

## CHALLENGE SCHOOL



This Week's News  
2021

January 15,

### Message From the Principal



What a whirlwind of a week! In many ways it felt just like the first week of school with all of the excitement to be back to in-person learning! We missed your kiddos, and we're thrilled that they're back with us. Our kids did a great job of picking up pretty much where they left off. They slid right back into our safety practices amidst all of their excitement to see their friends and teachers. We also had a very successful week to begin limited random saliva testing for elementary students. We're also testing staff members at the same time so they don't need to leave school and wait in long lines for sampling.

Our current climate in the US has certainly provided a lot for our teachers and students to talk about and process. Given last week's attack on our Capitol, many of us are left to feel uneasy about political tension and continued threats of violence. As a school and as a district, it's important for you to know our stance for our school climate. We will not tolerate racism, anti-Semitism, or violence, and we will commit to supporting a safe and positive school climate. We're not sure what to expect next week with this historic inauguration. We hope for a safe and smooth transition of leadership both at the state and local level. Out of an abundance of caution, all safety teams in CCSD have met to review safety procedures and protocols just as we normally do on a regular basis. We want you to know this so that you feel safe and confident sending your children to school on these historic days.

Again, thanks for your continued support as we reacquaint ourselves with our routines and procedures. All week I saw excited eyes and smiles so large that you could see them right under their masks! It felt good to be back together this week. We hope that we're able to continue with this positive momentum. As always, be safe - be well!

Principal Strohfus

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**ATTENTION ALL PARENTS!**  
**INTENT  
TO RETURN**

Thank you to the many families who have already completed their 2021-2022 Intent to Return. If you have not yet responded to the Intent to Return form, please do so right away.

[INTENT TO RETURN FORM](#)

**AAC Meeting**



Our AAC meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams on Jan 19 at 5pm. [Please click here for the AAC schedule and links.](#)

**Golden Heart  
Nominations**



Do you know someone who has “opened their heart” and made an impact to touch the life of a Cherry Creek School District student with special needs? Please click [here](#) if you would like information on nominating them for a Golden Heart Award.

**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 can be found [here](#).

Advancement Via Individual Determination, AVID, is a sixth through twelfth grade program that prepares students in the career and college pathways of choice. Students are taught study skills, note taking, time management, writing and research skills, while being immersed in a career and college culture. Interested in AVID? Please click [here](#).

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

**Upcoming School  
Events**

**Elementary School  
returns to  
5 days/week of  
in-person learning  
January 11**

**Middle School returns to  
the [REVISED Hybrid  
Schedule](#)  
January 11**

**No School  
January 18**

**AAC Meeting  
January 19**

**Upcoming District  
Events**

**Important Links:**

[Challenge Middle  
School REVISED  
HYBRID Calendar](#)

[Challenge School  
Tech Support](#)

[Planning Forward  
2020-2021](#)

[Challenge School  
Website](#)

[Volunteer  
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[CCSD Parent  
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## Schoology Troubleshooting Guide for Students

## 2020-2021 Challenge School Calendar

### Cherokee Trail Incoming Freshman Night



Greetings Future Cougars!  
Please click [here](#) for information regarding Incoming Freshman Night at CTHS.  
This information will be live to browse on January 18<sup>th</sup> and distribute the "live Forum" links on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

### Grandview Incoming Freshman Night



Greetings Future Wolves!  
Grandview will be hosting a virtual event for your current 8<sup>th</sup> graders on 1/19/21 from 6-8 pm. Please note that the PDF does have active links for the Live Teams events. Please click [here](#) to view.

### Smoky Hill Incoming Freshman Night



Greetings Future Buffs!  
In lieu of Smoky Hill's typical Incoming Freshman Night event, we have created an interactive site, [HERE](#), for you to explore and learn everything you need to know about Smoky Hill HS. Information regarding registration for your freshman courses will be available in the coming weeks. We are all looking forward to meeting you, getting to know you, and welcoming you into The Herd!

### 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/>.

### Middle School Yoga Club



Are you a middle school student that needs to relax (right NOW!)? Be part of the Yoga Club. Because Yoga focuses on developing "your practice," you can join at any skill or experience level. Yoga is great for increasing your strength, flexibility, and your ability to focus. If you are already participating in a sport, it is an excellent way to cross train. Of course it also helps reduce stress and promote overall wellbeing, and we all need a little of that right now. Take some time to take care of yourself! Classes will meet virtually from 12:00-12:30 on students' asynchronous

learning days. Please contact Mrs. Blythe if you have questions at: [hblythe@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:hblythe@cherrycreekschools.org) or if you are ready to sign up, Click Here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4FA8A82CA0F58-yoga>

### MLK Youth Summit



Please click [here](#) for information regarding the MLK Youth Summit.

### 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



Food and Nutrition Services **will** be distributing meals on the upcoming holidays of Martin Luther King Jr Day (1/18) and President's Day (2/15).

On these two dates, students can pick up 7 days of breakfast and lunch between 7:15 – 8:00 AM or 12:00 – 2:00 PM at the following locations:

- Cherry Creek High School
- Grandview High School
- Smoky Hill High School
- Prairie Middle School
- Thunder Ridge Middle School

**\*There will NOT be late pick up times on these dates\***

**\*\* These meals continue to be FREE for students 18 years old and younger\*\***

### 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.

## CCHS UNICEF STEM Camp



CCHS UNICEF is opening a free educational online camp dedicated to teaching middle and elementary school students STEM through traditional lectures and fun interactive games. For more information or to sign up, please click [here](#).

## Support Challenge at Five Guys **FIVE GUYS** BURGERS and FRIES

On January 25 between 2pm & 9pm, please visit Five Guys at 2300 S Parker Road. Mention Challenge School when purchasing your meal and 15% of your transaction will be donated back to Challenge! Encourage your friends and family to do the same! See <https://www.groupraise.com/events/173568> for all details.

## 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!

## 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).