



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

Helpful Links

[Deer Creek Website](#)

[Jeffco Public Schools](#)

 [Deer Creek PTO](#)

 [Deer Creek Facebook](#)

Advertising in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by the school or district.

A Word From the Principal

CMAS Testing

On April 14, 15, and 16, 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.

Students will take the assessments on the following dates:

ELA and Math (All Grades)

- All grades will take the Math and ELA sessions throughout the day on **April 14, April 15, and April 16**
- On the testing dates of April 14, 15, and 16, students will have an early release from school. We will communicate details about schedules soon.** Buses will be available at our early release time for students that ride the bus.
 - **Students who will receive extended time for their assessments will need to stay longer in the day. After extended time testing, students will have the choice to call for a ride when they are finished, or they can stay until 3:50 pm for a bus ride home. **Families will be receiving communication if your student is receiving extended time.**
- SSN students will be released at our early release time (will be communicated after we finalize schedules) and will depart on their regular bus routes.

Science (8th Grade ONLY)

- 8th graders will take the Science assessments on **Wednesday, April 8**. 8th grade students will take 3 sessions of science on April 8. They will not have regular classes on this day. No early dismissal.
- 7th grade students will attend all classes following a typical schedule on April 8. (6th Grade students will be at Outdoor Lab on April 8th).

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.

Here are some additional important facts about the CMAS assessments:

CLICK IT

Click on the Ads in this Newsletter



...to learn more about these great companies!

A Word From the Principal, continued...

- 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.
- Student Chromebooks must be fully charged and brought to school daily.
- Students may bring a water bottle and healthy snack for testing.
- **Students who miss a testing session will make up that session. Make-up testing ends April 23.**

At Deer Creek, we are committed to preparing students for a promising future full of choices. We value CMAS and other performance and growth 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 with any questions you may have. Our teachers dedicate themselves to providing your student with the highest quality education. .

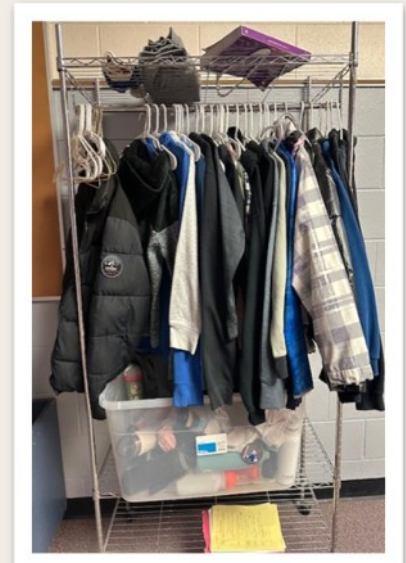
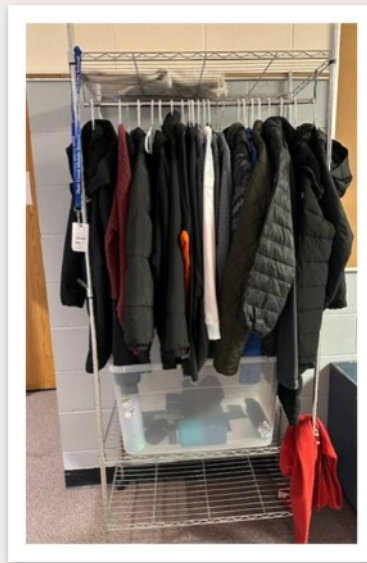
Thank you for being a supportive member of our community of learning.

Sincerely,
 Brandon Hall
 Principal
 Deer Creek Middle School

Lost and Found

Please encourage your student to check our Lost and Found in the next couple of weeks. We are overflowing with hoodies, jackets, water bottles etc!
 Parents are welcome to stop in and check for items before or after school.

Items not claimed by noon on Friday March 20th will be donated to the Jeffco Action Center



Kids 10 & Under Eat Free
 Kids 10 & under enjoy all four courses per regular-priced 4-course meal ordered.
 Tuesdays: 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. (Our house magician is here!) / Sundays: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

 RESERVATIONS

Melting Pot
 Littleton

Mountaineers of the Month - February 2026

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 February 2025.

6th Grade

Lillyana Guzman: Lillyana is always prepared and works hard in class. She participates and contributes to the discussion in class. She works well with those around her. She is a great student and is always respectful to those around her.

Lucas Hageman: Lucas demonstrates PEAK behavior in class. He is responsible for his learning and always offers help to those around him. He works very well with his peers, including the students that join us from the SSN program. He makes class fun and engaging for everyone in the room.

7th Grade

Olivia Hashemi: Via (Olivia) is a rockstar EVERY SINGLE DAY. She is prepared, engaged, and always looking to drive herself forward. She is willing to work with everyone, is always helpful to her peers and to me, and she holds herself to the highest standards. Working with Via is a dream, and she is an amazing addition to our classroom and our school community

Aeshoka Wanapat: Ash (Aeshoka) does a wonderful job of completing high quality work, participating in and leading group discussions, and is always looking to better himself. He is a great example of what it means to be a Mountaineer and sets the example daily for his peers.

8th Grade

Adelyn Kimmer: Adelyn seems to always carry a smile, a good attitude, and a great work ethic into class every day. She is willing to work with anyone, not afraid to start conversations, and wants to understand the information being taught.

Emily Yep: Emily Yep always strives to do her best. She asks for help to improve. She offers help to anyone who needs it. She is responsible and always trustworthy and is kind and respectful to students and adults.



L-R Molly Law Assistant Principal, Emily Yep, Adelyn Krimmer, Lillyana Guzman, Lucas Hageman, Ash Wanapat, Via Hashemi, Brandon Hall Principal

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.





Milk Caps for MOOOLA

To sign up, use this QR code or go to LongmontDairy.com/mooola.html

From the Dean

I am wanting to share an update about Securely, which is Jeffco’s tool that schools utilize for web filtering and student Chromebook monitoring in classrooms.

At the start of the 3rd trimester, Deer Creek teachers will begin transitioning from a “block list” to an “allow list”.

What is a “block list”? This is a list of websites that teachers do not want students to be on during instructional times. For example, we have many video game websites and social media sites on our DCMS block list. This is an additional layer to Jeffco’s web filtering system that automatically blocks other inappropriate sites from being accessed. We do our best to continuously add new sites to this list whenever a staff member notices a student accessing a website that does not align to the instruction happening in the classroom. However, this has quickly become a game of “whack-a-mole” with tech savvy students finding ways to alter URLs in minor ways to get around the block list.

What is an “allow list”? This is a list of websites that students are able to access. Only websites on the allow list will load and all other websites are automatically blocked. Teachers have spent the last few weeks noting what websites their students routinely utilize and adding them to a document to create our allow list.

We are confident that this move will result in greater support for our students. We also understand that we may encounter some issues during this transition and would appreciate your grace if hiccups do occur.

If you have any questions about this transition, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

[Kyle Kimberlin](#)
Dean of Students

CASTLEROCK
and Kids
AUTOPLEX

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Children's Hospital Colorado

When you buy a vehicle from Castle Rock we make a donation to the Children's Fund, which helps the hospital address the greatest needs of patients and their families.

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Learn more at CastleRockAutoplex.com or call/text 720-538-9881

Mental Health Update

Spring is officially right around the corner! Even with a surprisingly sunny and dry winter, we're about to get even more daylight. Daylight Saving Time kicks off on Sunday, March 8th, and we're ready for those longer afternoons.

Making the Most of the Sun

Since we haven't had to hide from the snow much this year, our students are already in a great rhythm—but that extra hour of evening sun is a huge win for their well-being:

- **Mood & Focus:** More sunlight naturally boosts "feel-good" brain chemicals and helps regulate sleep cycles, which leads to better concentration in class.
- **Evening Recharge:** Brighter evenings are perfect for getting outside after school to play, de-stress, and reset for the next day.

A Quick Check-In

Transitions can be a little wonky. Changing the clocks can temporarily mess with sleep schedules, and the shift in seasons can occasionally bring "spring fever" or a bit of anxiety about the end-of-year rush.

Keep an eye on:

- Changes in your child's usual sleep routine.
- Shifts in mood or energy levels as they adjust to the new "internal clock."

A little extra grace goes a long way during the "spring forward" week! If you notice your student is struggling to find their footing, please feel free to reach out.

TRANSPORTATION & CONSTRUCTION | GIRL[®]

FIVE DAYS Can Change a Life

The HOYA Foundation started Career Week for GIRLs™ to encourage more young women to pursue careers in transportation and construction. Why? Because only 11% of the construction work force is women. That fact carries economic implications and substantial opportunities.

Over one week, girls – ranging from 13 to 23 years old – make five stops to engage with women, ask questions and tour work sites. Each company puts together a day long insight into their company and into the industry. This program is free to those girls selected.





2026 DATES ARE SET!

June 1-5, June 8-12, June 17-21 or June 22-26

Submit your application before April 15

www.ConstructionGIRL.org/Career-Week



Deer Creek Middle School PTO News - March 2026

Greetings! February was full of fun, including the 6th grade social, conference meals, and Raising Cane's spirit night! We're looking forward to another spirit night this month as well.

Read on for more info, and please join us at our next PTO meeting on Monday, April 6th, at 6-7pm in the DCMS library.

Please email us at deercreekpto1@gmail.com anytime with questions or ideas – or visit us at our [website!](#)



Dates to Remember!

- March 18: Mad Greens Spirit Night (4-8pm)
- April 6: PTO meeting (6-7pm)
- April 30: Skate City Spirit Night (6-8pm)

Help Needed for the 26/27 Deer Creek PTO!

As we begin the final trimester of the school year, we're looking ahead to fill open PTO positions for the 2026–2027 school year. The PTO at Deer Creek supports teachers in the classroom, raises funds for educational materials and experiences, fosters school and family engagement, and provides a neutral platform for discussing issues that impact our children.

Several current PTO volunteers have students moving on to high school, creating opportunities for new volunteers to step in and make an impact. Below is a list of the team for next year with current open opportunities. You can visit the [2026-27 DCMS PTO Roles and Responsibilities](#) for more detailed descriptions. Feel free to email deercreekpto1@gmail.com if you would like to know more!

● Executive Board

- President: Heather Burgbacher
- Co- Vice President: Alicia Pucci
- Co- Vice President: Open Position
- Treasurer: Sarah Nesmith
- Co- Treasurer: Open position
- Secretary: Open position
- Co- Secretary: Open position

● Fundraising Committee

- POP Fundraiser Coordinators (2 people): Janet Webster, 1 open position
- Spirit Night & Ongoing Fundraiser Coordinator: Jennifer Mays-Krimmer
- Penny Wars Coordinator: Angie Walcher

● Social Committee

- 6th Grade (2 people): 2 open positions for incoming 6th grade parents
- 7th Grade (2 people): 2 open positions for incoming 7th grade parents
- 8th Grade (2 people): Alicia Pucci, 1 open position for incoming 8th grade parents
- 8th Grade Continuation Coordinators (4 people): 4 open positions for incoming 8th grade parents
- 6th and 7th Grade Last Day BBQ Coordinators (2 people): 2 open positions for incoming 6th & 7th grade parents

● Staff Appreciation Committee

- Holiday & Staff/ Teacher Appreciation Week (2 people): Renee Hubble, Jennifer Mays-Krimmer
- Conference Meals & Snack Shack (2 people): Angie Walcher, Renee Hubble

Deer Creek Middle School PTO News, continued...

Teacher Conference Meals

The PTO provided dinner for our DCMS teachers and staff during Parent/Teacher conferences on February 11th and 12th. On the 11th, we hosted a soup, salad, and sandwich bar with an amazing spread. Teachers and staff were so appreciative! A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the evening through donating food, setting up, and cleaning up after.

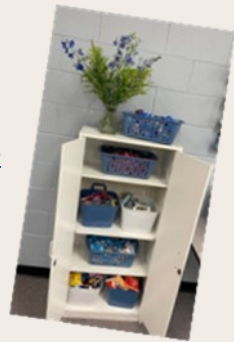


Frost & Flannel 6th Grade Social

It was a great night with beautiful sparkling dresses and cozy flannel shirts! The 6th graders enjoyed dancing to a live DJ, playing games, a visit from the Chatfield Poms team, and lots of snacks. Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who helped decorate and clean up, school staff who stayed late, parent chaperones, and families who donated food. We can't do it without you!

Stock the Snack Shack!

6th grade families are supporting the Snack Shack for Trimester 3! Sixth grade families, please consider making a donation to help us **keep the Shack stocked for the remainder of the year.** Click here to donate: [6th Grade Snack Shack Signup](#)



March/April Spirit Nights!

Looking for an easy weeknight dinner solution? Stop by our participating partners during our scheduled spirit nights to grab a tasty meal while also supporting DCMS!



Wednesday, March 18: 10:30am - 8:30pm
Mad Greens
8501 W. Bowles, Suite 1095, Littleton 80123
(Southwest Plaza)



Thursday, April 30: 6:00-8:00pm
Skate City
5801 S. Lowell Way, Littleton 80123

Deer Creek Middle School PTO News, continued...

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!

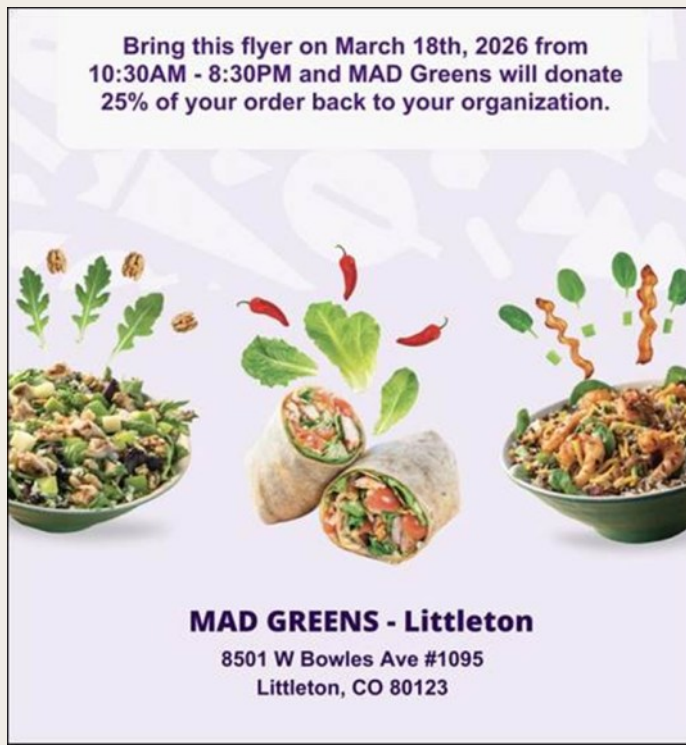


How does the program work?

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 Warehouse

American Furniture Warehouse—up to 4% of your purchase anytime supports Der Creek Middle School. During check-out, mention our school or **ID: DCMS60**



Costa Rica Trip - Spring Break 2027

We're taking a **STEM trip to Costa Rica during Spring Break 2027** and you're invited! This is open to ALL 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who will be attending DCMS during the 26-27 school year.

During this trip students will learn about how Costa Rica's famous coffee is made, hike through Arenal Volcano National Park, learn about local plant and wildlife, enjoy adventures like ziplining, kayaking, white water rafting and snorkeling. This is an action packed itinerary where students are engaged in hands on learning!

We're excited to tell you more about the trip we're planning with EF Tours, our educational travel partner. **We will be hosting an informational meeting for all families interested on March 5th at 6pm in the DCMS Library.** Please be sure to register for this info session to be considered for this opportunity: <https://bit.ly/3LLOAB3>.

PLEASE register that you are interested in more information even if you cannot make the meeting!

When students travel, they expand their knowledge of the world around them, discover more about themselves, and grow more confident. These skills are critical for creating the global citizens of tomorrow, and we would love to have your student join us on this adventure.

In this info session, we'll talk about:

- How this opportunity will benefit your student
- What we'll see and do on our trip
- Everything that's included in this experience
- How your child can earn academic credit
- How we're keeping this safe and affordable
- How to enroll on this trip (before it fills up!) during EF's risk-free enrollment period

There are limited spots on this trip, so we would love to have you attend this meeting to learn more about this exciting opportunity!

Thanks,
Ms. Goecks
Family and Consumer Science Teacher

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 or (720) 878-4107.

Sponsor This School!

YOUR NAME HERE

Rob Mangelson
(720) 878-4107
Rob@tscacolorado.com

The School Communications Agency
Supporting Schools & Local Businesses

Upcoming Events

| March | |
|-------|---|
| 2 | PTO Meeting 6:00 pm/SAC Meeting 7:10 pm - Library |
| 4 | SSN Students to Lakewood Link Rec Center 9:15am -12:00pm |
| 4 | Theatre/Choir Field Trip - Chatfield - Addams Family Musical |
| 5 | Spring Break 2027 Costa Rica STEM Trip Information Meeting 6 pm |
| 10 | Jeffco Orchestra Festival Field Trip 10 am - 2:05 pm |
| 16-20 | Inclusion Week - Spirit Week (more details coming soon!) |
| 18 | Inclusion Day - wear your Inclusion Shirt! |
| 18 | PTO Spirit Night @ Mad Greens Southwest Plaza 4 pm - 8 pm |
| 19 | SSN Adapted Sports Day - Basketball - at Deer Creek MS |
| 20 | 3 v 3 Basketball Tournament Finals - Assembly Schedule |
| 23-27 | Spring Break - School Closed |
| 30 | No School for Students - Staff Development Day |
| 27-28 | Band Field Trip 9:00 am - 1:15 pm |

| March 2026 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| 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 | | | | |

| April | |
|-------|---|
| 2-3 | FCCLA State Conference |
| 2 | Jeffco Band Competition Field Trip - Chatfield HS |
| 3 | Jeffco Jazz Band Competition Field Trip - Chatfield HS |
| 6 | PTO Meeting 6:00 pm/SAC Meeting 7:10 - Library |
| 7-10 | 6th Grade to Outdoor Lab |
| 8 | 8th Grade Science CMAS (regular schedule for 6th and 7th grade) |
| 13 | Battle of the Books |
| 14 | CMAS - ELA/Math Early Release* |
| 14 | SSN Adapted Sports Day - Softball |
| 15 | CMAS - ELA/Math Early Release* |
| 16 | CMAS - ELA/Math Early Release* |
| 18 | Shred-A-Thon (to benefit the Littleton Sertoma Club) |
| 24 | No School for Students - Staff Development Day |
| 30 | SSN Adapted Sports Day - Track & Field |
| 30 | PTO Spirit Night - Skate City 6 - 8 pm |

| April 2026 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sun | 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 | | |

*Students who will receive extended time for their assessments will be released at the regularly scheduled end of day at 3:50 pm.

the
ACTION CENTER
COMMUNITY • COMPASSION • CONNECTION

GRUB CLUB FOOD DRIVE



DECEMBER 9 - MARCH 13TH & 14TH

CHATFIELD AREA SCHOOLS

HELP US COLLECT!

CHEEZ-IT

Please:

- pay attention to expiration dates
- provide pop-top openings, not everyone has a can opener



DROP-OFF OF DONATED FOOD, HYGIENE PRODUCTS, AND MONETARY DONATIONS

MARCH 13, 3:00-6:00 PM / MARCH 14, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM



Scan the
QR Code
to donate
directly





COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL
MUSIC BOOSTERS PRESENTS

Egg My Yard



Specially trained bunnies (Columbine music students)
will be hiding candy filled eggs in **FRONT** yards
April 4th after 5:00 pm.



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proceeds to benefit the
instrumental music
programs at Columbine
High School

Choose from:
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40 hidden eggs for \$35
60 hidden eggs for \$50

We can deliver
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80127, 80128

Scan the QR code or go to

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2026-egg-my-yard>

Please note: zeffy fees are OPTIONAL



Orders must be placed by Wednesday April 1st

