2023 school year, 1,469 students earned college credit while still in high school by participating in Concurrent Enrollment. Students earn Concurrent Enrollment by taking college classes offered at district high schools, FutureForward campuses or at a college campus.



Online School Expansion

Five Star Online Academy is a multi-district online school now open to any K-12 student in Colorado who has interest in a non-traditional learning environment. The district's online academy saw a 12.5 percent increase in overall enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year.

Five Star Online Academy offers an enhanced learning model that provides virtual and in-person opportunities for students. Students participate in classes, clubs and other opportunities virtually for a majority of the week, but they also come in person a few days of the week for learning labs, field trips and peer engagement.



National Recognition

The Five Star District is home to two nationally recognized STEM schools.

Northglenn High School is one of two Colorado high schools named as a 2023 Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Distinguished High School.

STEM Launch is one of three schools in Colorado named as a 2023 PLTW Distinguished Gateway.

"The PLTW programs have helped our students to build the skills they need to be successful beyond high school, whether that be college, military, trade schools, or the workforce. Students have learned how to problem solve, think, collaborate and communicate by solving real world problems. And they have worked closely with industry partners to explore the vast career possibilities available to them."

- Lori Egan, Northglenn High School's PLTW Site Coordinator

Advanced Placement

Five Star Schools continues to see more students taking, and receiving high scores on Advanced Placement (AP) exams. Over a five year span, the district saw a 10 percent increase in the percentage of students receiving a score of 3 or higher on AP exams.

Mastery in Industry

Through FutureForward, the district's career and technical education program, 618 high school students earned 3,757 industry certifications. Industry certifications measure a student's competency in an occupation, and they validate the knowledge base and skills that show mastery in a particular industry.



From Challenge to Opportunity

In 2021 Cesar Narciso Palacio moved to the United States from Venezuela with his guitar and a passion for music. Palacio first arrived in Florida without his parents and very little knowledge of the English language. During his junior year, he moved to Colorado where he overcame many barriers and graduated from Thornton High School. Earning a \$100,000 scholarship from the University of Colorado-Boulder, he will continue his music education through the Ritter Family Classical Guitar Program at CU Boulder's College of Music.



Standout Staff

Adams 12 Five Star Schools is home to many staff who go above and beyond. Each year, we honor a few - of many - who live out the district's values of care, collaborate, engage, empower and focus on students.



Scan to read about our amazing employees!



Strong Sense of Belonging

The Equity and Engagement Department has provided professional learning to over 350 leaders with a focus on addressing hate speech and helping schools foster respectful communities. This work ensures a strong sense of belonging for every student regardless of cultural and linguistic differences.

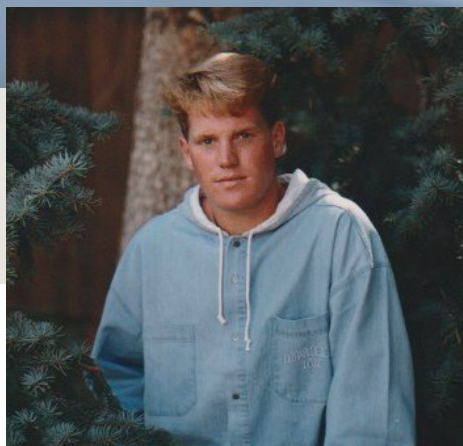
Home for Newcomers

Our High School Newcomer Center opens at the start of the 2023-2024 school year for recently arrived immigrant and refugee students. The Newcomer Center, located at Thornton High School, provides targeted academic and social-emotional services for high school newcomer students and their families. Additionally, they will have access to the many opportunities and activities that come with attending a comprehensive high school. In its first year, the district plans to accommodate 100 to 150 newcomer high school students who enroll in the new center from across the district.



Spelling Bee Champion on the National Stage

Aditi Muthukumar, a seventh grader from Hulstrom K-8, competed at The Scripps National Spelling Bee, finishing in 74th place during the quarterfinals. After winning at the local level, Muthukumar was one of two spellers from Colorado to receive an invitation to nationals. She joined 231 spellers from all 50 states and some from outside the United States for her first national competition.



John Stratton

Horizon High School (Class of 1993)

In the weekend leading up to John Stratton's physical fitness test for the Air Force Academy, then Horizon High School math teacher and soccer coach Art Drotar got to school early to open the gym's weight room and train with the now-retired U.S. Air Force Colonel.

"I was never good at pull-ups and needed to dedicate substantial time in order to train to pass that event," Stratton said. "Coach Drotar was aware of my application timeline and the fitness test requirements. His personal sacrifice and the time he invested in me, not only helped me pass my test, but helped

me achieve my dream of attending the Air Force Academy which ultimately culminated in a 24-year career."

When Stratton reflects on his high school experience, Drotar's mentorship stands out – especially when he thinks back to competing on the Hawks Boys Soccer Team. They went to three consecutive State Championship Finals winning the title during Stratton's junior and senior years.

After high school, Stratton attended the Air Force Academy, where he continued his soccer career as a 4-year starter and 2-year captain for the Falcons Men's Soccer Team.

After earning his bachelor's degree in political science, he attended pilot

training and was assigned to fly the F-15C Eagle. He served 24 years in the Air Force before retiring as a colonel and command pilot with more than 2,500 flight hours, including more than 135 combat hours. Stratton also holds master's degrees in military operational art and science, philosophy in military strategy and national resource strategy.

"Do not underestimate the importance of, or the impact you can have during your high school years," he said. "Developing the ability to work hard, to build good habits, to perform right actions, to be a good teammate/classmate/friend and a positive influence on those around you are lifelong skills the world is always in need of."



Hannah Sueper

*Mountain Range High School
(Class of 2016)*

Some people know what they want to be when they grow up by the time they're 5 years old. Others need to try a few hats on to see what fits. That was the case for Mountain Range High School graduate Hannah Sueper, who explored all kinds of interests before settling on her dream career of veterinary medicine.

With the help of teachers who pushed her outside of her comfort zone – for example, encouraging her to join DECA (an Association of Marketing Students), where she made it to nationals even though “business was not my thing,” – Sueper tried a little bit of everything.

“My time in the Five Star District was rich and full,” she said. “My time at FutureForward at Bollman really exposed me to the medical world and clinical sciences. It’s where I became a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant).” The experience helped lead her to a career with both animals and science.

Sueper will graduate from veterinary school at Colorado State University in 2024 with her doctorate of veterinary medicine. She plans to practice veterinary medicine in a rural area and “see whatever walks in the door,” though she especially enjoys working with horses and cattle.

“My advice to any student is to find what you love and pursue it,” she said. “It may take time and hard work, but it will be worth it when you get to do what you love every day. For me, that is veterinary medicine!”



Yadira Caraveo

Northglenn High School (Class of 1999)

An extremely shy Yadira Caraveo still remembers walking into Northglenn High School for the first time; the place where one teacher in particular encouraged her to use her voice and communicate her opinions. Little did she know this experience would become a formative one for her future.

Caraveo really enjoyed her high school Advanced Placement (AP) classes, especially AP Biology and AP American History. These classes were important for continuing her education after graduation. The latter was taught by an engaging teacher who made sure everyone was participating

in discussions. He was the teacher who helped her come out of her shell and find her voice.

After graduating from Northglenn High School, Caraveo pursued her dream of becoming a doctor. She received her bachelor's degree from Regis University, followed by her Doctor of Medicine from the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

Caraveo returned to Thornton as a practicing pediatrician after completing her residency at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center. There she quickly found, with 65 percent of her patients' families on Medicaid, that helping children required more than her ability to do as a doctor. Caraveo was elected as a Colorado state legislator in 2018 and was then elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2022.

"It is a real honor to be the first Latina Representative for Colorado, and although I wish it happened earlier for our state, I am grateful to be the voice for people," she said.

Despite spending much of her time on Capitol Hill, Caraveo continues to remain connected to Northglenn High School; especially to their distinguished STEM program that offers students from anywhere in the district and surrounding communities the opportunity to participate in hands-on problem-based learning.

"The amount of opportunities that students have now is something that I could have only dreamed about. Take advantage of your teachers' expertise, really engage in the high school experience, and make sure to participate in all of the extracurricular activities offered," Caraveo said. "I was extremely prepared for my future thanks to the great teachers that understood my goals and set me up for success."



Joelle Westcott
Thornton High School (Class of 2018)

Originally from Thornton, Joelle Westcott started at her neighborhood school before her family moved to Broomfield at a young age. Little did she know that her passions would bring her back to where she started.

Early on in her education, Westcott and her family were already thinking about her future. Interested in the International Baccalaureate (IB) pathway, Westcott chose to enroll at Century Middle School in Thornton where she could participate in the IB Middle Years Programme. She quickly realized how much she enjoyed the Middle Years Programme and knew that the IB pathway was for her. From there she applied to and was accepted to Thornton High School's IB program.

"My one piece of advice for students is never be afraid to try something and see if you like it," Westcott said.

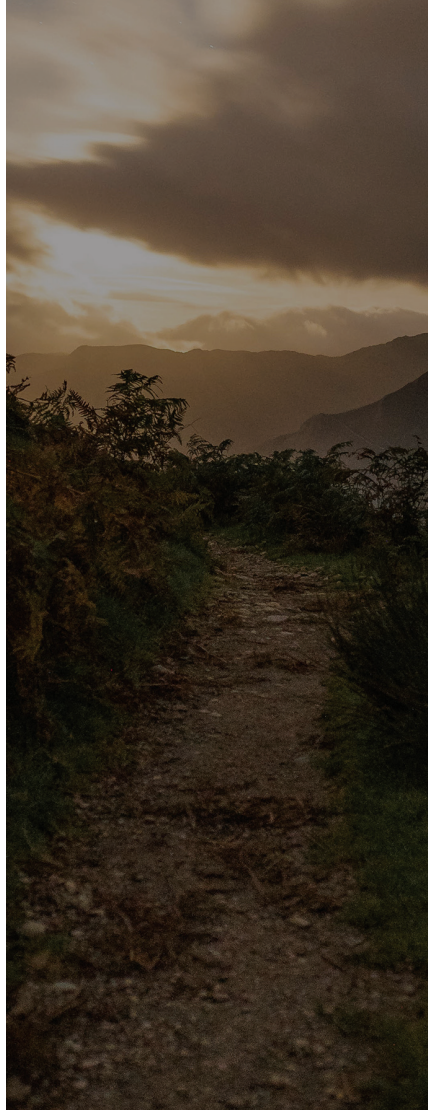
Over the years, there were a number of teachers that had an impact on her life. From Coyote Ridge Elementary, Mrs. Jarvis encouraged her to be more articulate in order to receive the help needed to succeed. Bonnie Wilson, a rambunctious teacher at Century Middle, fostered the creativity in her. Then her high school math teacher, Mike Jones, who nurtured Westcott's math skills through tutoring and ultimately encouraged her to pursue her passion.

Westcott was interested in architecture, and Jones suggested civil engineering

for the young student. After additional research, she decided that civil engineering was the path for her.

Westcott received her bachelor's of science in civil engineering with a global engineering minor from the University of Colorado-Boulder. Additionally, she went on to receive her master's in geotechnical engineering.

"Adams 12 Five Star Schools is a diverse district and that can be such a great experience," Westcott said. "We were quite diverse at Thornton High School and it exposed us to multiple perspectives, encouraged creativity, helped us collaborate and think critically with students from multiple backgrounds."



3

thriving students, different paths, bright *futures.*

Advanced Placement (AP). Industry certifications through Career and Technical Education (CTE). Tuition-free college classes in high school through Concurrent Enrollment. These are just a few examples of the opportunities available to students in Adams 12 Five Star Schools that give them a competitive advantage as they enter college, career or the military.

While they've taken different paths, recent Five Star graduates Kaylee Adducci, Ollie Turner and Keeley Haynes took advantage of the many opportunities afforded them in the Five Star District and have positioned themselves for a thriving future.

Kaylee Adducci



Criminal justice is personal to Kaylee Adducci. She's grown up with a family member who's been in and out of the criminal justice system. But it wasn't until high school that Adducci discovered criminal justice as a career path.

As part of its recent expansion of CTE, known as FutureForward in Adams 12 Five Star Schools, the district introduced programs in crime scene investigation, behavioral and mental health, and law enforcement.

Adducci took Law Enforcement 1, 2, 3 and 4 her junior and senior year of high school with instructor and former police officer Ashley Apparito.

Adducci said, "She actually had us do a police dispatching unit and we worked closely with some dispatchers from Westminster PD and my love for it kind of grew as I figured out really what the job entailed.

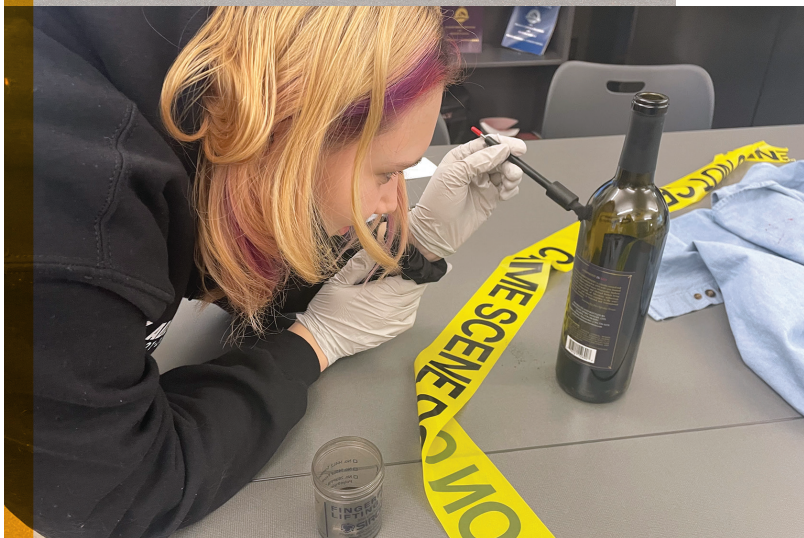
"You're getting called because someone is possibly having the worst day of their life. And you're there to try and help them through that. No matter how small it is, just knowing that I can make someone's day better or make a difference."

Her law enforcement classes at FutureForward at Washington Square earned her 15 college credits and a law enforcement technician certificate through Red Rocks Community College.

Adducci finished her first year at Red Rocks Community College in Spring 2023 with a 4.0 GPA. She was part of ASCENT, a fifth-year high school program that allows students to enroll in postsecondary courses the year after 12th grade and earn college credit at no cost to them.

Adducci has one year left of school before getting her associate degree in criminal justice. She plans to apply to be a dispatcher with Westminster PD and work while completing her final year of college.

Her advice to other high school students, "realize that their future can be bright even if they're not going to follow a traditional education path."



- 2022 Graduate of Horizon High School
- AP student (2 classes)
- Former CTE and Concurrent Enrollment student, FutureForward at Washington Square and Red Rocks Community College
- Working toward associate degree in criminal justice
- Wants to be a 911 dispatcher



Ollie Turner

Looking for a smaller high school experience, Ollie Turner chose to attend Vantage Point High School for their sophomore year. Not long after making that switch, Turner discovered their interest in becoming a high school teacher.

"I feel like the teachers at Vantage Point, I've definitely seen more as mentors and that has kind of opened my eyes into wanting to become a teacher myself," Turner said. "I want to teach in the way I was taught because I definitely consider the way I was taught as effective and appropriate; and a lot of fun."

Turner graduated from Vantage Point High School in Spring 2023. During Turner's last semester of high school, they also started their postsecondary journey at Front Range Community College, taking a writing class.

Turner has a passion for writing and remembers the impact their English teacher, Jonathan Rethinger, has had on their life.

"He not only opened my eyes to the importance of teaching, but also he definitely gave me a lot of passion towards writing," Turner said. "He was really good at giving his students space to be themselves and express themselves through writing. I absolutely love everything that man has taught me."

Turner plans to continue at Front Range Community College and is looking into the Teacher Recruitment Education and Preparation (TREP) program. It creates the opportunity for qualified students in an educator career pathway to concurrently enroll in postsecondary courses and earn college credit at no tuition cost to them, for up to two years after 12th grade.

"I feel like Concurrent Enrollment has definitely helped me prepare to be in college full time," Turner said.



- 2023 Graduate of Vantage Point High School
- Concurrent Enrollment student at Front Range Community College
- Wants to be a high school English teacher

Keeley Haynes

Keeley Haynes describes herself as ambitious. It's that characteristic that drew her to the High School of Business program at Mountain Range High School.

"Entering and finishing the program, I was not really wanting to go into a business career or field, but I knew that business and the background behind it could be applicable to any field I wanted to go into and it had a definitive purpose," Haynes said.

BY THE NUMBERS

3,757 total industry certifications were earned by 618 high school students

9,330 CTE course enrollments

Haynes was co-president of Mountain Range's DECA chapter, the largest in Colorado. DECA is An Association of Marketing Students that encourages the development of business and leadership skills through academic conferences and competitions.

"I developed a lot of passion and confidence through that because it really places you in environments where you need to have quick thinking skills and you need to learn how to public speak," she said.

Haynes said that experiences like DECA pushed her to grow, "I was definitely more reserved entering high school.

"...but because of the leadership and support I was shown in high school, I was really able to develop my own personal ambitions. I was able to become the student section leader for my school so I would get up at assemblies and at football games in front of the entire student body dressed in crazy outfits and leading school cheers. If my freshman self could see me do that, she'd be like 'what the heck.'"

During high school, Haynes obtained a business specialization certificate through Front Range Community College. With college credit earned through Concurrent Enrollment and AP classes, Haynes will enter college as a sophomore, freeing up her schedule to take more electives of her choice.

"Because I've had that first-hand college experience with my Concurrent Enrollment, I'm much more prepared for my next year... and much more confident to go off and be a college student," Haynes said.

And she knows exactly what she wants to do after college.

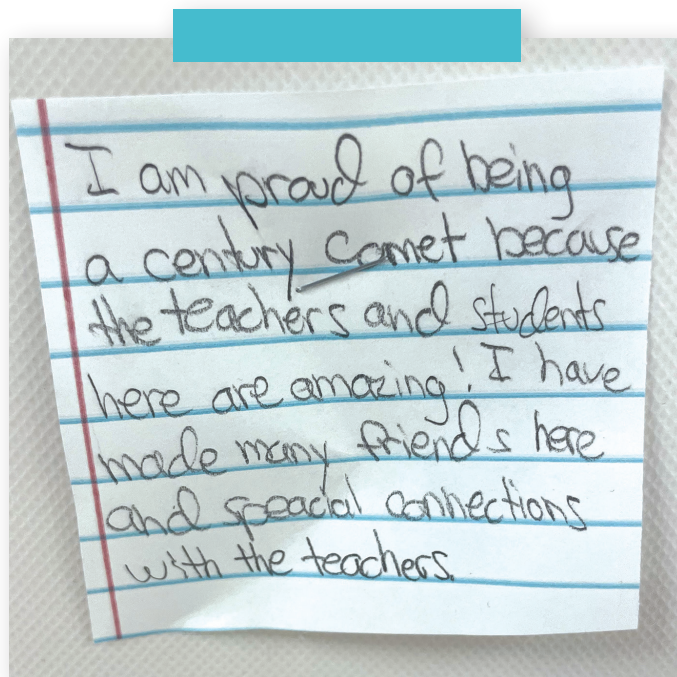
"I want to go into editorial journalism," she said. "My biggest goal is to amplify empathy with Coloradans. I recently went to the Colorado State Capitol with my AP Government class, and while talking with a few state legislators, what I gathered was the biggest problem facing Coloradans today is our ideological divide which is definitely cemented by the disparities between rural populations and urban populations; and a lot of that ideological divide comes from not being able to understand one another."



- 2023 Graduate of Mountain Range High School
- AP student (8 classes)
- Former CTE and Concurrent Enrollment student in High School of Business at Mountain Range, Front Range Community College and CU-Denver
- Attending CU-Boulder with a double major in journalism and strategic communications
- Wants to pursue career in editorial journalism

This feature exemplifies our student achievement ELEVATE goal.

1,469 students earned tuition-free college credit while in high school (Concurrent Enrollment)



Students Take Charge

Century Middle School empowers students to help make their school a place where everyone feels connected and has a strong sense of belonging.

Student leaders didn't just guess at what their classmates needed to feel safer at school – they asked them directly.

As part of their leadership class at Century Middle School, eighth graders created and analyzed a student survey about hate speech in school, and used the results to address the behavior head on.

“They created a lesson that taught our peers about what hate speech is, how it can negatively impact others and why it is important to stop using it,” said Kylie Marek, a seventh grade leadership student. “They created posters that have had a huge impact on the way students communicate with one another.”



aking

Century students in every grade have the opportunity to take an elective leadership class where they are able to identify and create ways to improve their school with an emphasis on improving kids' social, emotional and mental well-being. These classes are part of the school's Sources of Strength program, an evidence-based suicide prevention program that focuses on increasing youth and adult connection, helping students develop coping skills, reinforce help seeking behaviors and encourage students to lean on their relationships and skills before a moment of crisis arises.

Since beginning this program, Century students have reported a 14 percent increase in their confidence that they can overcome challenges and an 11 percent increase in their belief that they have the skills to succeed in school, according to data from a yearly student survey.

“Century is full of empowered students with amazing ideas to help build a positive school culture that focuses on academic achievement and social-emotional growth,” said Elizabeth Lockwood, a science teacher who has been a leader in this work. “The students of Century are real-life advocates who have the skills and drive to make real change.”





“The students of Century are real-life advocates who have the skills and drive to make real change.”



In the seventh grade leadership class, students were so inspired to build a better sense of connection among students that they planned and ran the school's first ever after-school dance, where more than 750 students attended, nearly all of the school's students.

With the school dance being such a success, seventh grade leadership students didn't stop there. They surveyed both teachers and students to learn more about how they could foster positive relationships with one another and what they needed to feel respected.

They learned that students and staff overwhelmingly reported that gratitude and feeling appreciated is important, and having a trusted adult in a student's life - at school, home or in the community - goes a long way. Students then took what they learned through the survey and acted on it.

BY THE NUMBERS

75+ mental health providers across all schools

7 social-emotional programs used in schools with grades K-8

90+ school counselors across middle and high schools

54+ social-emotional learning specialists across elementary, middle and Title 1 schools

“We wrote thank you postcards to express our gratitude and also spread the word about Sources of Strength with our trusted adults outside of the school,” said Mya Gayton, a seventh grade leadership student.

Leadership students frequently present their findings from their surveys and announce new initiatives at staff meetings and during homeroom periods on select Wednesdays. These select homeroom periods are called What I Need, known across the school as W.I.N. These homeroom periods are designated for social-emotional programming and are often student-led or student-planned.

The leadership classes are only one part of the Sources of Strength program. Students who may not participate in the classes can still benefit from the program by visiting the school’s Comet Cafe any Wednesday before the first bell rings. During the weekly cafe visits, students play games,

receive tutoring and have time for homework. This time for connection and support helps students start the day on a positive note and ensures they feel connected to their classmates and their teachers.

Century leadership students are not only school leaders, they are also community leaders. They presented about their experience with the Sources of Strength program at a district-wide event focused on building healthy communities. At this event, the leadership students shared their experience with the program and its positive impact at their school with families and staff from across the district.

For Lockwood, there are so many examples of how allowing students to take charge can lead to positive change.

“They identify a problem they don’t like,” Lockwood said. “And they decide how they could make a change.”



This feature exemplifies our social-emotional well-being ELEVATE goal.



**SOURCES
OF STRENGTH**

What is the Sources of Strength program?

Sources of Strength is an evidence-based suicide prevention program that identifies and builds protective factors, which are also called strengths. Strengths can be things like family support, healthy activities, positive friends, and mentors. This widely used program does not talk about suicide directly. Instead, it focuses on increasing youth and adult connections, developing coping skills, reinforcing help-seeking behaviors and encouraging the use of our strengths before a moment of crisis.

Proud to Belong

McElwain Elementary embraces its diverse community to create a strong school where students and families feel at home.





As you walk around McElwain Elementary School, you will notice signs in various languages and might even hear different languages being spoken amongst students and staff.

“I love hearing all of the students value their home language and use it in the building,” first grade teacher Francela Espinosa said. “I love the way that we honor every student’s own language with the way we display different signs around the building in Pashto, Dari, Spanish and English.”

This is just one way McElwain has created a strong school community, one where everyone feels seen and is proud to belong.

Nearly 80 percent of McElwain families reported having a strong confidence in the social and learning climate of the school, and 74 percent of families believe the school meets their child’s needs, according to data from a yearly family survey.

“For the 2022-2023 school year our theme was Each One,” Principal Sara Olson said. “We made t-shirts with ‘Each One’ in the seven languages that are spoken at our school. It’s each parent, each educator, each student, each human in the building. Each person needs something different, but each person matters. That’s what it’s all about.”

It’s impossible to walk into the building and not feel the pride and love that lives within its walls.

“You feel the love here,” Espinosa said. “Everybody that has ever visited has always been like wow, when I come in, I feel the love and energy in here. It’s the way we welcome people. We wear our pride on our faces.”

Ihdika Kalra, a third grade student who speaks three languages, echoes this sentiment.

“My favorite thing about McElwain is how they embrace the different cultures and diversity,” Kalra said. “It’s so much fun to learn from different perspectives, all in one school.”

At McElwain, every staff member, regardless of their role, plays an important part in creating that welcoming environment where students can thrive. Two in particular are the school’s paraeducators whose sole focus is on working with newcomer students, those who have lived in the country for less than two years. These staff members speak multiple languages, allowing families and students to feel welcomed in not only a new school, but a new town and new country.

With great appreciation for their diverse community, McElwain actively encourages their families to join the staff and help shape the welcoming culture of the school.



"We wear our pride on our faces."

"When we are hiring, really all positions, but especially positions that we know a lot of our caregivers can possibly apply for, we put it out to our community first," Olson said. "We tell them we want our community to work for us because it does take a village. I think it's really important to employ the people that are here in the community."

Family connection to the school is important. To strengthen that connection, the school uses a variety of ways to communicate with and engage families, including emails, phone calls, text messages and sometimes even home visits.

"It's about engaging and meeting them where they are," Olson said. "Families want to engage so it's a matter of us providing different opportunities."

For example, McElwain holds student-led conferences. Students create invitations for their caregivers, some in their native language. During the conference they have conversations with them and show them what they have been working on. Some lead the conference in their native language and the interpretation is then provided for the teacher.

McElwain is a diverse community that includes different languages, cultures and life experiences. By embracing every individual student, McElwain has become more than just a strong school, it has become a key part of the larger community.

"We're a tight-knit family," McElwain parent Marisela Adame said. "The way the staff treats each student, how they welcome different cultures, they make us feel comfortable."

This feature exemplifies our climate and culture ELEVATE goal.

BY THE NUMBERS

88% of McElwain families feel the school values the diversity of all children's backgrounds

7 languages are spoken within McElwain community



Strong Community Partnerships

Recognizing that access to community resources may be difficult for some families, McElwain works with community partners to bring resources directly to them.

Annual Reading and Recreation Event

Through grants and strong community relationships, outside organizations donate items or their time at the school's annual Reading and Recreation event.

At the event:

- Students picked a book and a form of recreation like a soccer ball.
- Families could sign up for a public library card, connect with local health services and find out about other resources in the community.

8% increase in McElwain student's sense of belonging at the school



Embracing Representation

Five Star Education Foundation partners with FutureForward to create student mentorship program for underrepresented students

When high school student Ethan Obiri-Yeboah met his 'I See Me' mentor, he started envisioning a different future for himself.

The computer science student, originally from Ghana, was raised by a single mother alongside his two younger siblings. A techie at heart, Obiri-Yeboah enrolled in the district's computer science program during his junior year. Passionate about the class and his future in the industry, Obiri-Yeboah was excited at the possibility of someone in the field helping him find his place. That's where the 'I See Me' program came in.

For the 2022-2023 school year, FutureForward at Bollman, in partnership with the Five Star Education Foundation, launched the 'I See Me' mentorship program to address the disparity of representation for black, indigenous and people



Obiri-Yeboah with Itchel Ivonne Cardenas Rubio, lead program mentor, at the I See Me signing night celebrating Obiri-Yeboah going to Colorado State University.

of color (BIPOC), and female students in the engineering and computer science fields. Students enrolled in the program are paired with a college mentor in the appropriate field who looks and identifies the same as the high school student.

“When I got plugged into this community everything changed,” Obiri-Yeboah said.

“I am originally from Ghana and I know through my ambition I will be able to use computer science to impact my country’s future economy and well-being, and support my mom and her ambitions. I understand the importance of access to education and the impact it can have on one’s future.”



Throughout the school year students connect with industry professionals, develop self-efficacy, explore career options, and discuss and overcome their perceptions of themselves in the field. This program allows students to grow, thrive and become future mentors for the next generation.

“In a workforce where only 10%-15% of engineers and computer scientists are people of color or women. It was my goal to create a program that addresses this issue head-on and supports these students in a real and comprehensive way to guarantee success,” said Chris Duran, assistant principal of FutureForward at Bollman.

Obiri-Yeboah completed the computer science pathway during his senior year, and was accepted to the Bridge Scholars Program at Colorado State University where he will pursue a computer science degree.

The Five Star Education Foundation is a proud partner of this program. The foundation invested \$75,000 in the first year and committed \$225,000 to continue providing mentorship opportunities to more students over the next three years.

“This work is vital and we felt compelled to make this investment in students and their futures,” said Five Star Education Foundation Executive Director Shannon Hancock. “Our goal is to secure long-term support for this program, see it grow to other areas of study, and make this level of disparity in our classes and in the workforce a thing of the past.”



**SCAN TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE I SEE ME
MENTORSHIP PROGRAM.**

BY THE NUMBERS

42 students enrolled in the 2022-23 ‘I See Me’ program

11 college mentors supporting students

30% growth predicted for the 2023-24 ‘I See Me’ program

100% students continuing in the STEM field

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION



Five Star Education Foundation has supported students in Adams 12 Five Star Schools for over 30 years. Through our partnership with the district and community, we support programs that provide students with the skills and experiences needed to succeed in today’s world.

Learn more: www.5starfoundation.org



SHANNON HANCOCK
Executive Director

ELEVATE in Action: Strategic plan supports thriving students, thriving futures




Middle school athletes run in the first cross country meet since bringing back competitive sports to middle school.


ELEVATE, the district’s strategic plan, reflects the values and priorities of the more than 7,000 parents, community members, students and staff who helped develop it.

In its commitment to bring ELEVATE to life for our students and staff, the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education prioritized a series of investments aligned to the strategic plan. Thanks to the support of the Five Star community, Ballot Issue 5C was passed on Nov. 6, 2018 which provided funding to jump-start the implementation of ELEVATE.

The district continues to prioritize dollars from this local measure along with state funding in achieving the goals of ELEVATE.

Here are some of the most recent investments in ELEVATE’s six focus areas.

 **21ST CENTURY LEARNERS:** Additional computer science opportunities in high school has led to enrollment more than doubling over the last 5 years.

 **DIVERSE LEARNING:** Addition of veterinarian assistant as a new career training program in 2023-2024; and expansion of programs in sports medicine, crime scene investigation, diesel, firefighting, behavioral and mental health, and law enforcement.



OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM LEARNING: Expansion of middle school sports to include girls volleyball beginning in 2023-2024.



SAFE SCHOOLS: Two new school security liaisons work directly with school administrators and School Resource Officers to ensure a safe and secure learning environment at all schools.



SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING: Implementation of new online tool for 2023-2024 will allow educators to see student data all in one place in order to get a holistic view of a student’s needs and what might best support their growth and learning.



WORLD CLASS STAFF: Recruiting, hiring and retaining high-quality teachers through competitive compensation, including raising new starting teacher salaries to \$58,000 a year.

ELEVATE

Blueprint: Taking ELEVATE to the next level



Members of the Long Range Planning Advisory Committee meet to help make Blueprint a reality.

In support of the continued implementation of ELEVATE, Adams 12 Five Star Schools is in the midst of developing Blueprint, a comprehensive long-range academic programming and facilities plan.

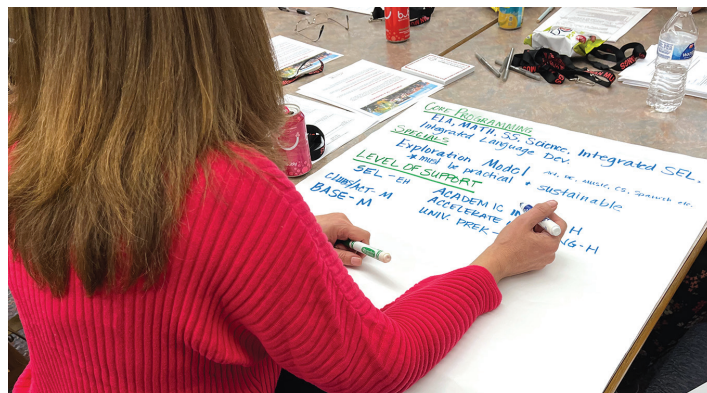
The district's Long Range Planning Advisory Committee (LRPAC) leads the work on Blueprint. Committee membership includes parents, staff and community members. Within LRPAC, there are three subcommittees focusing on different aspects of Blueprint.

Relevant and Responsive Academic Programming prioritizes and designs academic and applied learning opportunities to ensure all students are prepared to successfully pursue and thrive in a future of their choosing.

Facility Renewal, Rebuild, Reimagine prioritizes facility investments that support the district's academic vision and that provide desirable and outstanding learning environments.

Profiles of Thriving Schools identifies the enrollment and resource conditions that foster an equitable and extraordinary learning experience for all students.

It's anticipated that during the 2023-2024 school year, Blueprint will be finalized, including any funding plan necessary for its successful implementation.



Five Star SNAPSHOTS

A collection of photos
from events happening
around the district.

Photography from school Facebook pages. Check them out!



Show us what makes you #FiveStarProud.   



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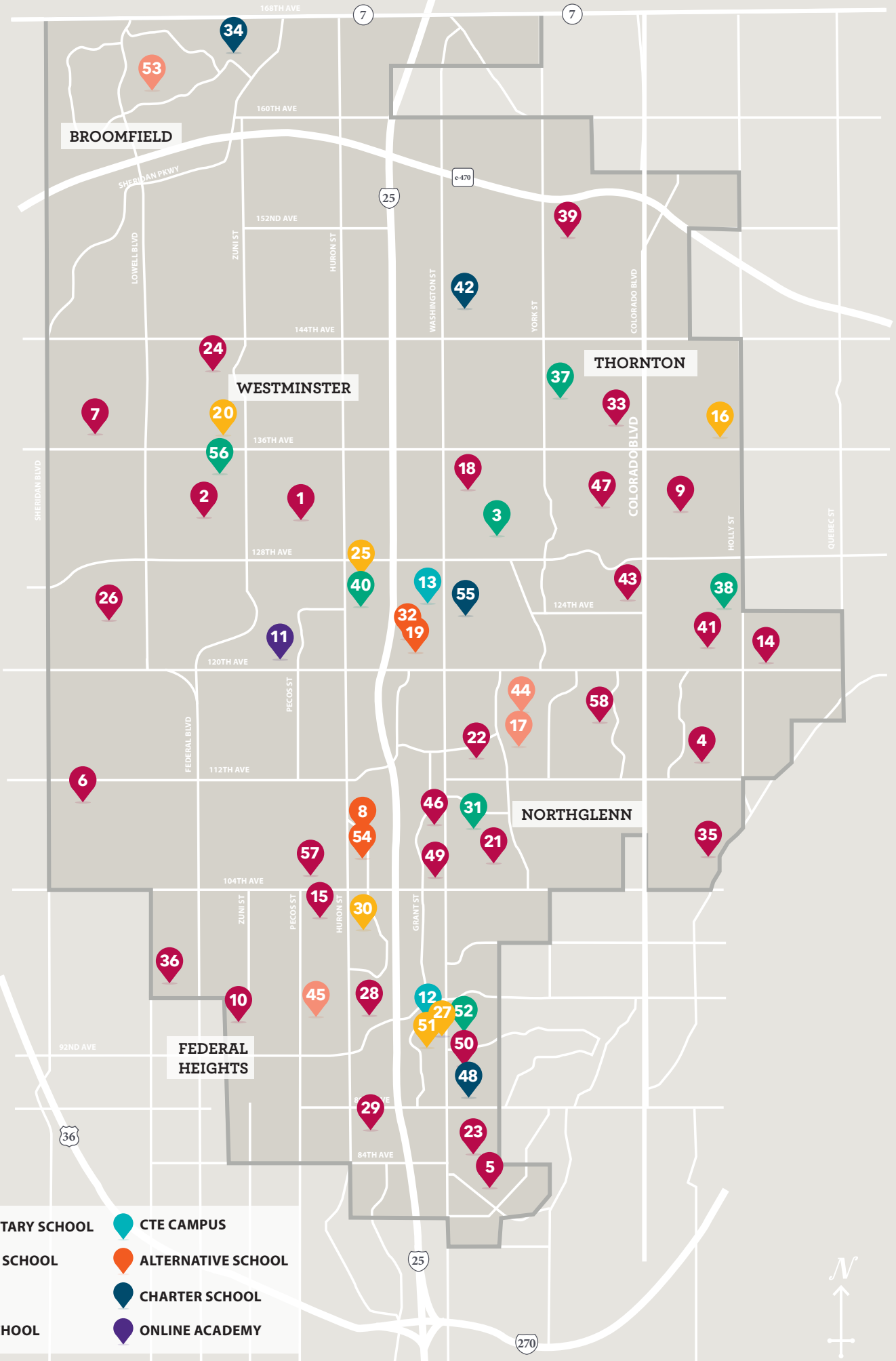
11



12

LEFT PAGE: (1) Glacier Peak Elementary students got up close and personal with a bald eagle. (2) Families participated in Leroy Elementary’s paint and sip night. (3) Cotton Creek Elementary students Scarlett and Lyght were a part of the 47th Annual Denver Pow Wow, while Principal Theresa Gilbreath supported from the stands. (4) Mountain View Elementary students participate in the fourth and fifth-grade cross country meet. (5) Students from The Studio School tie-dying sweatshirts. (6) STEM Launch students dissect objects in class.

RIGHT PAGE: (7) Participants getting ready to run in the annual Tarver Trot. (8) Westlake and Century middle schools compete during a basketball game. (9) Graduating seniors return to their elementary school, Glacier Peak, to parade through the school. (10) Cheerleaders at Legacy High School form a tunnel for Unified Basketball athletes. (11) Thornton Elementary hosts a family painting event. (12) Hunters Glen Elementary students create uplifting messages during Kindness Week.



- ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- MIDDLE SCHOOL
- K-8
- HIGH SCHOOL
- CTE CAMPUS
- ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL
- CHARTER SCHOOL
- ONLINE ACADEMY



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Arapahoe Ridge Elementary
arapahoe.adams12.org | 20 Legacy High School
legacy.adams12.org
<i>Legacy 2000 Program</i> | 40 Silver Hills Middle
silverhills.adams12.org |
| 2 Centennial Elementary
centennial.adams12.org | 21 Leroy Elementary
leroy.adams12.org | 41 Skyview Elementary
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cherry.adams12.org | 23 McElwain Elementary
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www.newamericaschool.org
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silvercreek.adams12.org | |



Elevating student success.

In Adams 12 Five Star Schools, we provide every student an opportunity to explore their passions, engage in authentic, hands-on learning and equip themselves to navigate and thrive in our rapidly changing world.



Enroll now!
adams12.org/enroll

Adams 12 
Five Star Schools

High performing schools located in Broomfield, Federal Heights, Northglenn, Thornton and Westminster.





You're doing great things!

Tell us about a time when someone made an impact on your life and helped ELEVATE student success.

TELL US YOUR STORY.

www.adams12.org/FiveStarStories

Five Star Online Academy's first graduation ceremony.
Photo credit: Five Star Online Academy

Show us what makes you #FiveStarProud



Mountain Range Baseball vs Ralston Valley at Coors Field 2023
Photo credit: Mountain Range High School

HIGH PERFORMING SCHOOLS LOCATED IN
Broomfield, Federal Heights, Northglenn, Thornton and Westminster
Elevate your student's success today > adams12.org/enroll