

## CHALLENGE SCHOOL



This Week's News

January 8, 2021

### Message From the Principal



We're all so excited to see your students next week! Here are some quick details on how we'll operate when we return. Things will proceed very much like the way we were operating before going to fully remote learning.

- Elementary will be fully in-person every day
- There is a new [HYBRID schedule for middle school](#)
- Mondays for middle school has a new fully synchronous model for fully remote learning
- A Cohort attends on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- B Cohort attends on Wednesdays and Fridays
- We still maintain procedures in all settings for masks, distancing, and hand washing.
- We will maintain the same daily cleaning protocols.
- Teachers have rearranged classrooms to maximize distancing and updated seating charts to support detailed contact tracing, as needed.
- Both breakfast and lunch will continue to be provided for free through May.

Recent events at our nation's Capitol will likely be a topic of conversation in our homes, schools, and workplaces in the coming days. Seeing and hearing about events of this nature can have an impact on our children and their ability to feel safe and secure. They may have questions or want to talk. This may further compound the pressures both adults and children are feeling due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our families and students are always welcome to talk with their teacher, school counselor, principal, etc. about any concerns or anxieties they may be feeling. Knowing that informal conversations about the events at our nation's Capitol may take place among students, I wanted to make sure you have these resources readily available, should you need them when supporting your children.

- [Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#) (National Association of School Psychologists)
- [How to Talk to Children About Difficult News](#) (American Psychological Association)

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- [Age-Related Reactions to a Traumatic Event](#) (National Child Traumatic Stress Network).
- [How to Talk to Kids About Difficult Subjects](#) (Common Sense Media)

We look forward to seeing your kids in person next week!  
Happy new year to you all, and here's hoping that the coming of 2021 finds everyone safe and healthy!

Be safe, be well!

Principal Strohfus



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 and PASS Meetings



All families are invited to participate in our next PASS (Partnership for Academically Successful Students) meeting which will be held via Microsoft Teams on Jan 12 at 6:30pm. [Please click here for the PASS schedule and links.](#) Additionally, our AAC meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams on Jan 19 at 5pm. [Please click here for the AAC schedule and links.](#)

### SEAC Meeting



Please join in the next SEAC Meeting on January 14 when Dr. Tony Poole will be sharing a Future Forward Update. Click [here](#) for more information.

### 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**

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

## Upcoming District Events

**PASS Meeting**

January 12

**SEAC Meeting**

January 14

## 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



#### 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>.

#### 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>

### 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.

A big THANK YOU to the following families who have recorded 11 or more hours of volunteer time as of the end of the first trimester. Your dedication to the school is greatly appreciated. Current volunteer opportunities are included in Wolf Tracks each week in the sidebar under Important Links.

Ellman, Henry, Hultquist, Van de Sande, Gupta, Jackson, Torres-Mary, Spaulding, Li, Martinez, Safiulla, Kerns, Kessler, Kurup, Appiah, Philo, Noorie, Eremiant

### 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](#).

### 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.

## Challenge School Tech Support



Does your child need help troubleshooting technology during remote learning? Does your child need help with their CCSD device? Do you need to request a device for your child? Do you need help accessing internet? If so, please send an email to [chltech@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:chltech@cherrycreekschools.org). Our tech team will do our best to problem solve!

## Wellness Committee Chair



We are in need of a Chair or a couple of Co-Chairs to organize and implement virtual wellness programs for the students. This year's focus will be on sleep, exercise and nutrition. We'll be starting with a Sleep Challenge. Earn your volunteer hours by teaching our kids the importance of getting enough good quality sleep. Contact [challengeschoolvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:challengeschoolvolunteer@gmail.com) if interested.

## Social/Emotional and Wellness Support



If you would like to join Challenge School's **Social/Emotional and Wellness Support** Schoology course, here is the link:

572X-F3HN-6QPST

The course is full of resources for elementary students, middle school students, parents/guardians, and staff to access. This is available for all Challenge families and students to join and is optional. Dr. Hartley and Ms. Thomas are also hosting virtual office hours to provide additional support to Challenge students and families. Sessions are confidential, optional, and can be either phone or video sessions.

To set up a Virtual Mental Health Appointment with Dr. Hartley, sign up here:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b48acaa2aa3fd0-remote>

To set up a Virtual Counseling Appointment with Ms. Thomas, sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084AACA628AAF49-remote>

For any further questions please contact [mhartley4@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:mhartley4@cherrycreekschools.org) and/or [ethomas@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:ethomas@cherrycreekschools.org). Thank you!

## 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.

## Reserved Parking Space



We still have one reserved parking spot available for purchase left over from last spring's Wolf Drive fundraiser. The spot in the main lot is available for \$500. If you wish to purchase it, please visit [here](#) If you have questions, please contact [PTCOChallenge@gmail.com](mailto:PTCOChallenge@gmail.com).

## 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).