

Dear Jenkins Middle School Families,

We are reaching out with an important update that we know will come as a shock and likely raise many questions. After ongoing assessments by the Colorado Springs Fire Department and the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC), it has been determined that the Jenkins Middle School building must be temporarily closed starting at the end of the day on **Friday, January 17th**, to allow for immediate fire safety repairs and improvements.

This is not a decision anyone wanted to make, and we deeply regret the disruption it will cause to our school community. However, this is a preventative and necessary action to ensure the safety of everyone in the Jenkins community—our students, staff, and visitors. Safety has always been and will always remain our highest priority, and we are taking this step to address these concerns before any potential risks arise.

We know this news will bring frustration, worry, and even sadness. Jenkins is more than just a building—it's a community. While this situation presents challenges, we are committed to supporting every student and family through this transition and ensuring continuity in learning.

Relocation Plans:

Students will be assigned to alternative locations for the remainder of the school year. Here's what we are doing to make this transition as smooth as possible:

- **No school on Monday, 1/20, Tuesday, 1/21 and Wednesday, 1/22:** School will be closed at the beginning of next week for students at Jenkins, Russell, and Doherty to make preparations for the smoothest transition possible into new spaces. **School will resume in new, assigned locations on Thursday, 1/23.**
- **Each grade level will stay together:** 7th and 8th graders will be accommodated in a dedicated learning space at Doherty High School and 6th graders will be accommodated at a dedicated learning space at Russell Middle School. Teachers will travel with their students to new locations.
- **Continuity in learning remains our priority:** Teachers will continue providing the same high-quality education, ensuring that students are supported during this transition.

We know you have many questions, and we want to provide answers and clarity. To address your concerns and provide more information, we invite you to attend a community meeting. **To help alleviate scheduling conflicts, we will host community meetings on three separate evenings: Tuesday 1/14, Thursday 1/16, and Wednesday 1/22 evenings at 6:00 PM at Doherty High School** in the Auditorium. Representatives from Colorado Springs School District 11, the Colorado Springs Fire Department, the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC), and Jenkins Middle School leadership will be present to:

- Answer your questions
- Share detailed information about the building closure and repairs
- Provide information on relocation plans and logistics

- Listen to your feedback and concerns

Please know we are working urgently to finalize relocation plans. The most accurate information will be delivered at the community meetings. Starting on Friday (1/17), you will be able to find relocation and operational updates on the Jenkins Middle School website (<https://jenkins.d11.org/>). You should also expect updates from your building leadership team through the D11 Loop.

We are grateful for your understanding, patience, and partnership during this challenging time. Jenkins has always been a strong and resilient community, and together, we will ensure our students continue to learn, thrive, and succeed, even through this transition.

Sincerely,
Michael Gaal
Superintendent