

CHALLENGE SCHOOL



This Week's News

March 26, 2021

Message From the Principal



March has been a complete roller coaster for us in schools with the excitement of spring break, available vaccinations, and the anticipation of fully in-person learning. We've also felt the heartbreak of recent tragedies of gun violence and struggle with our own emotions and trying to find a reason for the senseless violence. Our hearts go out to those affected by these tremendous losses.

We appreciate your patience as we continue to share information regarding CMAS testing. Remember that Monday, March 29 is fully remote for middle school students! Middle School Students will test March 30 - April 2 in their assigned areas. We ask for your assistance with a few important items during testing week.

1. Students may not use their cell phones, personal laptops, smart watches, calculators, and any other electronic devices on testing days. It's best to keep them at home.
2. If you have opted your student out of testing, all absences will be excused. Just call the attendance line to excuse the absences.
3. There will be no classroom activities for students who have opted out of testing.

As has always been the case for parents in Colorado, you can excuse your student from CMAS testing. If this is your choice, please fill out the exemption form located on the State Assessment Exemption tile at my.cherrycreekschools.org. You can view [instructions for filling out the exemption here](#).

It's been quite a while since we've talked about traffic and parking at Challenge. PTCO has agreed to help us find a host of volunteers to help keep traffic moving safely once we return to fully in-person learning on April 5. More information

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is listed later in the newsletter. We're going to do our best to manage higher numbers of cars, but please understand that we fully expect longer wait times and backups to get in and out of the parking lot. Let's work together to make it as smooth as possible!

As always, we appreciate your continued support and partnership through yet another transition this year!

Be safe - be well!

Principal Strohfus

Resources for Discussing Recent Events

LET'S TALK
ABOUT IT

Processing difficult times and tragic events with your children can be really challenging. We wanted to pass along a few links to resources that you might find useful for opening conversations and determining the most age-appropriate ways to handle these discussions with our kids.

[Tips for Talking to Your Kids About Upsetting Events](#)

[Talking to Kids About Racism and Violence](#)

[The Breaking News - Storytime Read-Aloud](#)

[16 Ways to Help Children Become Thoughtful, Informed, and BRAVE About Race](#)

[How To Talk To Your Children About Protests and Racism](#)

Wolf Drive 2021

Wolf Drive

The Wolf Drive is up and running! This annual fundraising effort is our way of supporting our Teaching Assistants, whose services benefit all Challenge students. Thank you to the 56 families who have participated so far! Collectively you have helped us to raise nearly \$20,000 which is about 40% of our goal! Raffle tickets close on Wednesday March 31 at 8am, so if you have not yet participated, please click [here](#) before time runs out! If you have questions, please contact us at ptcochallenge@gmail.com.

Upcoming District Events

CCSD Food & Nutrition
Services Job Fair

March 27

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

STREAM-A-PALOOZA

April 10

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Important Links:

NEW:

[Challenge Middle
School Trimester 3
Silver-Teal Calendar](#)

[Challenge School
Tech Support](#)

[Planning Forward
2020-2021](#)

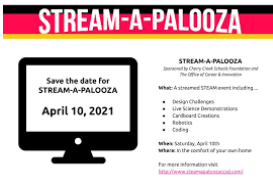
[Challenge School
Website](#)

[Volunteer
Opportunities](#)

[CCSD Parent
Resources](#)

[Schoology
Troubleshooting
Guide for Students](#)

STREAM-A-Palooza



Cherry Creek School District is hosting STREAM-A-Palooza! Participate in STEAM activities from the comfort of your home. Please click [here](#) or go to www.steamapaloozaccsd.com for details on how to register for this April 10th event.

8th Grade Continuation



Parents/guardians of 8th Graders - the Continuation Committee has been hard at work planning this year's Continuation ceremony. Emails have been sent to all parents/guardians with details. If you have not received any emails from us, please contact

ChallengeContinuation2021@gmail.com as soon as possible.

SEAC Meeting



The April 8th SEAC meeting will discuss the topic of Twice Exceptionality in students. Please click [here](#) for more information.

NJHS Office Hours



The National Junior Honor Society is offering "office hours" to help Team D students with any assignments or concepts they would like help on. The opportunities below are available each week as long as it is not a holiday or non-contact day for students. Students may click on the [link](#) for the office hours they want to attend, and an NJHS member will be there to help them virtually.

PTCO Board Nominations



The PTCO is accepting nominations for Board positions for the 2021-22 school year. Self-nominations are encouraged. The Board meets monthly to plan and organize community building events and fundraisers to support our staff, students and families. Open positions include President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications and Volunteer Coordinator. All positions can be filled by two people, so find a friend to do it with you or make a new friend! Contact ptcochallenge@gmail.com for more information or to make a nomination. The nominations are due by April 10th 11.59pm MT

Little Libraries



Did you know we have two Free Little Libraries near the garden/pavilion? These are boxes that house books for Challenge students to borrow. The boxes have recently been repaired (thank you to Matt Gordon) and are in need of books. Earn a volunteer hour by making a donation; just drop your books in the boxes. And remind your kids that there are books available for them in the libraries.

Sleep Challenge



Thank you to all of the students who participated in Healthy Sleep Habits Tic-Tac-Toe! We had well over 150 participants. Prizes will be awarded next week. Look for future wellness challenges later this spring

Volunteers Needed



Challenge School needs volunteers to help with traffic once the school returns to full in-person learning on April 5, 2021. Six people are needed each day to help direct traffic from 2:45pm - 3:15pm. This is a great way to get some volunteer hours for the year! Please use the following link to sign up [here](#).

Food and Nutrition Services News



Breakfast and lunch for ALL Cherry Creek School District students will continue to be free until the end of the school year. Meal pick up information for middle school is now available. Please click here for the flyer in [English](#) and here for [Spanish](#).

Food & Nutrition Services is hiring and will be hosting a Job Fair on March 27th! For details on how to apply, please click [here](#). To attend the Food Service Job Fair, please click here for information in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Even though breakfast and lunch are free for all students this year, did you know that there are additional benefits if you qualify for free and reduced lunch? Please click [here](#) for more information.

Challenge Family Facebook Page



Did you know our PTCO has a Facebook group for the parents and caregivers of our students? It's a great place to ask questions and learn from other parents. Please go to www.facebook.com/groups/challengeparents/ to join.

No Cost Fundraising



The companies that support our no cost fundraising efforts include: AmazonSmile, King Soopers, Box Tops for Education, Coca-Cola and American Furniture Warehouse. Please visit <https://challengeptco.weebly.com/support-challenge.html> for details.

Parent's Council Board



Parents Council is the umbrella organization that keeps our non-profit status so schools can fundraise, host fun school events and give back to the community and school. We have many board positions opened and would love to chat with anyone who is looking to volunteer in this capacity! You can visit our website at <https://www.ccparentscouncil.org> to learn more about the board and open positions.

Wolf Watch



CCSD will be offering Summer Camp Day Care this summer. We are excited to provide care for all our families through the summer months. Please see this [Flyer](#) for information. More details to come as we near the end of the school year.

Feedback

We hope that you are getting all of the information that you need from this update. If you have ideas on how we could better keep you informed, please email dbustamante@cherrycreekschools.org.