



Scott Schleich

Principal

Altitude Elementary School

27300 East Southshore Drive

Aurora, CO 80016

720.886.4300

www.altitude.cherrycreekschools.org

July 31, 2026

Dear Parents of Altitude Students,

It is that time once again to get ready to come back to school! Whether you are a new family or a returning family, we are excited to welcome you to the 2026-2027 school year! It is hard to believe that in a couple weeks we will be back at school. We have been hard at work planning for the upcoming year. The purpose of this letter is to share some general information that I hope will be helpful as you plan for success at Altitude this school year. You will receive additional informational email blasts as we get closer to the start of the school year. You may also check our marquee for weekly updates.

To help the school year start smoothly, we have included information on our website. Please add Altitude to your favorite site lists: altitude.cherrycreekschools.org.

We look forward to having you and your children visit so that they can find their new classrooms, drop off school supplies, and meet their new teachers. **Our Altitude Meet and Greet is on Thursday, August 13th.** New families to Altitude will meet in the gym at 2:30pm for an orientation. Returning families will have their Meet and Greet from 3:30pm until 5pm. Your help following these times will hopefully help us minimize traffic and congestion.

Class lists will be posted on Friday, August 7th at 4pm and will be displayed over the weekend. If you do not want your student's name displayed, please email Tara at tharkner@cherrycreekschools.org by Thursday, August 6th. All families must update and/or complete parent forms through your My.Cherry Creek Portal for your student's name to be on a class list. Please do not take pictures of or post these class lists. If you need assistance with parent forms online, we will have support available on Thursday, August 6 from 9am until 11am. You may call 720-886-4300 or come by school for support.

The first day of school will be staggered depending on grade level and is as follows:

Monday, August 17
Tuesday, August 18
Wednesday, August 19

ONLY 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade report to school
ONLY 1st and 2nd grade report to school
ALL students, including Kindergarten and PreK!

School Hours:

Drop Off – 7:40 am – 8:00 am, School Day – 8:00 am – 2:45 pm.

Dismissal on Wednesdays will be at 1:45 pm for all students in all Cherry Creek elementary schools.

We will also have students go in and out specific grade level doors when they arrive and leave in the morning and afternoon (map attached). Please try to drop off and pick up in the designated grade level areas. Hopefully, following pick up and drop off locations will help us minimize traffic congestion.

In addition to our comprehensive PreK through Fifth grade program, we are continuing to offer our School-Age Child Care Program (BAS). It is our hope that the many options available to children at Altitude support and complement your varying family needs. Please email Mark Brown, Director of our Before and After School Program, at mbrown@cherrycreekschools.org if you have any questions regarding the program.

Below, I have listed some answers to some frequently asked questions. Additional information will be sent home with your children at the beginning of school.

WHAT TEACHER WILL HAVE MY CHILD THIS YEAR?

If you have completed your on-line registration/parent forms, your child's teacher may contact you during the week of August 10th. Class lists with teacher's names will be posted towards the front entrance of the building on Friday, August 7 at 4:00pm. **If your student's name is not on a class list, you will need to email Tara Harkner at tharkner@cherrycreekschools.org.** Class lists will also be posted during the first few days of school. Student placements **will not** be changed at this time. If, after two weeks of school, you still have concerns about your child's placement, please schedule an appointment for a phone call with me to discuss your concerns.

WHO ARE ALTITUDE'S STAFF MEMBERS?

We are fortunate that Altitude's reputation draws many highly qualified new staff members for the 2026-2027 school year. Below is a list of staff for the upcoming school year. Please like our Altitude PTCO Facebook page to stay up to date with the latest Altitude school news!

2026-2027 Altitude Elementary School Staff
Home of Moose Nation
(New Staff in Red)

<u>Kindergarten</u> Jen Christianson Samantha Parsons Melissa McBride Margaret Humphries	<u>First Grade</u> Jackie McGoff Katie Parker Kelly Engdahl Paul Grogan	<u>Second Grade</u> James Christensen Jillian Derrick Leanne Snyder Wendy Smith
<u>Third Grade</u> Meredith Ramsey Caroline Forbes Ashley Nordine Danielle Tauriello Pam Haines	<u>Fourth Grade</u> Angie Schaefer Ali Buchanan Ellen Clark Ben Lowy Tiffany Larson	<u>Fifth Grade</u> Danielle Davis Ashley Echols Albert Rios Meghan Herrera Liz Pearne
<u>Integrated Arts</u> STEAM – Ryan Remien Art – Rob Hay PE – Matt Mundy Music – Justin Kerr .5 Glob. Citizenship – Caren Berger	<u>Special Ed./Mental Health</u> LD – Julia Maraschky LD – Heather Koopman .6 OT – Anna Siegel .16 COTA – Carrie Butsch SLP – Claire Quisling SLP – Mattie Kennedy Psychologist – Dr. Amber .5 Psych – Emily Nett Soc. Worker – <i>Meghan Stuart</i>	<u>Support Services</u> GT – Kiley Eberly ELA – Amy Henrion ILC – Anna Winston ILC – <i>Courtney Comfort</i> .8 Literacy Int. – Stephanie Post .8 Literacy Int. – Mandy DeLeeuw .5 Primary Math Int. – Nellie Flores .5 Int. Math Int. – Caren Berger *Ins. Coach – Amanda Redfield Nurse – <i>TBD</i>
<u>Teacher Assistants</u> K/1 and Lunch/Recess – Kristen Hansen 2/3 and Lunch/Recess – Jen Murkey 4/5 and Lunch/Recess – Danni Schlekeway Lunch/Recess/Student Support Nancy O'Brien Library – Stephanie Garrett SpEd – <i>Natasha Ray</i> ILC TA – Justus Zillman ILC TA – Abby Butte ILC TA – Will Hinton ILC TA – Krystal Monson ILC TA – Cassie Hoffer ILC TA – Tami Olson ILC TA – <i>Shari King</i> ILC TA – <i>TBD</i> ILC TA – Alison Dinkins	<u>Preschool</u> AM/PM Enrich Dir. – Roni Martinez AM/PM TA – <i>Cyndi Stahl</i> AM/PM Director – Reema Gilani AM/PM TA – Kayla Muma AM/PM TA – <i>TBD</i> <u>Future Educators Program</u> Ivy Chronister B-AM Connor Fullwood B-AM Grace Gustafson – A-AM	<u>Office</u> Registrar – <i>Tara Harkner</i> Office Manager – <i>Heather McDonnell</i> Assist. Principal – Krisann Bruton Principal – Scott Schleich Building Eng. – <i>TBD</i> <u>Cafeteria</u> Yessenia Bolin Sasha Conner Faten Hawilo <u>BAS</u> Assistant Dir. – Deb Morales Director – Mark Brown

WHAT ARE THE SCHOOL HOURS and DROP OFF LOCATIONS?

The school hours this year will be 8am to 2:45pm (**Dismissal is at 1:45pm on Wednesdays for all elementary schools**). **Please do not drop off students before 7:40am. There is no supervision until that time.** Students will be brought in as they arrive at their grade level door. Class begins promptly at 8am. **Students must go to their grade level door if they arrive before 7:55 am.** Students will be allowed in the front door if they arrive after 7:55am or if it below 20 degrees outside or raining. Students having breakfast should enter through their grade level door at 7:40am and breakfast will be supervised in the cafeteria. The bus loop is ONLY for buses. Please do not pick up or drop off in the bus loop. **Please try to drop off in the designated grade level areas (map attached).** You may drop off at the youngest student location if you have more than one student at Altitude.

WHAT ABOUT THE SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM?

Breakfast is served starting at 7:40am. Students are expected to finish breakfast by 8am. Menus for both breakfast and lunch are on the district website. Adult lunch costs \$5 and milk is \$1. Lunch credits may be purchased by check or through MySchoolBucks.com to purchase a la carte items. A link is on the district website in the Food and Nutrition Department. Please call our food service manager at 720-886-7173 if you have any questions. Bringing lunch from home if possible will help students have more time to eat.

CAN I JOIN MY CHILD FOR LUNCH IN THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA?

You are welcome to join your student for lunch. We ask that you **please wait two weeks** before coming to have lunch at school so we may establish routines and procedures. You will check in at the front vestibule on an iPad (**You must have your driver's license**), obtain a visitor pass from the front office and then be directed to the Moose Cafeteria. Lunch times will be shared by your classroom teacher.

WHAT SUPPLIES WILL MY CHILD NEED?

A school supply list is available on our Altitude website: www.altitude.cherrycreekschools.org.

DOES ALTITUDE PROVIDE BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL DAY CARE?

Our "School-Age Child Care Program" will continue under the direction of Mark Brown. The program is available from 6:30am to 7:55am and 2:45pm to 6pm daily (1:45pm to 6pm on Wednesdays). It is also available from 6:30am to 6:00pm on non-pupil contact days and some vacations. If you would like more information on this program, or have any questions related to day care, please call Mark Brown, Program Director, at **720-886-3742** to speak with him or to leave a voicemail.

WHAT IS THE TESTING WINDOW FOR THE COLORADO MEASURES OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS (CMAS)?

The state mandated CMAS test will be given in third, fourth, and fifth grades. Third, Fourth, and Fifth grades will be assessed in reading, writing, and math. Fifth grade will also be assessed in Science. The CMAS is a high stakes test and the scores achieved by our students determine the ranking of our school. It is very important all students are present for the administration of the test. The CMAS assessment for 3rd through 5th grades will April 5 through April 23. Spring Break is March 15 through March 19. **Please try to not schedule vacations, doctor appointments, etc. that extend into the CMAS testing window.** We will inform you as soon as we get word from the state regarding CMAS for this school year. We highly recommend all students take the CMAS since the act of taking the test is as valuable as the knowledge demonstrated during the assessment.

WHAT IS THE NEW PARENT/STUDENT ORIENTATION?

We typically plan an orientation program for all new parents and students in First through Fifth grades, as well as any Kindergarten parents who missed the April Kindergarten orientation. **The new student/parent orientation will be on Thursday, August 13 in the Altitude gym from 2:30-3pm followed by New Families Meet and Greet from 3-3:30pm.** We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and help you become acquainted with Altitude. You will have a chance to tour the school, drop off supplies, learn more about your grade assignment area, and learn about the way your new school operates.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS FOR PICKING UP AND DROPPING OFF STUDENTS?

Please do not park and leave your car unattended at any time unless you are in a designated parking space. Parking beside a curb and leaving your car unattended has caused traffic flow issues that create unsafe situations for children. It is important to drop off students in the designated drop-off lane and areas. Also, please arrange all your planning, kisses good-bye, packing the backpack, etc. before you come to school. **Dropping off students should be a quick procedure.** For example, you should not need to get the backpack out of the trunk when dropping your students off. You will hear the phrases, “drop and go,” and “kiss and go!” We need to keep moving in a steady and orderly fashion. Thank you for your continued diligence in helping us accomplish our goal of ten to twelve minutes to pick up 610 students!

Dropping off and picking up students in the street is also a very unsafe practice for our students. Please drive along the front parking lot or make sure you are pulled all the way over to the curb. It is important to use patience and follow the directions of the parking lot supervisors. Please follow and obey any signs that are posted. Also, please do not drop off students in the front drive-through lane. You are only allowed to drop off in the drop off lane along the curb in the front parking lot (see attached map).

Lastly, please pull all the way forward when dropping off or picking up students. This also helps keep traffic moving. **Best times for drop off are between 7:40am and 7:55am.**

All students have specific grade level doors to enter and exit through that are clearly marked on the glass.

The grade level doors dictate the best pick up and drop off areas and these are as follows:

PreK – front parking all the way down by the mobiles (aka Larimoose Square)

Kindergarten – front parking lot drop off/pick up lane directly in front of grade level door #2

First grade – drop off/pick up on East Southshore Drive against the curb – door #12

Second grade – drop off/pick up on East Southshore Drive against the curb – door #12

Third grade – drop off/pick up along South Titus Way against the school-side curb – bus loop door #11

Fourth - drop off/pick up along South Titus Way against the school-side curb – bus loop door #11

Fifth grade - drop off/pick up along South Titus Way against the school-side curb – recess door #10

You may always drop off in the front parking lot drop off lane for any grade, **especially if you are running late (after 7:55am).**

Please only cross at designated crosswalks and DO NOT run between cars to cross the street. If you have more than one student at Altitude, please drop off/pick up at the youngest student's grade level area. If you would like to avoid the crosswalk traffic at the corner of E Southshore Drive and Titus, you may turn right out of the front parking lot onto East Southshore Drive. We hope this will alleviate the traffic at the corner of Titus and Southshore.

AND please remember...

-DO NOT double park on South Titus Way or East Southshore Drive. Police have given tickets for double parking on this street by the bus loop. No U-turns on Titus or Southshore Drive.

-DO NOT leave your car unattended when picking up or dropping off your student. Our School Resource Officer may ticket cars left unattended in the fire lane.

-There is no supervision until 7:40am. Please do not drop off students before 7:40am.

-Breakfast is available at 7:40 am. Breakfast helps children get their day started off right, so they are ready to learn. Students will eat breakfast in the cafeteria under supervision.

-Keep children off the playground equipment at arrival/dismissal time. We need to be able to determine which students are still waiting to be picked up and which students are with their parents. Thank you! Our BAS Program will be using the playground from 3 to 6 pm Monday through Friday.

-Keep all pets off school grounds, especially during pick up and drop off times. Please be respectful of others. Your pet may be trained and nice, but many children are afraid of or allergic to dogs, etc...Let's keep school a safe place for everyone!

-Walk your bikes/scooters on school grounds. This helps maintain a safe school environment. Please leave skateboards at home. The bike rack is located by the bus loop.

-Do not wear shoes with wheels on them to school.

-Please drive slowly around “The Loop” in the front lot until a drop off/pick up spot opens.

-Messages for students during the day should be emergencies only to keep disruptions in the classroom to a minimum. Please relay messages to your students in the morning if possible. **Students will not be dismissed between 2:30 and 2:45pm due to dismissal at 2:45 (or between 1:30 and 1:45pm on Wednesdays due to 1:45pm dismissal).** If you need to pick up a student before the very end of the day, please do so before 2:30.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to call Altitude Elementary School at **720-886-4300**. There is Student/Parent Folder posted on our website.

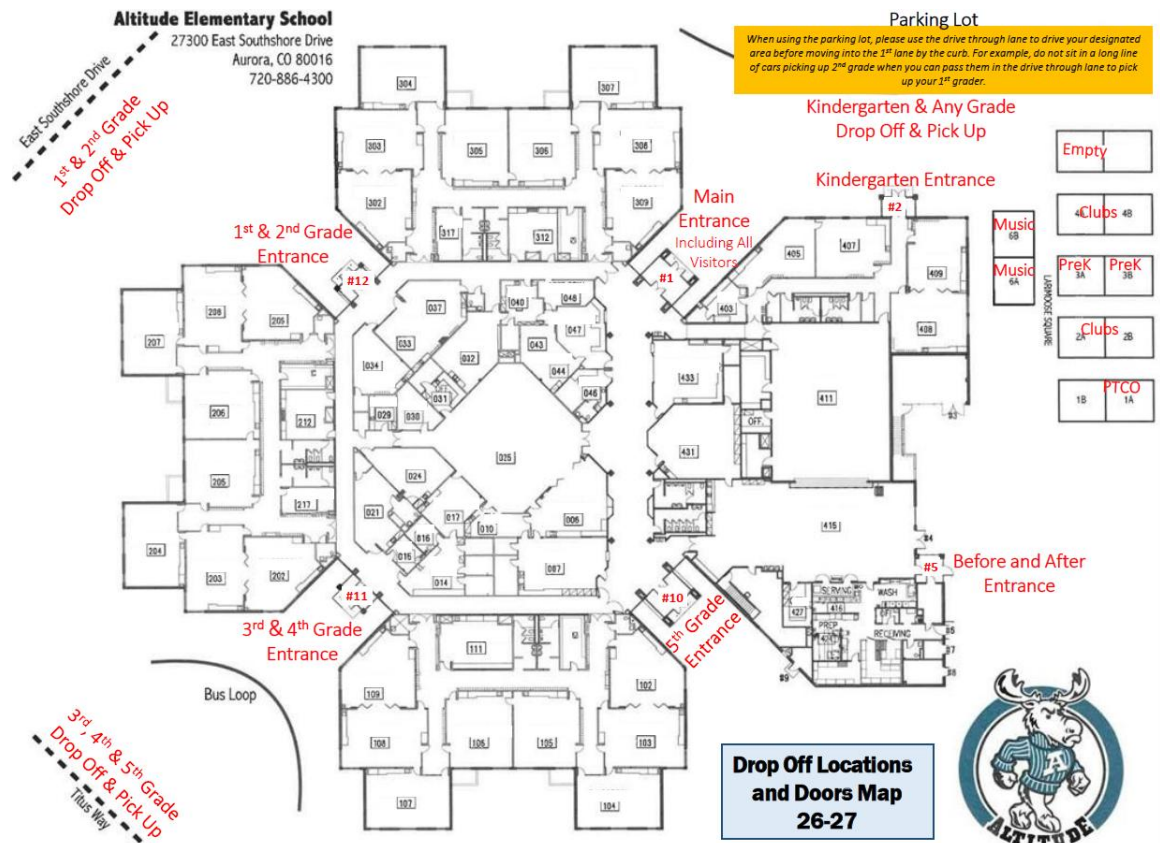
We are excited to have all of you as a part of this very special MOOSE family. We look forward to a positive working relationship and partnership with you as we educate your children. When schools and parents work well together, great things happen for children.

Sincerely,

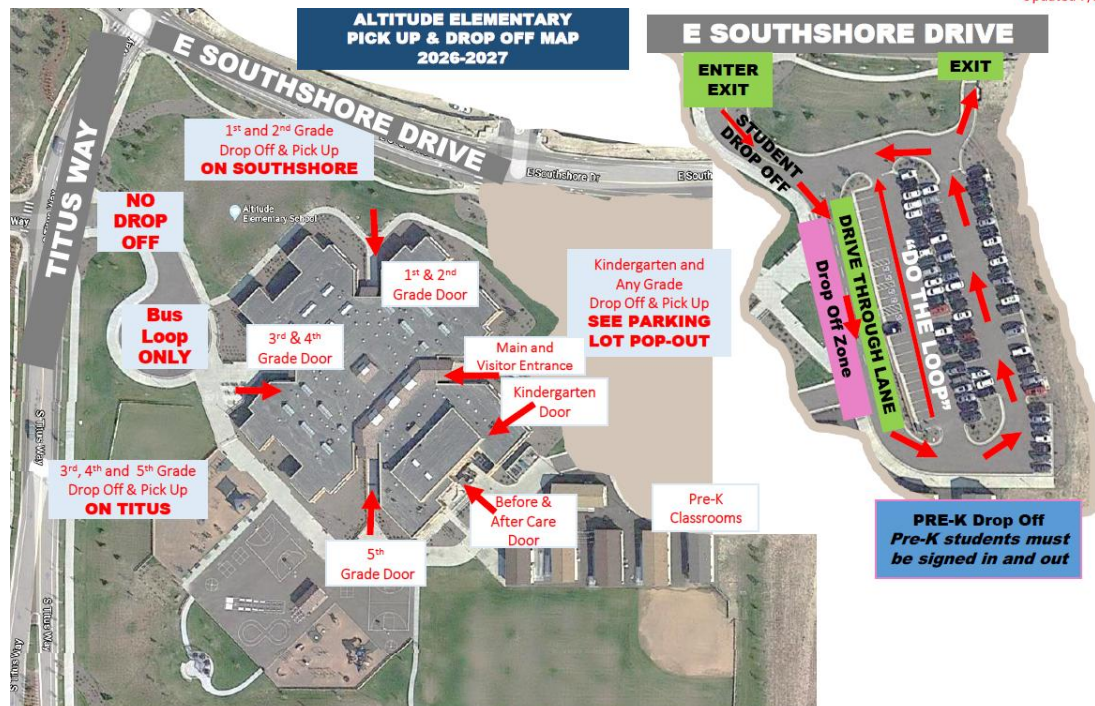
Scott Schleich
Principal

PS. Don't forget to look at the maps below to see where to drop off and pick up and which doors your students will be using!





Updated 7/2026



- Arrive 7:40-7:55 am (Pre-K 7:50-8:00 and 11:50-12:00)
- Exit 2:45 pm (Pre-K AM 10:50)
- Students will enter and exit out of their grade level door
- There is a drop off/ pick up lane and drive through lane
- There are 2 exits out of the parking lot
- Students may come in the front door after 7:55am or it is below 20 degrees
- Bike Racks are by the 3rd/4th grade door. Bikes must be walked on school grounds
- Please do not play on the playground before or after school (supervision). Daycare has priority on the playground until 6pm.
- No vehicles are allowed in the BUS LOOP