

April 17, 2020

CHALLENGE SCHOOL



This Week's News

April 17, 2020

A Message from the Principal



It's hard to believe that we've now completed our third week of remote learning. Our deepest thanks is in order for the countless hours spent supporting your students at home as they've worked to navigate new learning platforms and engage in a 100% online learning environment. I'm incredibly appreciative of the efforts made by each teacher to maintain their own unique classroom community. Even our youngest learners are participating in ZOOM conferences to learn content, receive academic support, and stay connected to their classroom friends. I've never seen a better example of a "community of learners" than I have in the last month. We're all much stronger as teachers, students, and leaders than we were just a few short weeks ago. This learning will make us better at what we do for years to come!

It's important to let our community know of a change in programming at Challenge for next year. We are very sorry to inform you that we have been forced to eliminate our elementary Spanish program beginning in the 2020-21 school year. Schools across the district are required to adjust to changes in staffing ratios for next year, so unfortunately we were forced to reduce 1.5 teaching positions based on our student enrollment. Our other area of reduction is in Art, although all students at each grade will still be able to participate in Art classes as part of our Encore rotation. Changes to this program involve a reduction to Art Integration in cooperation with core classroom teachers. Please understand that these reductions do not represent a shift in our values, rather they reflect the ever-changing landscape of educational funding in Colorado. While we are sorry to see these changes, our staff has handled the adjustments with the highest degree of

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Parent Resource Links

Please check the district webpage at www.cherrycreekschools.org for the most current information.

[Technology Resources](#)

[Digital Reading/Learning Resources](#)

[Mental Health Resources](#)

[Community Resources](#)

[Library of Congress Website](#)

commitment and professionalism to ensure that we are ready for students to return to classes next August.

Please stay tuned for more updates regarding medication pick up from the clinic (April 21) and student locker clean out (mid-May). We're also sending out a survey for parents to provide input for next year's classroom assignment early this week. Please respond by April 24 if you have information to share. As always, your partnership is greatly appreciated!

Warmly,

Principal Strohfus

A Letter from the Counselor



Hello Challenge Families,

I would like to extend my support to you and wish you the best during these difficult times.

I wanted to share community and social/emotional resources with you that are relevant to the current situation. Please see the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1V4uiyiDI882pbhMEDQJ3Y8jlRTLbEfuKrru9LwuzQmY/edit?usp=sharing>

I am available to help you and your student/s at this time by conducting student check-ins, connecting to more resources, completing regularly scheduled conferences with students/families, supporting students with executive functioning and social-emotional skill-building, helping 8th-grade students and their families with the transition process to high school, and participating in virtual meetings. If there is something not on this list that you would like assistance with, please email me and I will do my best to help.

If your student would like to schedule a 30-minute phone or video appointment with me, they can request that here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084RemoteCounselingSessions>
[Sign-UpAACA628AAF49-remote](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084RemoteCounselingSessions)

I will be holding office hours for student check-ins:

Monday and Thursday mornings from 10-12
Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 12-2

[Family Activities](#)

[CHL Protopage](#)

[CCSD Healthline](#)

Parents/guardians will be contacted ahead of sessions for permission and for their preferred method of communication.

To report threats, harmful behaviors, or dangerous situations with students, please contact Safe2Tell at 1-877-542-7233 or online at <https://safe2tell.org>. Safe2Tell is anonymous and available 24/7.

For immediate, confidential mental health support, please call the Colorado Crisis Line at 1-844-493-8255 or text "TALK" to 38255. Available 24/7.

In case of emergency safety concerns, please directly call 911.

Thank you all for your time today. Please feel free to reach out to me with the contact information below.

Take care,
Emily Thomas
Counselor
Challenge School
ethomas@cherrycreekschools.org
Google Voice #: (720) 336-8891

National Association for Gifted Children



The NAGC has shared document that gives some helpful information to support all students during this time. It has specific parent strategies to help your child cope in different situations.

You can access it here:
https://www.nagc.org/sites/default/files/Publication%20PHP/NAGC_TIP-Sheet_COVID-19_With%20Strategies%20by%20Development%20Level_April%202020.pdf

Middle School Years Newsletter

**THE MIDDLE
SCHOOL YEARS**

Please click to view the Middle School Years newsletter regarding COVID-19 in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Please click to view the monthly Middle School Years newsletter in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Yearbook Ordering Information



2020 Yearbooks for Sale Online

It's not too late to purchase a 2020 Challenge School yearbook! Books are for sale for \$28 via RevTrak. There is no service fee. The yearbooks will be available for pickup in May (details will be communicated once they are finalized). Don't miss out on the memories -- order yours today by visiting <https://challengeschool.revtrak.net/yearbook/#/list>.

Online Resources



Our staff has put together resources to help during the remote learning platform. Please use the links in the sidebar to access them.

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.