



August 12, 2026

Hello Fourteener Students and Families,

We are so excited to start another great year with all of you at Lake City Community School! As Superintendent/Principal of Hinsdale County School District, I feel incredibly lucky to be part of this amazing school community. We can't wait to welcome both new and returning students back to our beautiful campus on **Tuesday, August 25th**. Please save the date for back to school barbecue: **Thursday, September 3, 2026**.

Rooted in Growth: Our Focus for 2026–2027

1. Strengthen Belonging - Every student should know they are seen, valued, and an important part of our school community. We will continue to build a culture where students feel connected to their peers, their teachers, and the larger LCCS community.
2. Pursue Excellence - Growth requires us to continually ask, *How can we do this better?* This year, we will challenge ourselves to set high expectations, embrace productive challenges, and celebrate progress while continuing to strive for excellence in teaching, learning, and leadership.
3. Build for the Future - Our responsibility extends beyond what happens in the classroom today. We want to prepare students with the knowledge, skills, confidence, and character they need for whatever comes next — college, career, work, community, and life.

Regular Attendance & Our New Attendance Text Line

- Regular attendance matters. Every school day is important for students to build the academic, social, and emotional skills they need to thrive.
- Chronic absence matters. Missing 10% or more of the school year, approximately 14 days, can significantly impact student learning and achievement.
- **NEW THIS YEAR!** Attendance Text Line: Families may text **970-784-0285** to:
 - Report a student absence
 - Report a student tardy
 - Communicate other attendance-related information to the school
- Planned extended absences: If your student will be absent for several days, please also complete the Student Attendance Form located on the LCCS website.
- Attendance questions or concerns? The LCCS Student Handbook includes our attendance policy on pages 7–9. Please reach out if you have questions or if there are circumstances affecting your student's attendance. We are always happy to work with families to find solutions and support student success.

Updated Personal Electronic Device Policy: Students in grades PreK-12 are prohibited from using personal electronic devices (including cell phones, smartwatches, and tablets) during the school day. All devices must be turned off and stored in designated areas, with access permitted only upon departure from campus or in case of emergency.

Wildfire Preparedness & Our Fire Evacuation Plan

Living in the beautiful San Juan Mountains also means being prepared for events such as the current wildfire. As we begin the new school year, the safety of our students, staff, and families remains our highest priority.

This summer, the district has continued to monitor and strengthen our emergency preparedness and response planning. **Attached to this letter is LCCS Elk Fire Decision Tree**, which outlines the procedures and decision-making process the district will follow if wildfire conditions requires us to modify operations, evacuate, or relocate students and staff.

We encourage all families to take a few minutes to review the plan. While we hope we never need to implement these procedures, being prepared helps us respond calmly, quickly, and effectively if conditions change. We will continue to monitor local conditions and coordinate with county and emergency management partners throughout the school year.

School Meals: What Families Need to Know

All students will have access to free, healthy, nutritious school meals again this year through **Healthy School Meals for All**. Here are a few important reminders:

- Please fill out the **Household Application for Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Form** included in your registration packet. While meals are free to all students, this information helps us access full federal funding for school nutrition programs.
- One form covers all children in the household. All household income information is strictly confidential and protected by law.
- Families who complete the form may also qualify for reduced school fees and additional benefits.
- Questions? Please contact Kristen Archuleta for help completing the form.

Welcome to Our New Staff

Please join us in welcoming our newest team members and staff in new roles:

- **Mrs. Kristen Archuleta – Administrative Assistant**
- **Mrs. Melody Crump – PreK–12 School Nurse**

We are thrilled to have them joining our team and look forward to the experience, energy, and care they will bring to our school community.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Lake City Community School. Our school is strongest when students, families, staff, and community members work together.

My door is always open if you have questions, concerns, ideas, or simply want to connect. I am looking forward to seeing our students back on campus and beginning another year of learning, growing, and connecting together.

Here's to a wonderful 2026–2027 school year!

Warmly,



Superintendent/Principal
Hinsdale County School District RE-1
Lake City Community School