

School Pairing Questionnaire

140 responses

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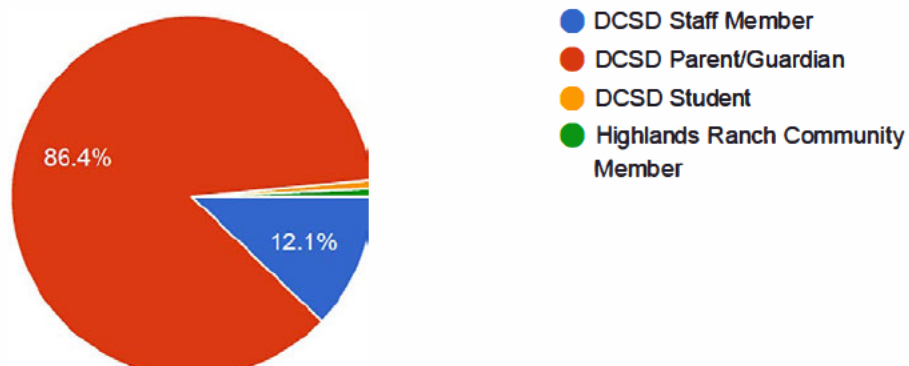
140 responses



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140 responses



What questions do you have about school pairings?

140 responses

n/a

1) will there be a joint graduation ceremony for 5/6 grade next year? 2) will parents of kids entering 5th this next school year be getting info on how to enroll in middle school since we thought we had another year to sort that out? 3) what happens to the discovery teacher in 6th grades? They lose out on this instruction. Would love more info from middle schools on how they'll meet these kids needs.

Since Sand creek was not paired with another school, will this affect the budget the school gets? Will the sand creek kids essentially get less opportunities due to less funding?

Will there be an option for some schools to retain 6th grade? Smaller schools may need the funding associated with students from all grades for stability. How will these smaller schools be funded?

How will everyone fit? And will all heritage staff be retained?

As a teacher I really want the opportunity to move up to the middle school and teach 6th grade. I'm wondering when we might see the opportunities to apply for jobs and how that will be established. I'm actually currently at RXI, but our school wasn't listed as a choice for this survey.

Sorry I know this is the second time I've done this survey but I ended up having a question. What will the class sizes be once the consolidation happens? I'm a little concerned if they're going to exceed what they currently are.

The decision to not pair SCE with another school and remove 6th grade will make us worse off. It is not clear to me on the website how the SCE boundaries will change to bring meaningful enrollment to our school. We need min. 50 (to offset lost 6th graders) and ideally 150-200 more kids to operate effectively and not have a severe funding shortfall. SCE has zoned families who actively avoid it due to AN programming and they typically open enroll into already crowded Cougar Run & Northridge. We need significant and meaningful boundary work to help this. And/or stop open enrollment to already thriving/full schools.

Which teachers will be staying? Obviously Heritage is very high ranked thanks to the staff and teachers. Hoping that the majority of Heritage staff including [REDACTED] will remain to keep up the high standards that we've created.

Why take a high performing school with great test results and increasing enrollment and move it? Seems the copper mesa/summit view combination would make a lot more sense



These are being presented as recommendations with a vote by the board later in April. Is the vote merely a formality or is there actual room for providing evidence that might sway the board to vote against the recommendations?

In regards to 6th moving to RVMS for the 26/27 school year: what will elementary schools do to ensure the students get to celebrate their last year in elementary school milestone (Outdoor Ed, Black and White Ball, helping run Field Day, Graduation, etc)?

How does the re-zoning impact open enrollment?

What is Summitview Elementary going to do to get to the same level as Heritage elementary? Heritage has a score of 9 out of 10 and summit view has a score of 7 out of 10 so naturally Heritage parents who chose the houses they are in because of Heritage elementary school are now being told they're going to a school that has not been performing as well. This is devastating and would've changed our decision to move where we moved. Larger classroom sizes to top it off at a school that is already so large they have kids in mobile homes to supplement is not the Douglas county we moved to.

As a 6th grade teacher losing my elementary position, do I need a middle school endorsement to work in 6th grade in the middle school or can I use my K-6 endorsement?

What will happen to specials teachers? Will they coteach together the first year?

My questions are related to sixth grade teachers, and their placement at the middle school.

My questions are regarding moving the 6th graders to middle school and what about the unconsolidated schools. What is the district's plan for the current 4th graders to be able to participate in all 6th grade things, i.e. school leadership, outdoor ed? What is the plan for transitioning them to middle school? Fifth grade teachers have never had to prepare kids for middle school. How will both the kids and teachers be supported in this? What happens to the non-consolidated schools? The district has been talking about how bad it is to have small schools, but now you're just making non-consolidated schools even smaller, while making 3 super-elementary schools that are going to get funding to improve both the school building/grounds/technology, and the school offerings themselves. Will the small schools be left behind? Your answer is going to be no, but what are the actual steps to ensure they are not? Will they be getting more funding as well?

██████ go to Fox Creek. We are in the Millstone Street neighbor being considered to change feeder areas. My girls will be going into 6th grade the year of the change (26-27). Does this mean we have to open enroll them in Cresthill (their currently assigned middle school) in order to keep them with the same group they've been with since Kindergarten? Also, does this mean they wouldn't have bus service to Cresthill, which is a big impact for our family.

Given that 6th grade will now move to middle school, will anything be done to address the loss of the last year of the Discovery program for students in that program at Northridge in 4th



grade today? They were all looking forward to having 2 more years together in this small cohort program and now will lose that. "You get to be in Middle School!" is not a substitute for what that program gives to 6th graders. It was our older son's best year.

Will 6th grade discovery program still exist in 26/27 school year at Northridge elementary?

If the decision is based on declining enrollment then why is Heritage closing? In our experience with a 1st grader and an incoming Kindergartener in 25-26, Heritage Enrollment numbers have been increasing. How are you going to ensure that next year our kids receive a good education during the transition if teachers and staff need to make decisions regarding their future? What is the projected class size after consolidating schools? When Denver Public Schools did this in the summer they decided to also at least consider school performance. Can school performance also be considered before the board votes in April? We chose to move to this neighborhood in 2019 because of Heritage and the ability to walk to school and this decision will ultimately push us to reevaluate our education options and potentially where we live.

Will there be a meeting to discuss/answer questions about moving 6th grade to middle school? Also, my school is not pairing. Are my kids missing out on opportunities that the paired schools will have for additional programs (ie: languages, reading specialists, STEM, etc)? With 6th grade gone, our enrollment will be even lower.

Is the community demographic information being used current data or several years old? Heritage has the most kindergarten classes in recent memory so it is hard to understand

What will the class sizes be?

Will kids be placed in portables?

How many EAs will be supporting the classes?

Will the support of the Special Ed kids remain the same?

Will you bus the children? We live by Heritage but my two small kids (who will be in Kindie, Grade 1) will not be able to do a 20 minute walk UPHILL to school at Summit View. Then we will have to drive.

Will there the hours of school be the same? What about starting all day pre-k?

How will this increase class sizes at school?

What are the benefits to moving 6th grade to middle school? Besides money. Please put kids first. What are the disadvantages?

You just combined 2 schools that both have SSN programs, which now puts one school with 2 SSN kids. Will you now offer SSN in another school in the feeder to be able to accommodate more special needs students outside of Eldorado? We have 2 Saddle Ranch kids who will be



going to SME next year, as is our choice, but we cannot choose to open enroll our "SSN" daughter as well leaves us frustrated.

1. If the preschool is expanding from one to two classrooms, will the preschool program remain part-time or will full-time preschool be provided at Fox Creek Elementary?
2. How will the transition of the additional teachers impact the classroom with student:teacher ratios and the EL curriculum?
3. Will the school receive additional funding and support for mental health services to accommodate the increased number of students and staff?
4. Who determines if the school will remain EL? The EL program is why we sought out Fox Creek and moved to the area, and hope it does not lose this status. The staff and curriculum are phenomenal and do not want to lose those opportunities for our children. Will the new teachers be trained for EL or will the curriculum need to shift to a non-EL curriculum to accommodate the new staff?
5. There was mentioning that starting Fall 2025: Conversations with families re structure of new school, school name, colors, mascot—why is this necessary as the amount of money used to rebrand a school that's existed for +30 years could be better spent to the staff, students and community? Where would the rebranding suggestions come from, i.e. community or district?
6. How does the district plan to mitigate the increased traffic in the neighborhood and quebec light outside of the school, as well as the existing school parking lot for drop off and pick up? The existing parking lot is too small and lines back up to quebec and beyond already for drop off and pick up, only to worsen more so with the additional families.
7. How will the school improve its security and safety with the increase of staff and students?
8. Are the "pairing liasons" from the district or are they individuals who understand the complexities and cultures of the school and staff?

Will the new paired school between FC and ACG be an EL school?

What do you need from parents to show the value of an Expeditionary Learning school? It would be so disappointing to move away from the EL program, which is creating an incredible educational experience.

What impact will this have on the average class size?

What will the process be for determining which of the staff stay on?

Does Ranch view Middle school have the space to add another grade? What will the teacher to student ratio be? How will the traffic improve now on Wildcat Reserve pkwy with added students?



Our neighborhood (Millstone) is being moved away from Fox Creek. Does this mean our older kids will no longer be in the Cresthill boundaries? Will they lose bus service to HRHS/Cresthill?

How will this affect class size? Will the quality of education suffer as a result? How will the school merger impact traffic at pick up and drop off at Fox Creek?

None

We were rezoned even though promises were made that School boundaries would not be changing. How can we opt into remaining with Heritage/Summit? My child will not be starting over at a brand new school without any of his friends.

When will Outdoor Education occur for the 6th graders who were supposed to go during their 6th grade year at Fox Creek?

I want guarantees that school programming will be better, and increased, and what those improvements will be. I want concrete information about where all these kids are going to go in the destination schools - what's going to be done to the destination school to increase capacity? we need the details on these plans

6th grade movement

The "minor boundary change" will affect ~1/3 of our population. What is being done to ensure that that population is given the opportunity to "court with" Copper Mesa so we can make an informed decision.

My daughters class will be the first class combining 6th grade with middle school. I'm curious what the curriculum will look like for 6th grade given Ranch View is piloting a new reading and writing curriculum where they don't read full novels. Two years of that was hard enough to think about , but adding an additional year without novels, as both a parent and High School English teacher is a big concern.

How will sending 6th graders to middle school help with the schools with low enrollment?

Will DCSD ensure that unaffected schools are prioritizing open enrollment requests that begin flowing in after announcement. The paired schools will be quite large, and I think it is important that surrounding unimpacted schools understand the sensitivity and have a willingness to accept more children into their current schools. The paired schools are not within our neighborhoods, and in many cases are not the closest school option for affected families.

6th graders are too young to be paired with 7th and 8th graders. Why isn't Sterling Ranch solving for their schooling?



If I have a student in the Discovery program, will Discovery services still be available in 6th grade at the middle school level?

Why did you tell us all students will remain together, but then you rezoned the school boundaries and now splitting over a 1/3 of the school?

The Fox Creek Elementary website says their BASE program is limited due to increased enrollment. What are the expected class sizes if their enrollment is already an issue? Will there be enough room for our child to attend BASE at Fox Creek Elementary?

Will the transition of this year's 4th graders to middle school 6th graders mean they are not given the opportunity for the outdoor ed experience?

Middle schools with 6th graders added, which was snuck in as a footnote in your plans. This seems out of the blue and poorly thought out/ not thought put at all. Where is your data on how increasing the number of kids in the impacted schools by 50 percent (!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!) is going to affect the education these schools can provide? Where are all these kids going to go? What offerings are going to go away, when you have to crowd kids into fewer classrooms? How are schools going to manage this extreme and abrupt change? What elementary schools planning to consolidate once you have shoved the 6th graders out into now overcrowded middle schools?

I see it mentioned on the news that most of the bus routes have been restored so bussing students to the paired schools that are farther away is not an issue. Yet i do not know of any restored bus routes. It continues to be a frustrating experience getting my students to/from school when there is no bus every 5th week and the middle school and elementary school weeks for my kids do not align. It also concerns me that you would move 6th grade to middle school. I do not think many 6th graders are ready for the social aspects and class/learning structure of middle school and feel the extra year in elementary school is beneficial. I know our 6th grade teachers do a great job preparing the kids for middle school which helps them start 7th grade on the right track. The no bus situation also causes problems as middle school pick up is a disaster and extremely inefficient so i can't imagine how much worse it will be with an entire new grade and an increased number of students.

What impacts can we expect on our EL curriculum from this merge, if any, positive or negative? Follow up: will FCE be able to use the additional funding for EL purposes or does it have to be allocated?

When(ish) can we expect to see new facilities to support the merge/growing population?

I'm concerned about traffic during drop off and pick up with car line already backing up onto Quebec. Can we expect changes (crossing guards, school zone on Quebec, etc) to alleviate these issues before congestion worsens?

Do we have the opportunity to pick another school?



Are the class sizes increasing only for our schools?

Is this decision final?

None

Will you bus our children to Summit View? (we currently can walk to Heritage)

How large will the new school be?

How will lunches/recess work with the additional children? Will they be larger than what is current at Heritage? What will you do for those kids who cannot tolerate the larger crowds?

Will you still have a sensory room for those kids who require it (Heritage has a sensory room).

Where will the Special Ed team go?

1) Please can you look VERY VERY carefully at the small parking lot and the traffic at the end of the school day on the east side of the building by the sped bus loop? People make u-turns consistently and kids cross there even without a crosswalk. Parents don't have an easy way to turn around without going on a long route through the neighborhood. This will be impacted by more people coming from that direction. I have always been afraid someone will get hurt. I've reported it to the school and the police, but change hasn't happened. Now is the time to do it.

2) could we move preschool out of SVE? The rest of the school doesn't interact with them (including the bridge from pre-k to k and Sped). This room would be better for a larger SSN population. Maybe there could be one building for all pre-school?

3) Could we consider adding to or improving playground equipment? It is old and doesn't fit the needs for a bigger school population.

4) Will we be expanding the school or using mobiles? The mobiles are not in good shape nor are they ideal for classrooms.

What will class size look like?

What will happen to teachers / staff?

What will be done to mitigate increased traffic to the middle school?

What will 6th grade curriculum/programming look like with the move to middle school?

Is the name changing?

Will the bus boundaries change?

What will the communication strategy be as we move forward?

When will we know who the new administration will be?

If a child is currently in the talent pool but not identified as GT, will they be able to continue or will a change in numbers impact that?

How will you compensate me for the loss of home value and amenities that drove my home purchase withing walking distance of our elementary school? Why is the sterling ranch fiasco and the failure to plan development appropriately being made the problem of people who have lived in HR for 20 years in favor of new transplants?

Why weren't other key metrics not factored in favor of Heritage Elementary



N/A

We are now past the open enrollment window which doesn't give us very many options if we are not interested in the paired school. Will there be any additional open enrollment spots for students affected?

Would there be any consideration to changing the saddle ranch boundaries so the south side of the saddle ranch boundary would now include Stone Mountain rather than Eldorado? It is closer than driving around to Eldorado.

If arrowwood is losing 6th grade, is our enrollment going down? I'm curious if we will lose any special education staff positions if our numbers will go down. But I hear they will re-zone some areas, so maybe we'll absorb some kiddos?

Where are you going to put 6th graders into ranch view? The school is bursting as it is- moving 6th grade isn't a terrible idea but it seems like it will take more than a year to make happen

With an underfunded, low enrolled, low morale school, I'm finding it hard to want to stay for one more year until it closes, what options are there for open enrolling now to El Dorado or other schools close to us?

My daughter is in 4th grade and would be projected to go to middle school for 6th. Myself and dozens of other 4th grade parents have concerns regarding pairing 6th graders with older children. My daughter in particular sobbed her eyes out last night as she doesn't want to go to middle school so early. I am concerned about bullying, technology exposure (cell phones with older kids), class sizes, teacher/class schedule, exposure to older children at lunch or recess and vulgarity/inappropriate language. Is there a vote for parents to speak upon this decision or what protocols are in place to navigate these concerns?

Where will 6th grade fit in Ranch View Middle School? It is already very full and all rooms occupied! How will you prevent Ranch View from being overcrowded?

Currently, Sixth Graders get to experience Outdoor Ed. With the transfer of 6th Grade to CMS, how will that change?

Also, transportation is a huge concern. Many children simply do not come to school if transportation is not provided. How will this pairing process eliminate any transportation deficits or pauses in availability?

What will be done to combat the overcrowding at the middle school level? Ranch View is already too full. What are the plans to add additional students and where will the classrooms be located?

Will Ranch View provide outdoor ed in 6th grade or will 5th grade teachers at the elementary plan for this? What plans and supports are in place to make sure that the middle school is



prepared for this adjustment including supporting executive functioning skills, social development and a home room in a way that supports younger students? Thank you for all the thoughtful planning that was put into this decision.

AN and SSN are incredibly different student populations. How will you be ensuring that my SSN student will remain safe from all peers in this new model? Will there be separate classrooms for AN and SSN? What will you do to ensure [REDACTED] incredible team from SRE is maintained, and that my highly impacted child will get to remain with a staff that knows him and can support him best/?

Why isn't Summit View kids being shifted to Heritage? Heritage is a highly rated school in this state and Summit View had a lawsuit against it for failure to provide adequate education for the special needs children at that school.

Will Fox Creek continue with Expeditionary Learning?

1. Will the students who will be in 5th grade next year get to have a graduation since they will leave elementary school for 6th grade the following year? Otherwise they would miss out on this opportunity to graduate elementary school since it usually occurs in 6th grade.

2. My child is open enrolled for Kindergarten at Summit View. Will the pairings affect open enrollment at all? I want my child to stay at Summit View and not get pushed out.

Reboundary and buses. We are part of the Millstone neighborhood.

Will the school pairings affect the open enrollment for families that already have children at Northridge or for families who are new to the district?

If the current 4th graders go to middle school for 6th grade will they still participate in outdoor Ed? I think that if they don't do outdoor Ed there will be a lot of disappointment.

Wondering how there will be enough room in the current middle schools to accommodate a full 6th grade class (Ranch View)

How are you going to handle the influx of students to Summit View. Heritage was planning on opening a 4th kindergarten class next year. Where are 4 kindergarten classes going to go at Summit View. Where are you going to house all these kids? Will class sizes be increasing? What will the average class size be and is that actually a good size for the teachers to be able to give individualized attention to their students? Not a summit view question, but what will be done about drive lines at Mountain Ridge? The morning and afternoon drive lines there are already impossibly long and congested. How will you accommodate an entire new grade without making students and parents leave for school far earlier than necessary just to get through drive line?

I'm concerned about the 100 children in Firelight that will be rezoned to Copper Mesa in 26-27. They are getting lost in this process. What can you tell me about Copper Mesa (student



population, specials, class sizes, academic ranking)? That would help me to know, as a Firelight parent, how to proceed for future school years.

Will there be any changes to the bus routes? If we keep them as is, we will have 6th grade through 12 grade on the same bus. 1 - that is a WIDE range of ages and maturity levels. 2 - I don't know how crowded the buses are, but will space be an issue? What will Heritage Elementary be used as? Will funds be reallocated from Heritage to SVE now that SVE will have more students? Will this impact the programs that we currently have in SVE (e.g. we have a room for G&T students, will this be taken away b/c of the increase in students/classes)?

How will I know what teachers will be staying after the merge? EL is very important to me and want to know if the staffed trained in EL will remain or if the school will just get rid of EL.

Also I see that there will be two principals. EL is such an important part of this school how will I know that the principal that worked with the national heads of EL will remain at Fox Creek? She has built a strong network at the national level and to lose her would be a major impact to EL at Fox Creek.

I just want to express appreciation for keeping Fox Creek, my kids absolutely THRIVE at Fox Creek and we love that it is an EL school. It's our neighborhood school and the teachers, staff and school is just amazing. So thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

If we are currently opting in to Heritage will we be able to opt in to Summit when. Then time comes?

I'm disappointed at the agenda that Douglas County schools is pushing - elitism, segregation, charter schools and therefore, accelerated loss of true community. As a parent already feeling the pressure not to send her kids to THAT school, this will certainly accelerate the push of parents to put their kids into charter and private schools. Multiple trials have been done showing that neighborhood school closures disrupts neighborhood stability and weakens communities. AND, reports have shown that school closures disproportionately affect lower income communities (hence why we are closing Acres Green and not Lone Tree Elementary). I count 18 charter schools on the DCSD site. That doesn't even include Ascent Classical Academy - another one right down the street from Acres Green. Is the district standing by their claim of declining enrollment in our neighborhood schools while we continue to see these pop up around us?

Years ago, we heard about the pairing of Fox Creek and Acres Green (not our home school, but neighboring schools), yet it seemed that this was out of "recent" consideration. I don't trust that parent opinions were truly taken into consideration. The calls were held for show and OF COURSE you closed the less affluent neighborhood schools!

In our small neighborhood (0.6 miles from Eagle Ridge), out of 10 families that reside in our neighborhood, we are the ONLY family that attends the school we are zoned for. Families have selected Sky View, American Academy, Fox Creek, Lone Tree Elementary, Platte River, Ascent, and Ben Franklin Academy. Is that what Douglas County intends? For communities of families to be degraded and compartmentalized by providing so many "elitist" options? Why do I



suggest "elitist"? Because as those families now transition to middle and high school, they want to keep their small class sizes afforded to them at the cost of ruining their local elementary schools and they're enrolling their kids into private highschoools. Instead of our neighborhood group befriending eachother, walking to school together - every single of the kids is driven every morning in a separate car and returns home to a neighborhood where they are less involved and less likely to play with one another.

Instead of closing Acres Green and forcing that entire community (among others) to now also be car dependent for school drop off (and crossing busy Quebec!), why don't you close Lone Tree Elementary and force the families with higher incomes into their neighborhood schools? I have never met a single Heritage Hills family that sends their kids to Acres Green. Why is that? Is Lone Tree Elementary better? Or, did people just perceive that due to the location in a more affluent neighborhood and therefore having more dollars and involved parents in the school.

Let's not even mention the safety risk of increased driving for school drop offs and decreased neighborhood safety with a giant empty building and acreage. In 5 years, will DSCD play the "we didn't see it coming card" with a less safe Acres Green community and kids moving from Fox Creek to charter schools? Fox Creek enrollment will go down and the agenda will continue to play out.

First, will Outdoor Ed still happen, and would this be a 5th grade or 6th grade experience, for current 4th graders?

Second, will the district hold on approving new charters in Highlands Ranch unless demographic trends change? It seems clear that the charters in the area draw enrollment that would otherwise flow into these neighborhood schools, and it would be frustrating to see a new charter open on the heels of these closures.

I'm curious why boundary redrawing pulls more kids to Northridge but doesn't pull more kids to Sand Creek from either current summit view or current El Dorado. When sixth grade moves to Mountain Ridge Sand Creek will have very few kids and it's a wonderful community with fabulous teachers that should be supported and continuing and drawing students.

How will the \$21 million be spent on the 3 combined schools? What will 6th grade look like at the middle school? How will staffing be determined for the combined schools - seniority or merit?

We have a current 4th grade son and 6th grade daughter at CME. We are relieved that CME will remain a neighborhood elementary school! Our questions/concerns come from 6th grade moving to MRMS (and CMS and RVMS). While this isn't what we would've chosen for our son and we have concerns, we've got time to get on board! To start, being that he will be part of the first, 6th grade class to enter MRMS (and CMS and RVMS), we are wondering, how the process will be as seamless as possible for him and his classmates? We know that Rocky Heights and many other MS in the metro area have the 6/7/8 model, but there will be bumps in the implementation of this, when it's done for the first time within a school. We just want to ensure that these are as minimal as possible. All grades were deeply impacted by Covid, in any number of ways. The kindergarten year for our current 4th grade students, was 2020-2021,



because of those circumstances, they did not get the experience that they deserved. They are no doubt resilient, but want them to be set up for success.

What modifications/additions, if any, need to be made for MRMS to house 6th graders in 2026-27? We are hopeful that the mobiles that are currently there won't be used, and that all 6th, 7th and 8th grade classrooms will be within the building.

With our daughter being in 6th grade, it is fresh in our minds, all of the things that come with this year. Going to Outdoor Ed, Ameritown, Dancing Thru the Decades, to name a few. How can we make sure that our current 4th grader, doesn't miss out on those milestones/experiences? What is the plan for that? We understand that some of this might be elementary school specific and will go to our Principal, and SAC.

More specifically, both our kids have ALPs. We have signed our 6th grader up for a 7th grade GT specific course, to replace PE for a semester. We understand that there isn't room for every GT student who wants to be in the course. With this being an example of something that is already limited, we're wondering how the addition of another grade will impact GT services at MRMS? What is the plan for that staffing, for the GT facilitator, and GT opportunities?

How was the decision about changing boundaries made? And why does the MV feeder area get another school, but the Highlands Ranch feeder (which is the smallest school now) not get another school?

Open Enrollment

This is more of a suggestion or consideration. It sounds like sixth graders merging is a great idea and will help offset space at Summit view at Summit view however I'm also hearing the Mountain Ridge does not have the set up or capacity to take on all the sixth graders. What would it look like to have all six graders that feed into Mountain Ridge spend a sixth grade year standalone at Heritage using that building space? It would be a great way to get them to know each other before they merge the larger population. The downfalls I see are transportation and missing out on clubs and activities with other grades. However, in the short term, if that's a solution that gets sixth graders out of elementary school before Mountain Ridge is ready for them. It seems like it has a lot of merit to consider.

I also want to point out that the incoming sixth grade class this will impact started school in 2020 impacted by COVID. How do I make sure they have normal experiences like a graduation and more importantly get to go to outdoor Ed with this change? My current fourth grader is really looking forward to outdoor Ed and Hexatholon that occur in sixth grade. His grade had such a rocky start to school. I would love to see them still be able to have those milestone events.

Can our current principal and assistant principal stay at Eldorado? They have created the most wonderful culture of kindness and environment for students to succeed and be supported. What will class sizes be? How many classes will there be per grade?

No



How are staff being paired into the two schools. What assurances or motivation is there for teachers to stay for the 25/26 school year? I am concerned that staff will move on leaving SRE with new staff. And while that is fine- I also value the experience of many SRE staff members and would be very concerned if there was not some sort of motivation or assurance to keep these employees.

Current 4th graders moving to RVMS, will they be able to outdoor Ed, if so what school year?

1. How will the district support the emotional and social wellbeing of the students and staff besides providing food and extra counselors/social workers who does not know the staff or students and have not built a relationship with the students and staff?

The communities of the building that are closing are hurting.

2. Can you guarantee that a charter school will NOT occupy the neighbor schools that are closing?

Now that 6th grade is being added to Mountain Ridge, what is the long term plan regarding traffic at the middle school. I currently have a student attending now and the traffic/drop off situation is awful. Now it's going to be compounded with an additional grade being added.

What will be planned for current 4th graders in regards to traditional 6th grade events like outdoor education, leadership opportunities, and end of year promotion?

I have concerns about staying a school that's closing through next year, can we open enrollment somewhere else for this coming school year including a current student and kindergarten registered child? What information can be shared about summit views el program? There have been statements that parents will be able to weigh in on that- I'd like to know how and when so we can make a decision about enrollment. And last, more clarity around base program specifically next summer in this interim heritage to summit view transition would be greatly appreciated as a family with two working adults. Thank you

Were the incoming kindergarten classes taken into consideration when determining this plan?

How many incoming kindergarten classes does each of the paired schools individually have to date?

What is the optimal student teacher ratio the district is trying to obtain?

My 4th grade parent community will be asking about the Outdoor Education field trip experience we typically offer in 6th grade. This is something our kids look forward to during their elementary years. We are currently planning for next year's ODE (trip dates are in August, 2025) and will be starting fundraisers in the next month. Will this special field trip move to middle schools for our current 4th grade class to enjoy in 6th grade or do we need to start planning for their trip to take place in 5th grade before they leave us? What do the Parker schools do that go to 5th grade?



Sixth grade transition to middleschool



What do you need from DCSD to help you through this process?

140 responses

More answers and guidance on how we can help our kids who thought they had extra time at their school

Changing Sand Creeks start and end time due to there now being more bus availability throughout the district would be greatly appreciated. Kids getting out of school at 4pm makes it nearly impossible for sports and other extracurriculars after school.

Clearly depiction on funding for public and charter schools, including the newly approved charter in sterling ranch.

We live in the redrawn map to copper mesa but will remain with the heritage group. What do we need to do to ensure this happens? (Forms, correspondence, etc)

Timelines for hiring.

Continued updates as the situation progresses and changes.

Please share the student impact of pending boundary work for SCE - how many students will we gain and what will happen if they choose not to come? Additionally, can you elaborate on the additional "small school" funding that will be available to us now that there are less small schools?

Can we have a good email to send our additional concerns to the board?

Information on what the GT program will look like and assurance our teachers plan to stay

More information

Information - possibly this is not district related except for the fact you should be aware that parents are concerned about this. Thank you!!!

Our older child has open enrolled to Mountain Ridge Middle School. Will our younger children also be able to do so even if they are zoned for Ranch View Middle? How does older sibling school choice impact younger siblings?

Answer the question above an outline clear steps that Summit view is going to take to be a stand out school like heritage.

More information for 6th grade teachers across HR please. Also some compassion would be appreciated. We were blindsided by this and there doesn't seem to be nearly as much



information as a bunch of people being told we're losing our positions in our schools deserve to have. For all the care the district has said they have for all the affected elementary schools, sixth grade teachers across this entire town have been treated as afterthoughts. It has been hard, and we are sad and confused and upset. And no one seems to know how this is going to work for us come 26-27. Even teachers from the consolidating schools get an extra school year to figure out what to do. Thank you for your time.

As a classroom teacher, it seems only fair that we would be compensated for the extra time a successful school pairing would take. This includes not only packing up classrooms and storage closets, but also the time it will demand of attending community events and bonding opportunities and the increased number of teacher PLCs as we come together. Time should be provided during the school day or additional compensation should be given.

Answers, but feel like yall have done a great job considering all that goes into it?

Will teachers have the opportunity to meet middle school administration, other sixth grade teachers, and support staff? Where will teachers who teach sixth grade be housed? Will we be departmentalizing? How will that be decided?

Thoughtful consideration/answers to all the questions above. The 4th graders were kindergartners in 2020-2021, so they began their elementary career in essentially complete disarray and are possibly going to be ending it the same. And this should not be dismissed just because they are kids and weren't the ones making the decisions regarding schools. Adults can identify their own problems that came from the Covid times; kids cannot. They were absolutely affected by not having a normal kindergarten year. Yes, kids are very resilient, but respect still needs to be shown to them regarding completely changing where they will be at school in 2 years – it is a total shift for them and the expectations they have had for the end of their elementary years.

Just as young couples are advised to buy or rent a new place when they move in together, rather than having one move into the other's space, we also need to think of this pairing as starting a new school in a new place. If this is viewed as "Heritage is moving into Summit View," we will never feel like this is OUR school, we will always feel like we are in "THEIR" school. This spans to everything including scheduling, instructional decisions, traditions, curriculum, etc. Everything we do needs to be agreed upon by both sides, or it will never feel like a cohesive school.

We want our girls ideally to stay with their cohort of kids (Highlands Ranch Feeder) and not have to change feeder areas 1/2 way through their education. Lack of busing can be a big issue at the middle school level for our family. I work for the district at the later start/end elementary school in Parker and can't get over to Cresthill Middle School by the time it gets out (significantly earlier than 4:00pm).

Information in response to the previous question.



See question above

More details and plans. The size of the consolidated school is very concerning.

An in-person/virtual meeting, more info on spacing/staffing (primarily SPED) at MRMS, info on equitable programming for all elems

Information on how students who have open enrolled in Heritage for several years will be handled.

DO NOT DO THIS

Not close the school!

Info

An answer. When will we know if 6th grade Roxborough is moving to middle school?

More access to SSN programs, or candid, transparent IEPs.

Regular cadence of email communications from the impacted schools and DCSD to the latest updates, timelines of the changes, transparency of the decisions made.

An explanation of how current classrooms will be able to hold 25 plus kids (especially in the K-2 rooms.) Will classrooms now have aides?

Fox Creek has the warmest, most compassionate staff. The community built by these teachers is second to none. Please support the teachers and staff of both schools and make the process of determining future staff as quick and painless as possible.

I need to now there is space, that the teacher to student ratio does not increase which doesn't help the student, and I need to know more students means better safety and traffic on that street.

Continued bus pickup for Millstone neighborhood kids who choose to attend Cresthill and HRHS

We need assurance that our child's education will NOT suffer as a result of the pairing. We don't want her to get lost in the shuffle of things.

Thank you for not pairing Northridge. As for 6th grade moving to middle, I think it is very important a playground, swings, something along that line be put into middle schools. Studies show how important play is even for 6th graders. I even think swings for current 7th and 8th graders should have already been put in. I'd also like to stress the importance of no cell phone



policy if possible for middle school. Especially with the middle school obtaining the 6th graders.

Let students who are currently enrolled at Heritage automatically merge with the rest of the school to Summit, even if their neighborhood address has been rezoned. Don't put them through the opt in process.

Because the 6th and 7th graders will be new to Cresthill at the same time during the 2026-27 school year, I suggest a gradual start with 6th grade going first, then seventh the next day, then 8th grade and all grades the third day.

We need clear and honest answers! when I've been asking basic questions about how things are going to look , I'm getting a lot of vague and unanswered questions around things that really matter. for example, traffic mitigation, is listed in the plan that that is not necessary, which is completely insane. We need support with traffic flows and making sure that we can get into and out of the school efficiently and easily.

As a 6th grade teacher, do you have a timeline of when we might know where we will be placed for the 2026-2027 school year?

Honesty and transparency that has not truly been afforded to us at this point.

A middle school curriculum that ensures their growth for 3 years.

Prompt answers

Schools to accept children through open enrollment (especially current third graders) prioritizing and making room for impacted school's kids.

We are one of the wealthiest counties in the state.country. This is shameful.

Communication about Discovery, even if it's "we don't know yet, but will have an answer by..."

Be accountable for what you told us. You already lost our trust and continue with the same misleading ways. Heritage elementary is a thriving school that is one of the top elementary schools in the state. Why would you close it?

Stop saying that families are not moving into these areas. We moved here 7 years ago so our child could attend Acres Green Elementary. With this closing, he will have to switch to a new school in 2nd Grade and will have his entire routine/friends/support system upended.



Better communication from middle schools on the registration process and important school dates throughout each school year. They seem to only depend on information getting to parents via the students. Great for student responsibility not practical for parents trying to plan schedules.

Provide real data, plans, and numbers on how pushing 6th grade into middle school is going to look. What money will be used to help the schools manage this process?

More info as to how you will go about implementing these changes and your plans for transportation. I would like to see statistics as to how many bus drivers you had in 2022 and the changes year over year thru 2025 and the number of routes impacted and restored for these same years. And then your plans to finish hiring and retaining these drivers in the future to ensure these changes are sustainable.

Regular communication with families with regards to timelines and details.. the sooner we can plan for impacts, the better.

Answers. Why us?

Moving SME 6th grade to RVMS-what will the class size be at Ranch View compared to the current elementary class sizes? As a parent and a DCSD educator I know that class size drastically impacts learning. What are the anticipated RVMS schedule changes based on moving 6th grade into the building ? What is the impact on school curriculum currently offered at 6th grade in the elementary school vs curriculum offered when moved to RVMS?

Not do this.

Chances to talk about changes such as the ones listed above. Also, mitigation for the parents spreading false information from Heritage Elementary. This is not a great way to build community before merging.

As much clear communication as possible.

I think schools who are being closed could benefit from some kind of ceremony / an opportunity for families & staff to grieve a loss/change. I'm sure it's sensitive and there are lots of feelings.

What is the process for the Highlands ranch schools to secede from Douglas county schools and form our own district? 800 square miles including mostly rural counties is not a practical school district.

To propose consolidation into Heritage and not Summit view

I understand that DCSD is unable to offer a retention stipend to employees district wide. However, to encourage continuity and recognize the value of dedicated staff at closing



schools-the district should highly consider offering a retention stipend to staff returning to a closing school next year. It would offer financial support and show staff you value our contributions and our invested in our continued success.

Transparency and help with open enrollment. Especially the charter schools.

a raise haha

Guidance on how this will work

It would make decisions much less stressful if we were given a list of feeder schools with how many student openings they have per grade for open enrollment. The open enrollment process is strange in the first place with the apply and wait not knowing if the school even has openings. I feel like this should just be public knowledge to help guide parents to potential schools with known openings. I'm not asking to change that process, I know that would be a huge undertaking, however I do think it would be nice for the parents at the schools that are closing to know which schools in the area have openings for open enrollment if we choose to make changes this coming year instead of waiting.

Is there a vote or something myself and parents can do? Can we voice our concerns? What protocols are going to be in place for my concerns above to protect my child's mental wellbeing in middle school at age 11.

Detailed Answers. Plans. No overarching generalities.

Assurance from district leaders that students' best interests are of highest importance.

Clear and direct answers

I would like information on a plan for how my 6th grader (in 26-27) will still get to participate in 6th grade level special events such as exhibition and outdoor ed.

Thoughtful placement of all SRE SSN staff with their current student population.

I have multiple IEP students and I have concerns regarding summit view and the previous lawsuit that was brought to light regarding funds for IEP students, that resulted in DCSD paying for a child's education because Summit View failed to provide what that child needed. As a result of this school pairing, this district will be losing funds because my children will not be going to a school that doesn't handle special needs children and their education correctly. I'm beyond disappointed in DCSD and I will be voicing my concerns for all everyone to hear.

None right now

Nothing else



More information

I appreciate the communication and hope that will continue.

Plan to expand middle schools

Detailed plans on school improvements, teacher ratios, district lines, drive lines, accessibility, etc. Share all the information you have!

Information about Copper Mesa as a school. Will busing be provided for children in firelight that go to Heritage and then decide to own enroll in Summit View? What will sixth grade look like at MRMS?

Not sure yet. Need a bit more time to digest. Answers to the questions above would be helpful.

Clear communication with enough notice to make decisions that will impact our lives and my children's lives. Both of my children have anxiety and they need to know. This is not as easy on the children as you would think.

Nothing

Yes

Community development and support for community.

I have a child in GT at Trailblazer, who will also be in the first cohort of 6th graders in Ranch View. I'd appreciate coordination between the elementary and middle schools to help keep consistency during the transition, including with GT education.

Also, I'm hoping the schools in the neighborhood have a good stable period with relatively little change after these changes.

I also have a fourth grader who will be in sixth grade the year that the changes occur. I would like information and how six graders will be transitioned and the physical space changes include in staff to Mountain Ridge to make this possible. I'm excited about this change, but I'm unclear how all the transitions that need to happen will happen in one calendar year.

Transparency

I think that overall, the focus has been on the pairing of the elementary schools, rightfully so, and we concur. However, that has lead to not so much info about relocating 6th graders. As per above, we're just looking for transparency, and as much info as is possible, regarding the logistics, the plans for teachers/staff, the opportunities for students etc, as we move thru this next 1 1/2yrs-ish.



I look forward to knowing a definite answer about whether 6th grade will move to middle school so we can mentally prepare ourselves for the last year of elementary school.

Will current Open Enrollments be honored at the pairing school?

More answers on the sixth grade solutions including how we make sure they don't miss important rights of passage like outdoor Ed and hex and how mountain Ridge will be configured to have space for all of these new children.

Support for Eldorado staff to continue to make the school such a fantastic place for our children.

Our 4th graders are feeling incredibly anxious about the transition to Ranch View. The sad part is these students started Kindergarten during the start of the pandemic so they did not have a traditional kindergarten or 1st grade experience. I know Ranch View does a great job of offering coffee chats with families many months before for their incoming 7th graders start school, I wonder if it would be helpful to start offering those with the upcoming 6th grade families? I think it would be helpful to families to find out what the school day would look like, would they have the opportunity for electives, after school sports etc. How many classes they would be taking etc. And providing that information sooner rather than later. There was one 4th grade student laying on the floor at school sobbing this morning saying she wasn't going to leave Roxborough. It would be helpful to find out what is happening to Outdoor Ed, would exhibition happen at Ranch View, there are a lot of little opportunities that the 6th graders experience at our school that our 4th graders are very upset about not experiencing. You might not be able to do this, but it would be helpful if a 6th grade teacher from each elementary school is able to be hired at Ranch View so students know they have a familiar face?

Clear communication - and then sticking to what you communicate. Please take care of the staff.

Specific answers to the above concerns.

To provide what the solution is going to be to address traffic at the middle school

An answer that's more concrete than "we're thinking about this and considering different solutions."

Clarity, up front answers.

The published questions and answers to all of the submitted questions.

We just need ideas and maybe time to discuss as a region how we want to approach this for the 6th grade move to ms discussion so we are all on the same page.



The questions above will help us with the FAQs for the webpage. However, we are also very happy to reach out to you individually. If you would like a call or email back, please leave your name and best contact for a response. We will be in touch as soon as possible.

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[REDACTED]

I'm ok without a specific response, but my email is [REDACTED], and my cell is [REDACTED]. I do think the district has done a good job with these difficult decisions so far.

I've had correspondence with both Danny Winsor and Erin Kane, within the last couple of months. I don't think that I currently need a phone call or email :), as I don't know that you have all of the answers to my concerns, just yet. Certainly, if you're looking for clarification or other thoughts on what I've written above, then reach out [REDACTED]. The news is still fresh, but I will be on the lookout, for some of the above to be addressed on the FAQs page.

Many Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I have a current student at Ranch View and a 4th grader that will be impacted. My 4th grader is excited about this transition of 6th grade to Ranch View but I know a lot of families that are very upset and have a lot of questions. I think the more transparent you can be, the better. I wonder if having an evening meeting at Roxborough with [REDACTED] might be helpful? I have



always been very impressed with [REDACTED]. Will Ranch View need to get temporary buildings? How with the current TR/Ranch View parking lot accommodate the additional traffic? The parking lot is already very congested at pickup and drop-off. What will their school day look like?

[REDACTED] Thank you

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Yes, please, I know there are MANY 4th grade parents at my school that have the same concerns I do, as all that was put forth as a guarantee since November was the consolidation of schools. The moving of 6th grade to middle school as part of consolidation was NOT provided the same visibility as school closures/pairings, and if it was, I think there would have been more parents involved, at meetings, etc. [REDACTED] or

[REDACTED]

No thank you.

I'd welcome a call. I've been very involved in this process and am a fan of this, however, I think there are still a few spots that clearer communication could benefit out communities. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

I forgot to leave our contact information I believe. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Yes please. My personal email is [REDACTED]. My work email is [REDACTED]. Thank you.

I would like to request a sit down meeting where we can ask questions and talk about what this process should look and feel like. The rest of my 6th grade team stated that they would like for all of us to have the chance to have a face to face meeting with someone that can answer our questions and address our concerns.

[REDACTED]

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