

[April 10, 2020](#)

# CHALLENGE SCHOOL



This Week's News

April 10, 2020

## A Message from the Principal



### Challenge Families,

*While we've now shifted into our fully remote learning experience, our students still continue to excel. Twelve Challenge students will advance to the state competition for National History Day, and five Challenge students were recognized at the Colorado Science Fair (held remotely this year). It's no accident that our students excel in these competitions with the combination of tremendous home support and a rigorous learning environment. We are grateful for the tremendous partnership that we share with our families!*

*The first two weeks of remote school have resulted in a great deal of learning on our part. As a staff, we continue to grow more proficient in teaching and providing learning resources that work for our students and are simple to use and access at home. Thank you for your patience and partnership as we continue to learn these systems. I know that we're learning a great deal now that will benefit our students in years to come.*

*We continue to explore and brainstorm ways to celebrate our wonderful students as we close the year remotely. Prior to the end of the year we'll allow students to retrieve personal items if necessary. More information will be available in weeks to come. If your students have medication in our clinic you will be contacted by our nurses to retrieve the medication on April 21.*

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## Parent Resource Links

**Please check the district webpage at [www.cherrycreekschools.org](http://www.cherrycreekschools.org) for the most current information.**

[Technology Resources](#)

[Digital Reading/Learning Resources](#)

[Mental Health Resources](#)

[Community Resources](#)

*Thanks for all that you do to make our remote learning environment work!*

*Be Well!*

*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/1V4uiyiDI882pbhMEDQJ3Y8jlRTLbFfuKrru9LwuzQmY/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

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**

[Library of Congress Website](#)

[Family Activities](#)

[CHL Protopage](#)

[CCSD Healthline](#)

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](mailto: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](https://www.nagc.org/sites/default/files/Publication%20PHP/NAGC_TIP-Sheet_COVID-19_With%20Strategies%20by%20Development%20Level_April%202020.pdf)

### National History Day



Congrats to the following Team E Challenge kids  
who are advancing to the National History Day  
state competition:

Exhibit: Austin Zhang, Evan Pacic, and Brianna  
Obot

Website: Angela Wong, Shourya Hooda, & Nishi  
Kotlapati

Documentary: Katya Roudakov & Deena Safiulla  
Group Documentary: Akshita Upadhyay & Mahi  
Mehta

Paper: Whitney Fosu & Ethan Singleton

Also a big kudos for everyone who took a risk  
and entered the competition! We're super proud  
of you!

## State Science Fair



Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding work at the State Science Fair!  
Rithvik I. took 2<sup>nd</sup> overall, out of about 200 projects and first in his category: Engineering.

Deena S. took first in her category: Animal Sciences

Nathan Y. took 3<sup>rd</sup> in Computer Sciences

Abi K. and Shurya H. earned honorable mention in Computer Sciences

## Cultural Night



### Thank you for the FABULOUS Cultural Night

Thank you to our two amazing chairs of Cultural Night, Laura Kukic and RyAnn Jaiyesimi, and to our incredible families for bringing their special (and delicious) foods, customs and traditions to Challenge School.

## PTCO General Meeting



The Challenge PTCO General Meeting scheduled for May 4 will be rescheduled for late Summer or early Fall and PTCO Board elections will be held at that time. The date/time of the meeting will be announced this summer.

### Wolf Drive Wrap-up



**Thank you for a successful Wolf Drive!** A huge thank you to Candace Ellman for running the successful Wolf Drive.

#### **Wolf Drive Prizes**

Prize winners received and email in mid-March regarding how to obtain their prizes. If you have not already responded, please email [ChallengeWolfDrive@gmail.com](mailto:ChallengeWolfDrive@gmail.com) so we can make arrangements to get you your prize.

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