

[April 3, 2020](#)

# CHALLENGE SCHOOL



This Week's News

April 3, 2020

## A Message from the Principal



Dear Challenge Families,

It's certainly been an interesting few weeks for all of us. We're all working to figure out our new routines during this time of remote learning. Like many of you, I'm trying to learn my routines with an online college freshman, an online high school junior, and figuring out my new reality of working from home and leading a school all at the same time. What I promise to you all is that we're all in this together. Our teachers have been working tirelessly to create ways to make remote learning creative and engaging, while still covering essential content standards. Our teachers are learning in many ways, as well. This experience will inspire us to rethink how we teach and share resources for years to come.

As of today, school districts around the entire Denver-Metro area have decided to continue remote learning for the remainder of the 2019-20 year. These decisions are always difficult, and I'm sure that this outcome is disappointing for our students. As always, student health and safety is our priority, and that's what ultimately led to this decision. We appreciate your partnership as we respond to our ever-changing realities. We look forward to much success for our students in our remote learning environment.

Be well!

Principal Strohfus

## In This Issue

A Message from the Principal

An Update from the Superintendent

A Letter from our Counselor

Online Resources

## 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](#)

[Library of Congress Website](#)

[Family Activities](#)

[CHL Protogage](#)

[CCSD Healthline](#)

## An Update from the Superintendent



April 3, 2020

Dear Cherry Creek Schools Community,

I am writing to let you know that Cherry Creek School District will continue with remote learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year-our building and facilities will remain closed. This difficult decision was made to protect the health and wellbeing of our students, staff, families, and community. It was made after consultation with our Board of Education, local and state public health agencies and other metro area school districts.

We will continue to focus on and refine our remote learning system, to ensure that all of our 55,000 learners are receiving high-quality educational experiences through the end of the school year. The first week of remote learning was not without challenges, but there were many positives as students and teachers reconnected and got back to the business of learning.

I know you have many questions related to the closure decision. I have some initial answers now, and more will be coming in the days and weeks ahead.

**School activities**-All in-person school activities for the remainder of the school year are cancelled. I thank Parents Council and our PTOs and PTCOs for their leadership around this issue and for their efforts to keep our students, staff and families safe.

**Graduations**-We will not be holding commencement ceremonies in May as originally scheduled, but I am committed to find a way to celebrate the milestone of graduation for the Class of 2020, once it is safe to do so.

**Student belongings at school**-We will develop a process for families to pick up student belongings at school and return items, once it is safe to do so.

**Free Meals Program**-Our free meals program will continue through the end of the school year, but the dates and some locations are changing effective Monday, April 6. Free grab and go breakfast and lunch meals will still be provided to students 18 and younger on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 10 locations across the district. Students will receive 2 days' worth of meals on Mondays and Wednesdays. Get more

information at  
<https://www.cherrycreekschools.org/freemeals>.

**Health and Wellness**-On Tuesday we launched the CCSD Healthline, a free service to support our students' physical and mental health. CCSD families can call 720-554-4584 to be connected to a school nurse or a mental health professional. The line is available from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday for the rest of the school year. Get more information at  
<https://www.cherrycreekschools.org/healthline>.

Like you, we are deeply disappointed that we must sacrifice our face-to face interactions with our students for the rest of the year, along with the many activities and events that make school so meaningful. But extraordinary circumstances require extraordinary measures. I know the Cherry CreekSchools community is up to the challenge.

Stay safe. Stay healthy.

Scott A. Siegfried, Ph. D.  
Superintendent

[Link to video from Dr. Sigfried](#)

[Joint Letter from Metro Area Superintendents](#)

### 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/1V4uiyiDI882pbhMEDQJ3Y8jIRTLbEfuKrru9LwuzQmY/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-UpAAC628AAF49-remote](#)

I will be holding office hours for student check-ins starting 4/6:

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 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

### 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).