

CHALLENGE SCHOOL



This Week's News

March 12, 2021

Message From the Principal



Spring break is here! What a great time for all of us to sleep in, relax, and recharge our batteries. It looks like we're going to get some extra exercise shoveling snow, too!

Look for a message later today from CCSD sharing greater detail about our return to full, in-person on April 5. I think this communication will have answers to most of your questions. I think the main thing for us all to keep in mind is that class time and all school operations will remain essentially the same as they will right now - just with full classrooms. We'll continue with mask wearing, handwashing, and frequent cleaning. We're also planning at the school to invest time with our students to readjust to our new learning environment. While it's yet another change, this is one we can't wait to make happen!

We are still planning for the administration of state assessments right after spring break. Look for the specific dates later in this newsletter. If you want to proactively excuse your student from state testing this year, please fill out the opt-out form located on the State Assessment Exemption tile at my.cherrycreek.org. You can view [instructions for filling out the exemption here](#). All absences will be excused if you choose to keep your child at home during testing.

We are grateful for our continued support and partnership with the PTCO, even during this crazy year. Please consider participating in the Wolf Drive that kicked off this week!

The PASS Committee (Partnership for Academically Successful Students) will meet on Tuesday, March 23 at 6:30 pm. This will be hosted virtually on Microsoft Teams. The district PASS group will also host a presentation on COVID vaccinations on March 24 at 6:00 pm. This event is detailed later in the newsletter.

Stay safe and warm in the days to come. Enjoy your break!

Principal Strohfus

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CMAS Testing Schedule



CMAS TESTING SCHEDULE Colorado Measures of Academic Success

Teams D/E

Cohort A
March 30 & April 1

Cohort B
March 31 & April 2

Team C

April 6, 7, 8

5th and 8th grade Science

Week of April 12-16 (Final date TBD)

Wolf Drive 2021



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 39 families who have participated so far! Collectively these families have helped us to raise nearly \$16,000 making about 33% of our goal! If you have not yet participated, please click [here](#) to learn more about how you can engage. The Wolf Drive includes the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for chances to win fun prizes including gift cards to several stores, restaurants, and recreational venues around the Denver area. If all of our families contribute \$150, we will meet our goal! If you have questions, please contact us at ptcochallenge@gmail.com.

Challenge PASS Meeting



*Dedicated to
Excellence*
Cherry Creek Schools

All families are invited to participate in our PASS (Partnership for Academically Successful Students) meetings. The next PASS meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams on March 23 at 6:30pm. Please click [here](#) for the PASS schedule and links.

Technology Student Association



Even though it was an unusual year and in person after school events were not allowed, we had 25 students who were part of the Technology Student Association (TSA) and competed in 26 events at the 2021 State Conference which was held virtually March 1st-6th. Students met virtually to plan, design, and complete their entries by February, then had remote interviews with judges during the conference. It was a challenging year as all of the events we normally have in TSA were converted to work virtually, which often meant additional requirements such as videos or electronic documentation that we don't normally have to do. The hard work that all of these students put into their projects paid off as they took 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place in 21 events. Click [here](#) for our list of winners. Congratulations to these students for taking on this extracurricular activity this year and their achievements!

Upcoming School Events

Wolf Drive Begins
March 1

Spring Break
March 15-19
NO SCHOOL

PASS Meeting
March 23
6:30pm

Panda Express Night
March 25

Upcoming District Events

CCSD Food & Nutrition
Services Job Fair
March 13
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

District PASS Meeting
March 24
6:00

STREAM-A-PALOOZA
April 10
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

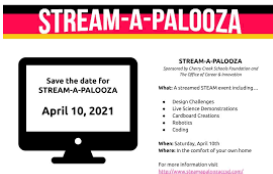
Important Links:

[Challenge Middle School REVISED HYBRID Calendar](#)

[Challenge School Tech Support](#)

[Planning Forward 2020-2021](#)

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 10 event.

Panda Express Night



Our recent Panda Express fundraiser was so popular that we are doing it again! Please help support Challenge School by ordering online from Panda Express on Thursday, March 25. Please click [here](#) for all details. Use code 902946 and 28% of your order price will come back to Challenge! This code can be used at any location and you don't have to be a Challenge family to use it, so feel free to spread the word to your friends and family. Note, this code is only valid for orders placed on line and only on March 25. For questions please contact PTCOChallenge@gmail.com. Take a night off from cooking and support Challenge School!

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.

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

[Challenge School Website](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

[CCSD Parent Resources](#)

[Schoology Troubleshooting Guide for Students](#)

[2020-2021 Challenge School Calendar](#)

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



Healthy Sleep Habits = Happy Kids! The Sleep Challenge Tic-Tac-Toe boards were provided to students on Monday this week. Please encourage your child's participation in this fun challenge! Students have the opportunity to "play" Tic-Tac-Toe and earn prizes for completing activities that promote good sleep habits. The Sleep Challenge will run from March 1-12. Boards must be submitted before spring break and prizes will be awarded after break. Middle Schoolers can also access their boards digitally [here](#). For more information on how your child can get better and longer sleep, click [here](#).

PTCO Reserved Parking Spots



As part of our fundraising efforts to support our Teaching Assistants, whose actions benefit ALL students, the PTCO sells reserved parking spots in the main and circle parking lot. We have had numerous reports of people using these spots when they have not paid for them. The PTCO Board would like to request that we all be respectful and not park in one of these reserved spots. These spots are clearly labelled with the name of the family that purchased them. If you would like to have your own reserved spot, there is one currently unsold in the main lot - contact the Board at PTCOChallenge@gmail.com for details. In addition, the launch of the Wolf Drive will provide opportunities for families to purchase these spots for the 21-22 school year. If you have any questions about these parking spots, please contact the PTCO Board at PTCOChallenge@gmail.com.

District PASS Meeting



We look forward to you joining us on March 24, 2021, 6:00 – 8:00 pm at our monthly District PASS meeting. We will host a discussion panel with medical practitioners on "Vaccines-Perceptions & Perspectives." Click [here](#) to register in advance. After registering you will receive a confirmation email with information to join the meeting.

The Office of Career and Technical Education (CTE) would like to learn how to better inform families of color about student opportunities in career exploration, career planning, and career preparation as it relates to both college and career success. Your feedback will help us develop an inclusive, K-12 Career Exploration plan. Please take a few

minutes to tell us about your biggest priorities and concerns when helping your student navigate career planning: [Career Awareness Parent Survey](#)

Volunteer Update



Given the extraordinary circumstances we are in right now, the 25 hour volunteer requirement is being changed from a requirement to a target for this school year. We need parents help and involvement (see Volunteer Opportunities under Important Links in the sidebar), and are grateful for any time that you are able to donate.

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](#).

****UPDATED INFORMATION****For Spring Break breakfast and lunch pick up information, please click here for the flyer [English](#) or [Spanish](#).

Food & Nutrition Services will be hosting a Job Fair on Saturday, March 13 from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. For details, click [here](#).

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.

Leaders of the PACK



Week of March 8

Fariah Chowdhury	Dhruv Khurana	Manvi Chauhan
Justice Chitsom	Kaylee Dykstra	Blythe Elam
Dennis Kaplan	Avi Khadka	Claire Martin
Mimi Onuorah	Kellen Sutton	August Tuley
Anirudh Velagapudi	Noah Zhang	Anika Dande
Arriya Haney	Violet Henry	Caylee Howe
Nathan Minn	Ashaan Shah	Leia Spence
Vinh Tran	Kai Westgard	Lucas Zhang Sanders
Henry Blue	Aedan Brandreth	Brozek Bulatovic
Mahlee Conlin	Mason Cook	Mckenzie Davenport
Agop Dervahyan	Wyatt Dunkly	Lucy Figueroa-Otrera
Emersen Fischer	Alex Gallimore	Jake Gebicki
Mila Gilmartin	Gentry Gordon	Aryan Gupta
Aksel Hanson	Meghna Harikrishna	Mustafa Hassan
Patrick Healy	Tais Ioris	Dasha Kalmykov
Logan Kempf	Embry Kirsten	Jillian Kniep
Kavya Krishna	Emilio Kukic	Mathangi Kurup
Kate Wong	Aaisha Eisa	Amirah Esmael
Binderiya Lkhagvatseren	Sienna Moore	Emma Pak

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.