

# FALCON BLUFFS MIDDLE SCHOOL

JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

8449 S. Garrison Street, Littleton, CO 80128  
Phone 303-982-9900 | Fax 303-982-9901



# the Falcon Files

## Helpful Links

[Falcon Bluffs Website](#)

[Jeffco Public Schools](#)



[Falcon Bluffs PTO](#)



[Falcon Bluffs Facebook](#)



[Falcon Bluffs Instagram](#)

## FBMS Collective Commitments:

Grit, Growth Mindset,  
Intellectual Curiosity,  
Relationships,  
Collaboration  
and Professionalism

*Advertising in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by the school or district.*

## A Word From the Principal

Hello Falcon Bluffs Families

Thank you for joining us at our Spring conferences the past couple of weeks. We sincerely appreciate the collaborative conversations as we work together to help students succeed. As we step into the month of March, we invite you to take a moment to review our updates below.

With appreciation,  
Tom Burns

## Join our Accountability Team

You are invited to join our quarterly accountability meetings! We discuss a variety of topics including UIP, Assessment Data, School Budget, Staffing, Calendars, and much more. [Click here](#) to read more about accountability and to connect with our parent liaison Lesley Dible.

**Accountability Meetings: 5 - 6pm**  
**Main Lobby Conference Room**  
**October 12, 2023**  
**December 14, 2023**  
**February 22, 2024**  
**May 9, 2024**



We know life gets busy and things come up that impact plans to attend our Accountability meetings. We have you covered! Please take a moment to [complete the short questionnaire](#) to suggest an agenda item for our team to discuss. Thank you for including your voice at FBMS.

If you are unable to join us in person but would like to sit in and listen to the conversation, we will post our meeting virtually using the following information. Although the virtual opportunity will not be interactive, we are happy to provide a live feed of the meeting. We hope you can join us.

To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/pvm-wgey-thp>

# Calendar of Events

## SAVE *the* DATE

<b>MAR 8</b>	<b>Last Day of 3rd Quarter</b>
<b>MAR 13</b>	<b>Spirit Night at Freddy's from 4-8 pm. Mention FBMS</b>
<b>MAR 14</b>	<b>PTO Meeting 8 am</b>
<b>MAR 18-22</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>
<b>MAR 25</b>	<b>No School for students – Staff Development</b>
<b>MAR 26</b>	<b>Classes Resume for students/First Day of 4th Quarter</b>

### Earn cash for your school! Save Longmont Dairy Milk Caps.

Longmont Dairy Farm will donate 5¢ per LDF produced product bottle cap. Schools are free to spend these funds as they wish to benefit students.



To sign up, use this QR code or go to [LongmontDairy.com/mooola.html](http://LongmontDairy.com/mooola.html)

# Students of the Week and Month

We are excited to recognize students who exhibit our 6 Commitments throughout each week. Our process includes: Teachers nominate students for the Commitment of the Week. Of those students nominated, one student per grade-level is chosen as student of the week based on the number of nominations received. Our students of the month are those who received the most nominations throughout the entire month.



## Congratulations to our Students of the Week!

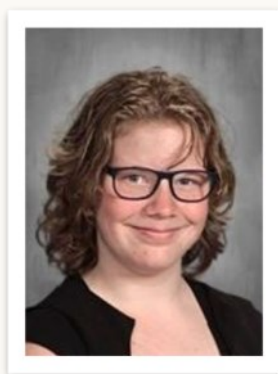
- Week of February 20th**      Emily Stitcher, Kaylie Morrill & Lincoln Bosanko
- Week of February 26th**      Draeden Serna, Grant Matteson & Parker Ortiz



## Congratulations to our Students of the Month!



Eva Blaney  
6th grade



Zoe Marsh  
7th grade



Hunter Langan  
8th grade

## Teachers of the Month



Ms. Hill  
Social Studies



Ms. Scena  
Support Services



**BREAN SMALL**  
DREAM BIG, CALL SMALL

303-717-6201



# PTO Events and Information

SPONSORED BY FALCON BLUFFS PTO & THE HORNBUCKLE FOUNDATION

Falcon Bluffs is going back to Chick-Fil-A!

**FALCON FRIDAYS AT** 

Dates: 2/9, 2/23, 3/8  
3/29, 4/12, 5/3, 5/17

Time: 4:15-5:30pm

Location: C-470 and Kipling

**WIN A \$10 GIFT CARD!**

Chick-Fil-A is welcoming Falcon Bluffs students for FALCON FRIDAYS!! On the dates and times above, students are welcome to come dine, socialize with friends and enjoy time with peers outside of school. Each date will host 1-2 parent chaperones for staff support and friendly reminders of public property use and respect. Several students who showcase respect and leadership have the chance to earn a \$10 gift card.





PARENT CHAPERONE SIGN-UP 

## CLICK IT

Click on the Ads in this Newsletter



...to learn more about these great companies!

*Sponsor This School!*

**YOUR NAME HERE**

Click [HERE](#) Contact Us Today!

Rob Mangelson  
(720) 878-4107

[Rob@tscacolorado.com](mailto:Rob@tscacolorado.com)



Supporting Schools & Local Businesses

Please check this [link](#) throughout the year for volunteer opportunities.

Save the date for the FBMS Craft Fair. Click [here](#) for more details.

Falcon Bluffs receives fundraising percentages from American Furniture Warehouse purchases! Please click [here](#) for details.

## Sponsorship space in this newsletter is extremely affordable!

Reach parents in your local community and a significant portion of your investment goes back to the school! Want to sponsor this school?

Please contact Rob Mangelson at [Rob@tscacolorado.com](mailto:Rob@tscacolorado.com) or (720) 878-4107.

## Falcon Bluffs PTO News



**PTO MEETINGS:**  
 All Meetings are in the Main Entry  
 Conference Room  
**2nd Thursday of the month at 8 am**

## From Caps to Currency: Join the Milk Caps for Moolaa Program

As we find ourselves well into the heart of the school year, it's the perfect time to reignite our enthusiasm for Longmont Dairy's Milk Caps for Moolaa program. This is not only about recycling; it's about supporting our school and unlocking potential funds that directly benefit our students.



**How It Works:**

Enjoy your favorite Longmont Dairy products, from milk to cold brew and more, and save the caps! When you're ready, drop off your collected caps at the designated collection box in school, and we take care of the rest. It's a simple way to contribute to our school's success.

**Benefits for Your School:**

Participating in Milk Caps for Moolaa means enhancing our students' educational experience. The program offers a unique fund-raising opportunity, and the more caps we collect, the more we can achieve together. It's a win-win for your school community!

**Million Cap Markers:**

We'll be celebrating our Million Cap Markers! The school that pushes us over each million mark will receive special recognition in our Moo News and an extra bonus check. We have recently reached 14 million caps collected and given over \$700,000 back to local schools – so now is your time to get those caps in!

**Help Us Reach Our Goal:**

Encourage friends, family, and neighbors to join in the fun! Together, we can exceed expectations and maximize our school's benefit from the Milk Caps for Moolaa program.

For any questions or to learn more about the program, please contact [milkcaps@longmontdairy.com](mailto:milkcaps@longmontdairy.com). Join us on this exciting journey of turning caps into cash for your school!



**PREMIER  
 MOUNTAIN  
 INSURANCE**  
 MIKE SCHMISEK  
 303.452.6662

## District Events



**summit  
jeffco**

PARTNERING WITH FAMILIES  
TO HELP STUDENTS THRIVE

You're invited! Join us for a half-day experience that provides an opportunity to connect with other families, engage with district leaders and gain valuable insights to support your student's academic and social growth.

**Saturday, March 2**  
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Summit Ridge Middle School

**Register to reserve your spot!**

- Breakfast and lunch will be provided
- Childcare offered on a first-come, first-serve basis
- Interpretation services available upon request & subject to availability



**RENEW HOME**  
INNOVATIONS

## School Policies



### Dress Code:

As we move into 2nd semester, we would like to take a moment to remind families about our school's dress code policies. Our school dress code was designed to promote self expression while also ensuring professionalism as we focus on a positive learning environment for all students. As partners in your child's education, please take a moment to discuss these reminders with your student.

Here are some key points to keep in mind regarding our school dress code: Our full dress code policy [can be found here](#).

**Pajamas:** Over the holidays, many students receive a wide variety of sleepwear including PJ tops, bottoms, and slippers. In many cases, these are the colorful, flannel PJ's. Please remind student not to wear these items to school. No slippers, blankets, or pillows.

**Appropriate graphics/language:** Please ensure that your child's clothing is appropriate for a learning environment. Avoid clothing with offensive language or graphics including weapons.

**Hats:** Hats are not to be worn inside the school building. Examples include, but are not limited to baseball caps, bandanas, beanies, cowboys hats, hoodies pulled over head and any other head covering.

FBMS values and supports our diverse student perspectives as a form of self-expression, and we strive to balance individuality with the shared responsibility of maintaining a professional and positive school environment. Your support in reinforcing these guidelines with your child is greatly appreciated.

### Student ID's at lunches:

As you may recall from our beginning of the year communication, this year all students in Jeffco are required to bring their ID to lunch in order to enjoy district breakfast/lunch items. Unfortunately, we have many students who regularly forget their student ID. This slows down the process considerably as it takes additional time for cafeteria staff to look up and type in ID numbers in our system. To expedite the lunch line, beginning in January, students without ID's will be called to the line after all other students have picked up their items. If your student has lost their ID, please have them [complete this request form](#). This form is also located in their Advise google classroom.

Thank you for your support.

### Transportation:

Due to driver shortages and combined bus routes for Falcon Bluffs, any student needing to ride a different bus other than their assigned bus MUST get this approved by transportation first. The buses to and from our school are at capacity. Please call transportation at 303-982-9057 to get this approved prior to your student riding a friend's bus. Once approved, please send a note with your student giving permission to ride the non-assigned bus. Your student will need to bring the note to the office and have it signed by office staff. Once signed by someone in the office, your student will give the note to the bus driver.

**I N S P I R E**  
**O R T H O D O N T I C S**

# From the Counseling Office

Dear Falcon Families,

Over the next several weeks, your child will be discussing bullying as part of Second Step® Middle School. Bullying is at its peak in middle school, and research indicates that taking proactive steps to address bullying will help reduce occurrences of it in our school. Second Step Middle School is designed to support your child in developing the knowledge and skills to help stop bullying. Students will learn how to recognize bullying in various contexts, how to use strategies to stand up safely to bullying, and how to seek help if they or someone they know is being bullied.

Here are some key definitions your child will be learning:

## 6th Grade

- Bullying: intentional physical, verbal, or social aggression. It's often repeated over time and occurs when there's a real or perceived power imbalance.
- Bystander: anyone who's aware that bullying is happening
- Online bullying: the use of technology to harass, threaten, or intimidate another person
- Physical bullying: hurting someone's body or possessions
- Relational bullying: hurting someone's reputation or relationships, such as by excluding them
- Upstander: someone who stands up for a person being bullied
- Verbal bullying: saying or writing mean things about someone

## 7th Grade

- Bullying: intentional physical, verbal, or social aggression. It's often repeated over time and occurs when there's a real or perceived power imbalance.
- Gender-based harassment: aggression against someone based on their sex. This also includes aggression against someone because they do not conform to male or female stereotypes.
- Harassment: aggression against someone based on a real or perceived characteristic they have, such as their race, religion, sex, or gender. It's serious enough to create an unsafe environment and is a form of discrimination.
- Sexual harassment: when someone bothers someone else with words, actions, or pictures of a sexual nature.

## 8th Grade:

- Bullying: intentional physical, verbal, or social aggression. It's often repeated over time and occurs when there's a real or perceived power imbalance.
- Environmental factors: the physical space and any rules and regulations that apply within an area
- Harassment: aggression against someone based on a real or perceived characteristic they have, such as their race, religion, sex, or gender. It's serious enough to create an unsafe environment and is a form of discrimination.
- Social factors: common beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of a particular group or community

We encourage students to report any instances of bullying they witness or experience to you and to trusted adults at our school. Additionally, if you have any questions about Second Step Middle School, please don't hesitate to contact our Administrative Team and/or Counseling Team for more information. Thank you for your support as we work together to build a bullying-free community.

Sincerely,

Your Administrative Team and Counseling Team

Kevin Hostetler, School Counselor (6th grade Green & 8th grade) Monica Mitchell, School Counselor (6th grade Blue & 7th grade) Jessica Riley, Social Emotional Learning Specialist  
Halle Gerash, Social Worker

## ALP Questions:

Please contact Melissa Berry at [melissa.berry@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:melissa.berry@jeffco.k12.co.us)



## Travel Opportunities

Sign up today for Falcon Bluffs Travel in 2025. It is only \$95 to enroll and reserve your spot. There is risk free enrollment for the first 14 days of enrollment - money back for any reason.



### Italy - Spring Break 2025

6 spots remaining: [Italy 2025 Sign Up Here](#)



### DC/Gettysburg - end of the year 2025

4 spots remaining: [DC/Gettysburg 2025 Sign Up Here](#)

Any questions: email Mrs. Hill - [kahill@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:kahill@jeffco.k12.co.us)

## Snow Days and Late Starts

Inclement weather may influence Jeffco to utilize our late start policy. In those situations, FBMS will operate on a 2 hour late start with school beginning at 10:50am. The full schedule [can be found on our web site](#). For more information on Jeffco's late start policy [click here](#).

## Emergency Procedures

Please take a look at the following link with regard to emergency situations at school - Information for Families, published by Jeffco Schools:

[Jeffco Student Safety and School Emergencies for Families](#)

## Student Insights

### Introducing Student Insights

Last spring we introduced [School Insights](#), a web-based resource that offers information about Jeffco schools to help you stay informed and engaged in school quality and improvement efforts. Now, we're excited to share the new [Student Insights](#), which provides information about each student's learning progress.

Student Insights makes it easy to access information about each student's district and state tests and their individual learning plan goals. It is a helpful way to check in on learning progress, review academic goals, and identify issues to talk about with teachers. Student Insights is confidential and may only be accessed by Jeffco students and their parents or guardians using the log-in name and password you use for other district tools, such as Infinite Campus.

You can learn more by watching [this short video](#), reading the [Frequently Asked Questions](#), or by talking with your student's teacher or the school principal. Please check out this new resource and let us know what you think!

## Yearbooks

This year our yearbooks will be purchased directly from Herff Jones. Purchase this year's yearbook online at [yearbookordercenter.com](http://yearbookordercenter.com) using school code **7639**. Orders are online only. Deadline to place orders is April 1, 2024.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents only

Purchase a baby picture ad for your 8<sup>th</sup> grade student to appear in this year's yearbook at [yearbookordercenter.com](http://yearbookordercenter.com). What a wonderful opportunity to bid farewell to your 8th grader as they transition to 9th grade by featuring a heartfelt message in the yearbook alongside your cherished baby photo of them. Cost per ad is \$20.00. Deadline for ads is March 20, 2024.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Panoramic Photo

Our annual 8<sup>th</sup> grade class photo was taken on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Please use this [link](#) to purchase pictures. Orders are online only through the website. Pictures will be mailed home in about 4 weeks. The deadline to get the best price is February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Orders after February 23<sup>rd</sup> will include a \$10 late order fee.

## Library Survey

Please complete this [survey](#) regarding our library. We value your input!

## Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures

Hello Falcon Bluffs Families,

My name is Kameron Strunk, and I am the new SRO (School Resource Officer) for Falcon Bluffs. I graduated from Falcon in 2007 and have spent most of my life living in Jefferson County. It is an honor to be a part of the Falcon Bluffs family and I look forward to meeting you in the months ahead. I am proactively reaching out to parents for support on a few items. I have observed numerous unsafe driving incidents over the past few weeks during student drop-off and pick-up. These incidents include illegal U-turns, speeding, and trespassing. Some vehicles are making U-turns in front of moving traffic on the north side of the school, and in some cases, have even run over caution signs while doing so. We have had several "close calls" where drivers have almost hit our crossing guards due to lack of attention and/or speeding. Lastly, many drivers have ignored the private property signs of the small private community located to the north of the school and chosen to drive through despite the action resulting in trespassing.



It is my number one goal as the SRO for Falcon Bluffs to ensure your children are safe from all threats while attending school and it is a responsibility I take very seriously. As a parent myself I know it is easy to feel rushed during our pick-up/ drop-off times, yet we all need to plan a few extra minutes for this process in support of student/staff safety. I am asking for your help, your patience, and your understanding during these times. Please be extra vigilant and build more time into your routine.

In an attempt to make drop-off and pick-up a safer environment for all the children crossing the busy streets, I will be monitoring traffic during those times, noting violations/unsafe driving. Starting next week, I will conduct traffic stops with the hope that a verbal warning is enough to affect a positive change in driving behavior. After next week I will take a zero-tolerance stance, resulting in citations. If I observe or learn of inappropriate behavior toward our crossing guards, I will issue a summons for carelessness/reckless driving which carries a mandatory court appearance and a misdemeanor penalty if convicted.

Again, it is my desire to affect a positive change in the driving habits around the school in a manner that does not involve traffic citations, however, we need to work together to create immediate and lasting change in support of our children's safety.

Respectfully,  
Deputy Kameron Strunk  
Badge #21-07