



# DEER CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL

JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

9201 W Columbine Dr, Littleton, CO 80128

Phone 303-982-3820 | Fax 303-982-3821 | Attendance: 303-982-3809

# the mountaineer

## A Word From the Principal

Dear DCMS Community,

### Panorama Family Survey 2024-25 School Year

#### Family Survey Communication:

Our school is committed to ensuring that your experience with our school is collaborative, successful and helps your child learn and grow. We want to know how we are doing. Panorama Education is a company who conducts student and family surveys in schools and districts across the country.

Below is a link to complete a survey about family school partnerships. The survey is anonymous and will take around 15 – 20 minutes to complete. The results will be compiled into school level climate reports. These reports will be used by district leadership and school staff to continue the positive work of our schools while identifying and addressing current needs.

**The family survey opens Tuesday, January 21 and closes Friday, February 7.**

Thank you for taking the time to give us feedback!

If the link below does not work, highlight the link using your cursor. Then copy and paste the link into your browser address window and hit the “Enter” or “Return” key on your keyboard.

Survey Link: [surveys.panoramaed.com/jeffco/family](https://surveys.panoramaed.com/jeffco/family)

Survey QR Code:



### Helpful Links

[Deer Creek Website](#)

[Jeffco Public Schools](#)



[Deer Creek PTO](#)



[Deer Creek Facebook](#)

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...to learn more about these great companies!

## A Word From the Principal, continued...

### 2nd Trimester ends on February 21st

The second trimester will be winding up soon, the last day coming up on **Friday, February 21**.

Please take a moment to log in to the Campus Portal – or have your student do it themselves and show you – to review current grades and any missing assignments. Students sometimes find that missing work has piled up over the trimester and try frantically to hand in assignments at the last minute in an effort to recover some grades before the term ends.

Please keep the following school grading policies in mind:

- Because trimester grades are final, work turned in after the end of the term will not impact a previous grade.
- All work is accepted for full Content Knowledge credit prior to the final assessment of each unit, but not to extend beyond the end of the term.
- The Work Habits grade will be impacted by work that is turned in after the due date.

**Because of due dates for posting grades, teachers cannot accept late/missing work after the end of the term.** Missing work that is still within the current unit should be turned in as soon as possible to receive content knowledge credit. As throughout the school year, students wishing to improve a grade should talk to their teacher about second chance opportunities that might be available.

### CMAS Testing

This spring, students will be taking the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS), a state mandated assessment that determines a student's achievement and academic growth in relation to the Colorado Academic Standards, which are aimed at preparing students for college and career success.

We asked students to help choose the dates through a Google survey. When asked which dates would help students to take their time, do excellent work, and stay focused, 44.1% of students chose April 9, 10, and 11 (24.4% had no preference and the other 30.4% chose other dates). Therefore, students will take the assessments on the following dates:

- All grades will take the Math and ELA CMAS sessions throughout the day on **April 9th, 10th, and 11th**.
  - Stay tuned for the daily testing schedule, which will be published in March.
  - Families will be receiving communication if your student is receiving extended time.
- 8th graders will take the science sessions in April (regular scheduled day) (specific date will be announced soon).

Deer Creek is committed to using a body of evidence to inform us about instruction and students' learning and progress. The data generated from a variety of measures, including CMAS, helps us meet the needs of all of our students and allows us to make decisions to improve student learning and growth.

continued...

**\*Kids 10 & Under Eat Free**  
**President's Day:** 11am - 4pm  
 Tuesdays: 4pm - 7pm  
 Sundays 11am - 4pm

\*With purchase of any regular priced 4-course meal. One child per adult. We have a magician every Tuesday!




**RESERVATIONS**  
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 Littleton



### Parties

Did you know that we offer kids birthday parties? Schedule a fun celebration for your kiddo's special day. They'll never forget it!

To add that extra special touch, add on a "melt"mallows for only \$20 more. While supplies last.

## A Word From the Principal, continued...

Here are some additional important facts about the CMAS assessments:

- Students who miss a testing session will make up that session as soon as possible within the state testing window.
- Please ensure that your student is attending school on testing dates. Please avoid late arrivals and early dismissals, as they might interrupt your child's testing session.
- During the testing window, regularly scheduled school learning opportunities will continue.

At Deer Creek, we are committed to preparing students for a promising future full of choices. We value utilizing data to make instructional decisions, while at the same time preserving instructional time in the classroom. We hope that this information is helpful to you and answers questions that you may have about the CMAS assessments.

Please contact Molly Law at 303-982-3820 or [molly.law@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:molly.law@jeffco.k12.co.us) with any questions you may have. Our teachers dedicate themselves to providing your child with the highest quality education. Thank you for being a supportive member of our community of learning.

Sincerely,  
Brandon Hall  
Principal  
Deer Creek Middle School

**Earn cash for your school! Save Longmont Dairy Milk Caps.**  
Longmont Dairy Farm will donate 5¢ per LDF produced product bottle cap. Schools are free to spend these funds as they wish to benefit students.



To sign up, use this QR code or go to [LongmontDairy.com/moola.html](http://LongmontDairy.com/moola.html)

# Mountaineers of the Month - January 2025

Each of these students has demonstrated **PEAK** (Prepared, Engaged, Accountable, and Kind and Respectful) behavior and in doing so, is being recognized as our top Mountaineers for January.

### 6th Grade

#### Ellise Friend

Ellise is always positive and patiently supports others. She models all PEAK expectations.

#### Nora Riffle

Nora is always looking for ways to help support our classroom. She often organizes tables and science materials without being prompted. She also is a verbal leader when needed.

### 7th Grade

#### Kaitlyn Carwin

Kaitlyn is always a super hard worker. She is also a great thinker!

#### Elizabeth Devin

Elizabeth is an excellent role model for other kids, dedicated to excellence in academics and behavior, and consistently meets PEAK expectations. She is accountable when absent, willing to participate, and welcoming to others in groups.

### 8th Grade

#### Gabe Bowman

Gabe is always on task, puts his best foot forward, asks questions when needed, and is kind to others.

#### Thomas Slight

Thomas works hard, follows up on missing assignments, helps support all students, and is inclusive, engaged, proactive, respectful. He participates full class and small group, helps off task friends be on task and do good work, and he also chooses to work with students who will improve his thinking/work habits.

## the mountaineer OF THE MONTH



(L-R Elizabeth Devin, Kaitlyn Cawin, Thomas Slight, Gabe Bowman, Nora Riffle, Mr. Hall - Principal)



(Ellise Friend, Mr. Hall - Principal)

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## Wish Week with Chatfield High School

Deer Creek will be joining Chatfield High School in Wish Week February 17-21.

This week is dedicated to raising money for Make-A-Wish Foundation.

DCMS and Chatfield Student Councils are collaborating to plan events. We'll provide details in our weekly updates as we get closer.

## From the Dean

This month brings information about lunch and student IDs. Students are expected to have their school ID each day at lunch to scan, making the process smooth and quick. We have a large number of students who have lost their ID. New IDs can be purchased in the office for \$5. You may receive an email this month if your student is not bringing or needs an ID. We want to get students through the line quickly, so they have time to eat without being rushed, can clean up the cafeteria afterward and provide sufficient time for our cafeteria staff to prepare for the next lunch.

Thank you for your support!

Julia Skillern

Dean of Students

Deer Creek Middle School

## From the Counselors

### 8th Grade Parents

As we prepare our 8th graders for high school, part of this process is registering for 9th grade classes. Registration information is posted on the 8th grade Counseling Google Classroom with many helpful links. Please take a look at these with your student.

On February 11th, Chatfield Senior High Counseling Team will be here at Deer Creek to meet with students to begin the registration process. Students will receive paperwork to bring home. Please look over this with your students and complete the course selection together. Chatfield Counselors will return on February 19th to collect the signed forms.

Save the date for an incoming 9th grade parent-focused Registration Meeting at Chatfield.

### Thursday Feb 6th 6:00-7:30pm - Chatfield Senior High School Auditorium

The presentation shared with families will mirror the content presented to students earlier in the day when Chatfield Counselors meet with them at Deer Creek. Students are welcome to attend the Chatfield Registration Meeting if they wish. Chatfield Counselors and Administration will be available for questions.

### 6th and 7th graders: 2025- 26 School Year Course Registration:

Soon counselors will be meeting with current 6th and 7th grade students to discuss options for their classes next school year. Students will be assigned English/Language Arts, Math, Social Studies and Science classes, and they will get to request their electives. Information about classes can be found on our website in the [DCMS Course Guide](#).

All current 6th graders will be choosing a pathway: STEM or Humanities. For more information, please click on the links below:

[STEM Pathway](#)

[Humanities Pathway](#)

## Mental Health Corner

Winter can be a challenging time for mental health, with shorter days and colder temperatures often leading to decreased mood and energy levels. To maintain good mental health during these months, prioritize self-care.

**Maximize Sunlight:** Even on cloudy days, spend time outdoors to soak up natural light. Sunlight helps regulate mood by boosting serotonin production.

**Prioritize Physical Health:** Engage in regular physical activity, such as brisk walks, indoor workouts, or any activity you enjoy. Exercise releases endorphins, which have mood-boosting effects. Fuel your body with a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains to support your energy levels and overall well-being.'

### Establish Healthy Habits:

**Prioritize Sleep:** Maintain a consistent sleep schedule with enough hours of quality sleep.

**Connect with Others:** Spend time with friends and family, participate in social activities, or join a group to combat feelings of isolation.

**Manage Stress:** Practice relaxation techniques like meditation, deep breathing, or yoga to manage stress levels.

**Mindfulness:** Pay attention to your thoughts and feelings, and actively challenge negative self-talk.

**Plan for Enjoyment:** Schedule enjoyable activities throughout the winter to look forward to, such as hobbies, outings, or winter sports.

Thanks!

Denise Bettcher

Social Worker

Deer Creek Middle School

303-982-3820

## 8th Grade Yearbook Dedications - Deadline Sunday Feb 9

The deadline is fast approaching to celebrate your 8<sup>th</sup> grader with a yearbook dedication.

**The FINAL deadline is February 9.** There can be no extensions due to the deadline with our publisher.

To access the DCMS ad templates, use the following access information:

- Go to <https://www.yearbookordercenter.com>
- Enter the School Code: 6131
- Choose: Buy a Yearbook Ad

You will pay for your ad with a debit/credit card on the website which will complete your order.

Mme Lisa Walz

Deer Creek Middle School

French, World Languages, Yearbook, Communication Skills



## Deer Creek Middle School PTO News

We hope that you're staying warm during these chilly months! The PTO is looking forward to a fun month ahead, including our 6th grade social, conference meals, and two spirit nights. Read on for more info, and please join us at our next PTO meeting on **Monday, March 3rd** in the DCMS library!



### Mark your Calendars!

- February 12-13: Parent/Teacher conference meals
- February 20: 6th Grade Social
- February 21-28: Penny Wars
- February 26: Modern Market spirit night (11am-8pm)
- March 3: PTO meeting
- March 14: Nella's Frozen Yogurt spirit night

## Parent / Teacher Conference Meals

The PTO will be providing dinners for our teachers and staff who are staying late for parent/teacher conferences on the evenings of February 12-13th. We'd love your help supporting the Feb. 13th meal, - including set-up, food donations, and clean-up afterwards. *If interested in helping, please sign up here:* [Conference Meals Signup](#)

## Frost & Flannel 6th Grade Social



**February 20th | 6:00-7:30pm | Deer Creek Middle School**

Calling all 6th Graders! Don't miss the 6th-grade social on **February 20th at 6:00-7:30pm** - with a DJ playing great songs, light snacks, cake walk, photo station, games and more. Feel free to wear sparkles or your favorite flannel shirt!

Please have your student bring their signed permission slip and \$6 entry fee to the school office **BEFORE** the social to receive their VIP bracelet and skip the line at the dance! Permission slips are required to attend and will be distributed to students the week of February 3rd.

*Please consider joining or contributing to the frosty fun by helping out with food, decorations, activities, or chaperoning:* [FROST AND FLANNEL SIGN UP](#)

## Penny Wars!

Get ready for our annual **Penny Wars** competition, happening the week of **February 24!**

Since 2014, Chatfield High School has partnered with the **Make-A-Wish Foundation** to host **Wish Week**, raising funds to help grant life-changing wishes through **Kids For Wish Kids®**. This year, **DCMS Penny Wars** will run alongside Chatfield's **Wish Week**, with **15% of all funds raised** going to support their efforts. Families are encouraged to contribute to this meaningful cause. If you have questions, please email [DeerCreekPTO1@gmail.com](mailto:DeerCreekPTO1@gmail.com).

The remaining **85% of funds** will stay within **DCMS grade levels**. While all grades will compete to bring in the most coins and bills,

continued...

## Deer Creek Middle School PTO News, continued...

each class's earnings will be set aside to **help fund their 8th-grade End of Year Celebration**.

- This year's **8th grade** earnings will go toward their **May Continuation party**.
- **7th grade** will save their funds for next year.
- **6th grade** will accumulate funds over three years.

**The 8th Grade End of Year Celebration** is a special milestone, and Penny Wars helps cover rising costs while keeping the event memorable. Plus, students love the friendly competition!

*We need a few volunteers to help out each day during lunch to encourage friendly competition and guard the money! Can you help for an hour? [Penny Wars Sign Up](#)*

## Stock the Snack Shack!

The Snack Shack has been a hit among teachers and staff, and 7th grade families are continuing to support the Shack through the remainder of Trimester 2! 7th grade families, please consider making a final donation to keep fueling the amazing staff. You can sign up here to donate throughout Trimester 2: [7th grade Snack Shack Sign Up](#)

## Milk Caps for Moola



Milk Caps for Moola is a program sponsored by Longmont Dairy that helps students earn money for their schools. Longmont Dairy milk caps are worth 5¢ each and are redeemable for cash!

### How does the program work?

1. Drink Longmont Dairy products
2. (Eligible cap products include: Milk, Chocolate Milk, Strawberry Milk, Half & Half, Whipping Cream, Orange Juice, Lemonade, Raspberry Lemonade, and Classic and Cinnamon Eggnog.)
3. Save the bottle caps. Save as many as you can—from your bottles, or collect them from your family and neighbors.
4. Bring your milk caps to school and put them into the collection box in the school office.

## American Furniture

Up to 4% of your purchases support Deer Creek Middle School. Purchase online, at any store, or over the phone. During check out mention our **school code or ID: DCM60**.

**Sponsorship space in this newsletter is extremely affordable!**

**Reach parents in your local community and a significant portion of your investment goes back to the school!**

**Want to sponsor this school? Please contact Rob Mangelson at**

**[Rob@tscacolorado.com](mailto:Rob@tscacolorado.com)**

**or (720) 878-4107.**

*Sponsor This School!*

YOUR NAME HERE

Rob Mangelson  
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[Rob@tscacolorado.com](mailto:Rob@tscacolorado.com)

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# Upcoming Events

## February

<b>3</b>	PTO Meeting 6:00 pm - Library
<b>6</b>	Incoming 9th Grade Registration Meeting (for parents) at Chatfield High School Auditorium 6:00 - 7:30pm
<b>12</b>	Winter Parent Student Teacher Conferences 4:30 - 8:30 pm
<b>13</b>	Winter Parent Student Teacher Conferences 4:30 - 8:30 pm
<b>14</b>	<b>No School for Students</b> - Staff Development Day
<b>17</b>	<b>President's Day - School Closed</b>
<b>18-21</b>	Wish Week (w/ Chatfield High School) Make-A-Wish Fundraiser
<b>18</b>	Winter Choir Concert 6:30 pm
<b>19</b>	Winter Instrumental Music Concert 6:30 pm
<b>20</b>	6th Grade Social - Flannel and Frost 6:00-7:30 PM
<b>21</b>	End of 2nd Trimester
<b>21-28</b>	Penny Wars (PTO Fundraiser)
<b>24</b>	Start of 3rd Trimester
<b>26</b>	PTO Spirit Night - Mod Market 11 am - 8 pm
<b>27</b>	Accountability Meeting 6:00 pm - Library

## February 2025

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

## March

<b>3</b>	PTO Meeting 6:00 pm - Library
<b>14</b>	PTO Spirit Night - Nella's Frozen Yogurt
<b>17-21</b>	<b>Spring Break - School Closed</b>
<b>24</b>	Staff Development Day - <b>No School for Students</b>

## March 2025

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



## Fundraiser

### Deer Creek Middle School PTO

Please enter the coupon code **GIVEBACK** upon ordering online through the Modern Market mobile app or website or in Modern Market on February 26. By applying this code, Modern Market will contribute **25%** of your order to support our community.

**All day, February 26, 2025**

8501 W Bowles Avenue Suite 2030  
Littleton, CO 80123



Offer valid only on select date(s). Only non-profit organizations and non-profit schools are eligible to participate in the fundraising program. Restaurant will donate 25% of food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax, gift cards, catering, delivery, and alcohol are excluded from the donation. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near the restaurant. For more information about fundraising, email [fundraisers@thriveg.com](mailto:fundraisers@thriveg.com).