

## CHALLENGE SCHOOL



This Week's News

February 19, 2021

### Message From the Principal



Another busy week is in the books, and believe it or not, we're quickly approaching spring break. We've been busy juggling schedules to provide coverage for staff members to get their vaccinations. So far over half of our Challenge staff has received the first vaccination with more to come this week. Each milestone we reach helps to create an environment that feels more and more familiar. Our expectation is that all staff who wish to be vaccinated will have received the second shot by the time we return from break. Once that benchmark is achieved, we can begin to have real conversations about a full return to school. Our health services team spend the month of January and early February conducting random saliva testing for elementary students. Today marks the last day of these efforts as our attention has now shifted to an all out effort to support vaccinations for all staff. Thanks for your continued flexibility and support of our efforts!

We are still awaiting a final decision from CDE regarding spring CMAS testing for students across the state. As of right now, we are still required to plan for full testing while students are in person during late March and early April. We expect there will be a high number of student exemptions this year, which will mean the data that comes from state assessments will not truly reflect student achievement in schools during this unprecedented time. The Cherry Creek School District has internal assessments that we use at the classroom and school level to determine where students are in their learning and to empower teachers with real-time data to adjust instruction and to meet the individual needs of students.

As always, if you want to proactively excuse your student from state testing this year, you must fill out the opt-out form located on the State Assessment Exemption tile at [my.cherrycreek.org](http://my.cherrycreek.org). You can view [instructions for filling out the exemption here](#).

### In This Issue

Message From the Principal

Wolf Drive 2021

District Accountability Committee Applications

Celebrating Black History Month

News from the Clinic

Eight Grade Student Information

Healthy Sleep Habits Challenge

NJHS Office Hours

Cherry Creek Reads

Kid's Heart Challenge

Parent Information Network

Box Tops

2021 Yearbook

PTCO Board

Volunteer Update

Food and Nutrition Services News

Tabs for Tots

PTCO Reserved Parking Spots

PTCO Facebook

No Cost Fundraising

Wolf Watch

Several weeks ago, Dr. Scott Siegfried announced his retirement from the Cherry Creek School District. Dr. Siegfried will be greatly missed, and the board of education has the huge task of finding our next superintendent. As part of the process of selecting the next superintendent of the Cherry Creek School District, our Board of Education would love to hear from you about what characteristics you would like to see in our next leader. Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts via this short survey: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6192384/CCSD-Stakeholder-Survey> Your input is extremely valuable and will help guide the Board's decision. The survey closes at 9 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 22.

During this busy time, take care of each other! Be safe - be well!

Principal Strohfus

### Wolf Drive 2021



The PTCO Executive Board is happy to announce that our annual spring fundraiser, the Wolf Drive, will be launching on Monday March 1. This is a fantastic way to help us raise money to support our [Teaching Assistants](#). There will be several raffles where you can purchase chances to win fun prizes including gift cards to several stores and restaurants. There will also be the opportunity to purchase reserved parking spaces and carpool lot passes. Stay tuned for more information on how you can get involved! If you have any immediate questions, please send them to [ptcochallenge@gmail.com](mailto:ptcochallenge@gmail.com).

### CCSD District Accountability Executive Committee



Parents and Guardians - Would you like the opportunity to have a greater voice within the Cherry Creek School District? If so, please consider an application for the 2021-2022 District Accountability Executive Committee. The application for this dynamic committee can be found [here](#).

### Upcoming School Events

Box Tops Due  
February 25

Tabs for Tots Due  
February 26

End of Second Trimester  
February 26

Wolf Drive Begins  
March 1

Healthy Sleep Habits  
Challenge  
March 1-12

### Upcoming District Events

PIN Meeting  
March 2

Cherry Creek Reads  
March 8-12

### Important Links:

[Challenge Middle School REVISED HYBRID Calendar](#)

[Challenge School Tech Support](#)

[Planning Forward 2020-2021](#)

[Challenge School Website](#)

## Celebrating Black History Month



We continue to celebrate Black History Month. Established in 1976, Black History Month highlights the societal contributions of African-American individuals and communities, alike. The month also reminds us of our ongoing mission to lift up and bring forward voices and stories of people of color as vital members of our larger community.

As we honor Black History Month, many of our teachers have plans to spotlight the important work of Black Americans in molding and shaping the world we live in today. In CCSD we work to promote inclusive excellence for every student and strive to support one another as we grow our capacity to provide equitable opportunities for all students. As we support each other in our work, we acknowledge that our work is far from finished. We will continue to work to honor the accomplishments of leaders of color, not only during spotlight months, but throughout the year. While most of these stories are not our own, we take great pride in promoting the ideals of equity, acceptance, and collaboration in our work with students.

## News from the Clinic



To help decrease the spread of COVID-19, we continue to ask that you and your student/s practice good hand washing habits, appropriate distancing, wearing a mask that covers both the nose and mouth and not sending students to school if they are sick.

## Eighth Grade Student Information



### 8th-grade students and parents/guardians:

Please join this Schoology group for updates, resources, and information regarding the high school transition process.

#### Access Code

**X5X9-4VFR-DMX5X**

A link to important dates, including Incoming Freshman Nights, can be found [here](#). These are updated regularly so please check back often.

Interested in attending an Historically Black College or University, Hispanic Serving Institution, or Native American Serving Institution? Please click [here](#) for details on a college fair.

Please contact our school counselor with any questions at [ethomas@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:ethomas@cherrycreekschools.org).

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

[CCSD Parent Resources](#)

[Schoology Troubleshooting Guide for Students](#)

[2020-2021 Challenge School Calendar](#)

## Healthy Sleep Habits Challenge



Did you know that the National Sleep Foundation recommends 9-11 hours of sleep each night for kids between 6 and 13 years old? Help your child learn about the importance of healthy sleep habits by encouraging their participation in the upcoming Healthy Sleep Habits Tic-Tac-Toe Challenge! Students will have the opportunity to “play” Tic-Tac-Toe and earn prizes for completing activities that promote good sleep habits. Tic-Tac-Toe boards will be sent home with your student next week, and the “challenge” will run from March 1-12. More information to come!

## 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.

## Cherry Creek Reads



Get Ready for Cherry Creek Reads! For more information, please click [here](#). Save the date to drop everything and read for March 8-12.

## Kid's Heart Challenge



It's not too late! Challenge School's Kids Heart Challenge is coming to an end, but there is still time! Can you collect ALL 10 HEART HEROES by earning some last minute donations?? You could help our school reach its goal and also help save lives along the way. Don't forget to take a challenge this week. Will you choose to Be A Leader or to Avoid Tobacco & Vaping? If you haven't already: download our FREE Kids Heart Challenge App or visit [www.heart.org/KHC](http://www.heart.org/KHC)!

## Parent Information Network (PIN)

Attend the next CCSD Parent Information Network meeting entitled, “You’ve made it through a year of COVID, now what?” Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 9:15 a.m. For complete details, click [here](#)



### Box Tops



It's time for our Spring Box Top collection! Please turn in your physical box tops to school by Thursday, February 25. Each Box Top earns the school money. Thank you for your support of Challenge School.

### 2021 Yearbooks For Sale



The 2021 Challenge School yearbooks are for sale! The price for the hardcover 68-page full-color yearbook is \$29, and includes a current events spread. The yearbooks will be distributed during the last week of school in May. Don't miss out on the memories of this unique school year -- order online today with no additional service charge by following this link:

<https://cherrycreek.revtrak.net/middle-schools/chl/chl-yearbooks/>.

### 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](mailto:ptcochallenge@gmail.com) for more information or to make a nomination. The nominations are due by April 10th 11:59pm MT.

### 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](#).

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.

## Tabs for Tots



Challenge Technology Student Association is collecting pop tabs to help support The Ronald McDonald House. Please save your pop tabs and bring them to school. There will be blue collection buckets in the Innovation Spaces in each hall and the cafeteria from January 11-February 26.

## 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](mailto:PTCOChallenge@gmail.com) for details. In addition, the launch of the Wolf Drive on March 1 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](mailto:PTCOChallenge@gmail.com)

## No Cost Fundraising



Please remember to help us raise money through the no-cost fundraisers, especially AmazonSmile and King Soopers. Visit the PTCO's website for more information regarding the programs.

### Wolf Watch



Challenge School Wolf Watch offers a quality before and after school program. Please click [here](#) for details! For additional information, please contact Sarah Chew at [schew@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:schew@cherrycreekschools.org).

### 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](mailto:dbustamante@cherrycreekschools.org).