

## CHALLENGE SCHOOL



This Week's News

February 5, 2021

### Message From the Principal



Things continue to look up for our Challenge School students. Kids are working away and enjoying their time in-person, while some of our neighboring districts are just now beginning to return to live classes. Students continue to do their part and follow safety guidelines to the best of their abilities. At times their excitement gets the best of them, but they're quick to correct course and return to expected behaviors. All of this is completely typical and to be expected - they're kids after all! We are hopeful that staff vaccinations for COVID-19 will begin to happen in the next week or two as CCSD continues to lead partnerships with outside healthcare organizations.

I want to take the opportunity to recognize Candace Ellman as the Challenge School Exceptional Volunteer for 2020-21. Candace currently serves as our PTCO President and has volunteered for many years in a variety of roles. Her hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated. Thanks for all you do, Candace!

Please pay special attention to the unique schedule for next week. Students have additional days off on Friday, February 12 for a staff development day; Monday, February 15 for Presidents Day, and Tuesday, February 16 as a district furlough day. We will return to school on Wednesday, February 17. Please take care of yourself and those around you during these extra days off! As always, be safe - be well!

Principal Strohfus

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## Celebrating Black History Month



This week marks the start of 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.

You can also help us continue to decrease the spread by signing up your grade K-5 student for the *voluntary* randomized saliva testing here at our school.

The link to sign your student up is here:

<https://www.primarybio.com/l/cherry>

## Traffic Pattern



Now that we're back to in-person learning, we wanted to share some reminders on how to help traffic flow safely and smoothly. Please note that we're not changing anything at this time (big sigh of relief)! I'll preface all points with a huge, "PLEASE and THANK YOU!"

- Priority for enter/exit: Priority for exit goes to cars in the through lane in order to keep the turning lane on Dayton clear.
- DO NOT block lanes of traffic on Dayton.
- If the traffic pattern is full on the through lane, pull into the parking lot so that we don't block Dayton in an unsafe manner.

## Upcoming School Events

### NO SCHOOL

February 12, 15, and 16

## Upcoming District Events

PIN Meeting  
February 2

SEAC Meeting  
February 11

## Important Links:

[Challenge Middle School REVISED HYBRID Calendar](#)

[Challenge School Tech Support](#)

[Planning Forward 2020-2021](#)

[Challenge School Website](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

[CCSD Parent Resources](#)

[Schoology Troubleshooting Guide for Students](#)

[2020-2021 Challenge School Calendar](#)

- Pull forward to the big red dot – pull as far forward as possible to make room for cars trying to turn into the lot.
- DO NOT drive against one-way signs.
- If you need to get out of your car to assist your children – use the parking lot instead of the through lane.
- The west circle lot is NOT available for general use – only PTCO permit, handicapped, and staff parking.
- *To access handicapped parking spots & PTCO permitted spots, proceed all the way to the circle lot.*
- SLOW DOWN
  - Common courtesy goes a long way - please share the road!

**Carpool Access – WEST LOT:** The west lot is reserved solely for carpool traffic. Using the carpool results in quicker, more convenient access, greatly reduced traffic, and less congestion to deal with. This year we have reduced the number of student riders to 4. No access will be allowed without the approved carpool pass for arrival or dismissal. We require that you complete an application form in order to receive your pass. If you'd like help trying to find carpool partners, please visit Way to Go Schoolpool <https://mywaytogo.org/#/schoolpools/join/5489d6e0f44ab6c9019cb43c> and create an account. Then search for matches from Challenge School in your area. *Contact Way to Go at 303-458-7665 or [waytogo@drcog.org](mailto:waytogo@drcog.org) for assistance. Information is provided for your use only. Challenge School and Way to Go do not run background checks, confirm valid driver's licenses or assess insurance coverage on participants. Potential users are advised to screen participants to their personal satisfaction and check their own insurance coverage for carpooling to ensure that they are covered under these voluntary arrangements. No drivers, vehicles or insurance are provided.*

## 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).

### Challenge Spelling Bee



Though many Challenge traditions are on a hiatus during the pandemic, a different form of our annual spelling bee will occur. Spelling enthusiasts need to know:

\*6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders may register to participate.

\*\* The written test will be given to both Cohorts A & B on different days

\*\*\*Plan to take the written test between February 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

Interested? Email to register with Ms. Beattie and access study resources:

[cbeattie2@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:cbeattie2@cherrycreekschools.org)

### Kid's Heart Challenge



Kids Heart Challenge is here! Thank you for your support and help in educating students on how and why they need to take care of their hearts.

On 2/5/2021 [our](#) school will kick things off by inviting students to help complete our mission to fight heart disease and help others.

Scan or click the QR code to download the Kids Heart Challenge app or visit [www.heart.org/khc](http://www.heart.org/khc) to register under our school.



We know not every family may be able to donate, however, as part of Kids Heart Challenge, every student will benefit from the daily and weekly missions that will teach them about HOW and WHY they need to take care of their hearts. If you can help raise funds, the American Heart Association will put those dollars to work saving lives. Every dollar makes a difference.

**Keep a look out for weekly email updates and be sure to check out the [KHC Mission Experience](#) and complete all of the missions!**

*Our school is proud to help the AHA as they are supporting our community in many ways during this pandemic. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the US and right now 40% of those*

*hospitalized for COVID-19 have heart disease or have had a stroke. [Learn more about the AHA's COVID-19 response here.](#)*

### Exceptional Volunteer



Congratulations to our Exceptional Volunteer of the Year, Candace Ellman. Candace has dedicated 1,000s of hours of service to Challenge during the past decade. We appreciate all of your efforts. Thank you for all you do for 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/>.

### SEAC Meeting



The next Special Education Advisory Committee meeting will be held on February 11 at 9:30am. Please click [here](#) for more information.

### 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.

### Wolf Drive Shadow Needed

The Wolf Drive is our annual spring fundraiser. We are looking for someone with spreadsheet skills and a creative flair to shadow the current Wolf Drive chair in order to assume the role of Chair for the 2022 Drive. This is an urgent need, so if you're inclined, please take a minute to communicate your interest to us at your earliest convenience. Contact [ptcochallenge@gmail.com](mailto:ptcochallenge@gmail.com) if interested.





## No Place For Hate Art Showcase



Challenge School No Place for Hate will be hosting an art showcase. For more information, please click [here](#).  
Deadline for entry is February 19.

## 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 do still need parent help and involvement (see Volunteer Opportunities under Important Links in the sidebar), and are grateful for any time that you are able to donate. A new activity called 'Remote Learning' has been added to HelpCounter where you can record the time you spend assisting your kids through the remote learning process.

## 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.

## 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).

## Leaders of the PACK



Week of February 1

Lucy Mest	Joanna Von Lembke	Manvi Chauhan
Jacob DeBard	Max Guzzardo	Torsten Hansen
Rurik Rasmussen	Zoey Steenson	Ezra Asfaha
James Boberschmidt	Hunter Davis	Cassie Finnessy
Debbie Gab-Ojukwu	Maddy Garcia	Ivan Han
Violet Henry	Addie Hoffman	Mina Margittai
Catherine Nadeau	Ashaan Shah	Jackson Von Lembke
Eliana Woldu	Nuv Ahuja	Zach Brown
Lukas Estus	Krit Krishna	Vanessa Obot

## 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).