



Mountaineer Times

August 2025



Principal: Stephanie Williams Assistant Principal: Jen Rollins

Shared Vision: We strive to be a positive community who thinks creatively, problem solves, and loves learning.

Back to School Information: TEAM!!

Welcome back to a new and exciting school year at Thunder Mountain Elementary! We hope you had a wonderful summer filled with fun and relaxation. We are thrilled to have all our students, families, and staff back for the 2025-2026 school year. Thank you to everyone who joined us for our KICKOFF Back to School Night!

At Thunder Mountain, we believe that great things happen when we work together. Our theme for the 2025–2026 school year is **TEAM: Together Everyone Achieves More**. Just like on a winning sports team, every student, staff member, and family plays an important role in helping our Thunder Mountain community succeed. This year, we'll focus on collaboration, support, and celebrating each other's strengths—because when we work as one, everyone wins!

[Thunder Mountain CLIMB expectations & Big 5 Rules](#)

PTA Update: 2025-2026 School Year

We are excited to kick off the school year with our PTA! We have three amazing parents who have stepped into our PTA board this year! **Amanda Striebeck - PTA President, Isaac Ketchum- Is our Treasurer, and Leah Scott- Secretary**, We will have a monthly meeting the first Wednesday of each month! Please consider joining and making a difference at TME for our students! The PTA Semester at a glance calendar is in this week's folder!

Colorado Department of Education Grade Level

Expectations: Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th

Attached are grade level expectations that CDE created in family friendly terms. The area labeled, "Expectations for (grade level)." Please refer to this section to know what your student will need to know by the end of the year.

NEW Soft Start Procedures in the morning:

We wanted to take a moment to share about our decision to begin the day inside. Our goal is to start each morning with a calm, quick transition into the classroom, which allows students to be ready to learn right away. Starting the morning indoors gives students time to

socialize with their peers, build stronger connections with staff, enjoy breakfast if they choose, and begin the day in a positive and settled way. We absolutely understand the importance of outdoor play and physical movement. In fact, over the past two years we've increased recess time at lunch by 5 minutes, ensured every grade level has an afternoon recess, and added a brand-new track on the back field for PE and other outdoor activities. We value both our students' time outside and the strong community we are building inside.

If your child is eating breakfast, they can come as early as 8:30am. If not, feel free to have them to school by 8:45am.

Our bell rings at 8:55 to begin our day.

If your child comes to school after the bell rings, there is still an opportunity for them to grab a to-go breakfast to take to the classroom.

Thank you for your support as we work together to provide the best environment for our Thunder Mountain students and setting each mountaineer up for success each day

After School Reminders:

Please read the attached note to familiarize yourself with the after school procedures for student pick-up.

K-5 Student Panorama Wellness Survey: Aug. 18

We wanted to send a reminder that starting August 19th, schools will administer the Panorama Wellness Survey to all students in grades 3-12. This survey helps us assess and support students' needs, covering topics like safety, well-being, emotions, coping skills, and access to resources. Responses are confidential and only shared with school counselors, administrators, and designated D51 Student Services staff. ***If you opted your child out of the survey during online registration, you do not need to fill out an opt-out form.***

[3-5 Survey Questions](#) For more information on all student surveys, visit d51schools.org/surveys.

[Thunder Mountain August Calendar](#)

Weekly Communication Folders: Thursday will be the day to expect weekly folders with school information. They are green.