



D'EVELYN JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL JAG TRACKS

August 14, 2026

Issue No. 01

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Hello D'Evelyn Junior/Senior High School Community,

Welcome back to all D'Evelyn students, faculty, staff, and families! As I begin my fourth year serving as your principal, I am eagerly looking forward to welcoming everyone back for the 2026 to 2027 school year. Reflecting on everything D'Evelyn has built throughout its more than thirty years of excellence fills me with deep pride and gratitude. I continue to experience our school through two lenses, both as your principal and as a Jaguar parent, which is especially meaningful this year as my son, Max, prepares to graduate.

Our shared efforts continue to yield extraordinary results. Once again, D'Evelyn stands as the top school in Colorado and 53rd nationally, according to the *U.S. News & World Report* Best High Schools rankings. This milestone reflects our collective commitment to excellence. This fall, our community grows even stronger as we welcome eleven new staff members to the D'Evelyn family. Our school philosophy remains rooted in our Founding Document, which states that "all students, not just an elite group, should be held to rigorous academic and behavioral standards, and that all students can achieve in a challenging program."

To guide our momentum this year, we want to ground our work in a central question inspired by our staff's summer read, *The Happiness Advantage*: We want to define what we want the D'Evelyn experience to be for our staff and our students. While academic rigor and high expectations are part of our DNA, we believe sustainable success flourishes when paired with positivity, strong relationships, and genuine joy. As Shawn Achor notes, "When we are happy (when our mindset and mood are positive), we are smarter, more motivated, and thus more successful."

That connection between positivity, strong relationships, and student well-being was clearly evident in the positive results of our "Away for the Day" policy last year. Without the constant distraction of screens, we saw a remarkable increase in face-to-face socializing, authentic peer connections, and overall student engagement, along with a noticeable drop in bullying incidents. Creating an environment where real community and joyful interaction can thrive remains a top priority.

To uphold these foundational principles and enhance our learning environment, we remain committed to our "Away for the Day" policy as updated in the regulation amended in May 2026. Student personal electronic devices, including cell phones, gaming devices, digital music devices, tablets, and smart glasses, must be turned off and not visible or used from the first bell until the final bell. While students are no longer required to store these items in their lockers, the devices must remain completely out of sight throughout the school day. These changes were made due to the need to consistently enforce the policy and for reasons of student safety in case of emergency.

Smartwatches are allowed to be worn, but teachers may ask students to remove them during classroom time and assessments unless they are needed for medical purposes. Chromebooks and laptops may be used during the school day only for school-related purposes or parental communications. Headphones are only allowed with these computers when a teacher expressly requests and supervises them for instructional purposes.

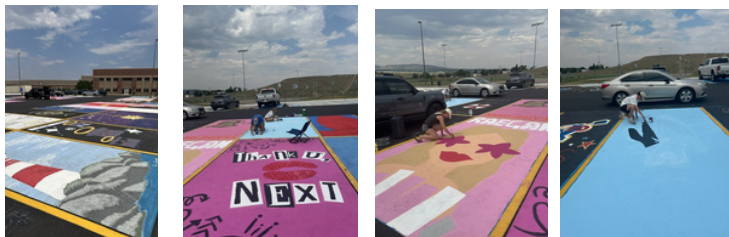
Any student devices observed during the school day will be confiscated and delivered to the main office to be retrieved after school. We believe these standards maximize our instructional time and foster the face to face interactions that are vital for the natural development of social skills. Research suggests that phone-free schools significantly improve students' attention to each other and their teachers, which helps students become self-governing young adults.

Seeing all of our students return to the building on August 19th is something I anticipate with great excitement. I am eager to embark on this next chapter alongside each of you. Let us make this school year our most impactful one yet.

One Pack. One Purpose. Go Jags!

Josh Shapiro, Principal

It is an honor to be your principal.



ATTENDANCE INFO

Please use Infinite Campus Parent Portal to update your students attendance This can be done through the [website](#) or the App. Click [HERE](#) for directions as well as the attendance policy.

10359 W. NASSAU AVE.
DENVER, CO 80235

MAIN OFFICE:
303-982-2600

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USEFUL LINKS

- [D'EVELYN WEBSITE](#)
- [MASTER CALENDAR](#)
- [STEERING COMMITTEE](#)
- [D'EVELYN EDUCATION FOUNDATION \(DEF\)](#)
- [ACCOUNTABILITY](#)



AUGUST 2026

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30	31					



Junior High Only Events



High School Only Events



JH and HS Events

AUG 14: NEW D'EVELYN FAMILY MEET-UP

AUG 18: NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION 9AM-12PM

AUG 19: FIRST DAY FOR STUDENTS 8:15AM-3:15PM

AUG 21: **JUNIOR HIGH SUPPER AT CLEMENT PARK 5-7PM**

AUG 24: **6TH GRADE PARENT OUTDOOR LAB MEETING 6-7PM**

AUG 24: PICTURE DAY

AUG 24: STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING 4:30-6:30PM

AUG 27: BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT 6-8PM

AUG 27-28: MAP TESING (BLOCK SCHEDULE)

AUG 28: EARLY RELEASE 2:15 - XC DASH

SEP 3: PICTURE MAKE-UP DAY

SEP 7: NO SCHOOL

SEP 9: COLLEGE NIGHT 6-8PM

SEP 14: STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING 4:30-6:30PM

SEP 14-18: HOMECOMING WEEK

SEP 18: NO SCHOOL

SEP 18: **HOMECOMING DANCE 7-10PM**

New Staff

This year, we are lucky to welcome several new staff members to our team.

- Walker Andrew - PE
- Casey Clark - Math
- Alex Doyle - 6th Grade
- Ginger Gee - Athletics/Activities Secretary
- Simone Meyer - Principal Secretary
- Alexis Probasco - English
- Jenna Ramsey-Rutledge - Computer Science
- Amy Rosenthal - Biology
- Jess West - Attendance Secretary
- Preston Lope - Campus Security Specialist



Volunteers Needed

Looking for a way to make your mark. There are several ways you can participate in the D'Evelyn community. For more information on the 3 main parent-run committees, click [HERE](#) or go "Connect" on the D'Evelyn website.

Student Fees

Please take time to review and pay your student fees. Click [HERE](#) to log into Infinite Campus, or contact the financial secretary, Ashley Schilz, with any questions ashley.schilz@jeffco.k12.co.us.

FEE

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New Student Orientation

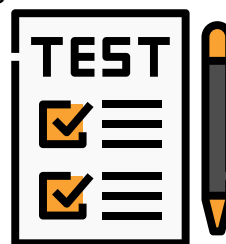
New Student Orientation is on **Tuesday, August 18th. 8am - 12:30pm**, is for new **9th graders**, and **9am-12:30pm**, is for new **6th, 7th, and 8th graders**. Students will need a printed copy of their schedule and a pencil. This will be a chance for students to find their classes, meet some teachers, and get more comfortable with the building. Pizza will be provided at noon and a water bottle is recommended.

Outdoor Lab Parent Meeting

There is a mandatory meeting regarding Outdoor Lab for all 6th grade parents on **Monday August 24th at 6pm**. At this meeting, you will receive information regarding the program, the travel specifics, fees, required paperwork, etc. Due to limited space, we ask only parents attend.

Map Testing

Students will complete MAP testing in subjects ELA and Math this coming week. This District assessment helps measure student growth in reading, writing and math for students in grades 6-10. We will be on a block schedule to ensure students complete the MAP assessments on both days: students will attend periods 1-3 on **Thursday, August 27th**; and 4-6 on **Friday, August 28th**. Contact Assistant Principal Amber Cannizzaro with questions, amber.cannizzaro@jeffco.k12.co.us.



Back to School Night

We are excited to invite you to Back to School Night on Thursday, **August 27th**. This event provides parents the opportunity to meet teachers and administration, receive an overview of content and classroom expectations, and determine best methods for communicating directly with teachers. This year's Back to School Night will be held at D'Evelyn following the schedule below.

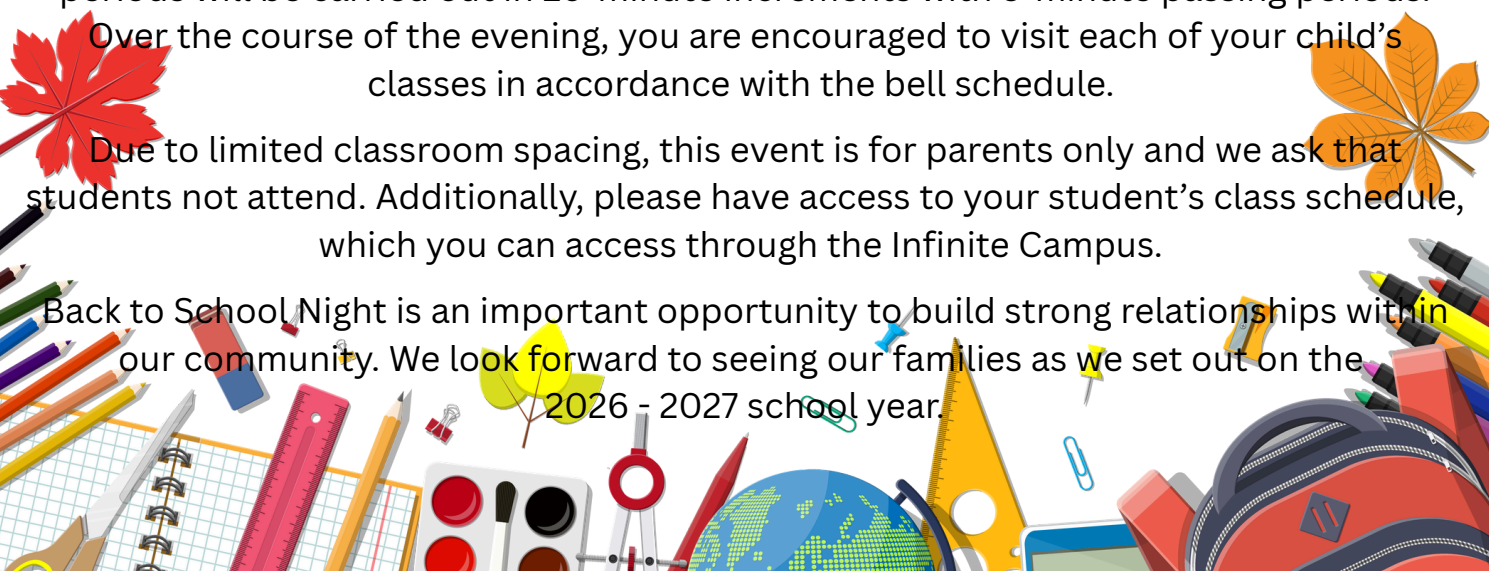
- 6:00 PM - All parent meeting - Main Gym
- 6:30 - 8:00 PM - Parents rotate to 6 classes following student schedules

Parents will have the chance to hear opening remarks from D'Evelyn's principal, Josh Shapiro, and follow their student's class schedule to meet their teachers. Class periods will be carried out in 10-minute increments with 5-minute passing periods.

Over the course of the evening, you are encouraged to visit each of your child's classes in accordance with the bell schedule.

Due to limited classroom spacing, this event is for parents only and we ask that students not attend. Additionally, please have access to your student's class schedule, which you can access through the Infinite Campus.

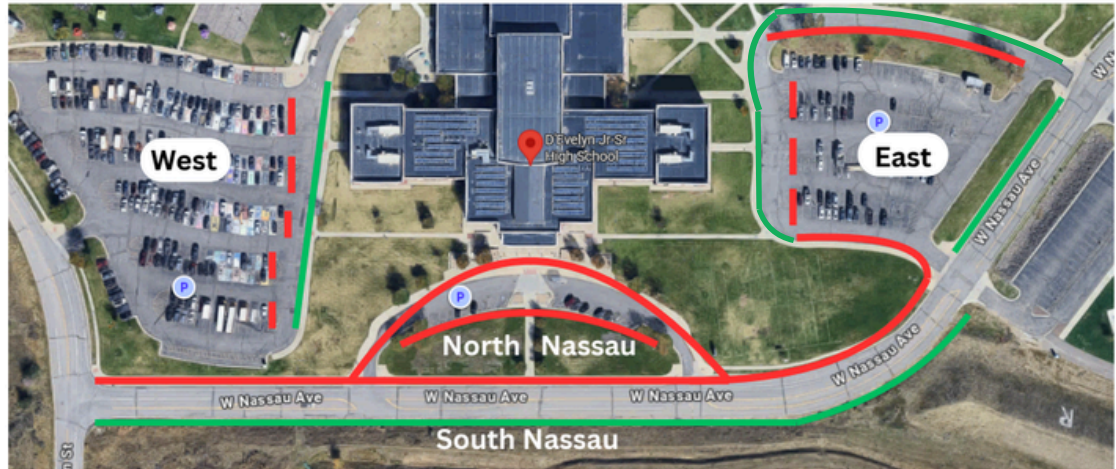
Back to School Night is an important opportunity to build strong relationships within our community. We look forward to seeing our families as we set out on the 2026 - 2027 school year.



Drop-Off and Pick-Up

In an effort to keep everyone safe, we need our entire community to help us with following the rules and procedures around our student drop-off and pick-up (see photos for more details). Please allow time so you are not rushed, avoid u-turns, and be mindful of staff and students in the crosswalks.

Thank you for your help!



East Lot

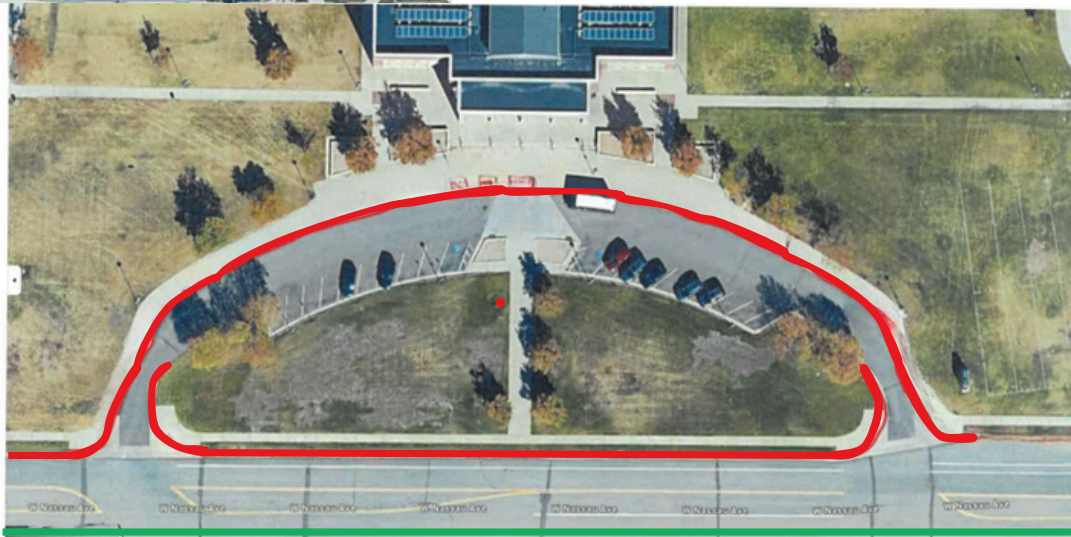
(don't park on red lines)



No parking in **red** areas.
North side of Nassau is now an area where you can be ticketed.
Green is for pick up after school.

North Lot

(don't park on red lines)



No U-turns on Nassau

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

Junior High BBQ



The Junior High Social Committee would like to invite all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade families to the annual Summer BBQ on **Friday, August 21st from 5-7pm** at Clement Park, 306 W. Bowles Avenue, Littleton, Pavilion O. There will be grilled items available and each family is asked to contribute a side and volunteer. This is a great chance to connect with other D'Evelyn families.

Marching Band

The D'Evelyn Marching Band will have their first performance on **Tuesday, September 15th starting at 4:45pm** at the JeffCo Marching Festival. The festival is at Jeffco Stadium, at 6th and Kipling, and will contain performances from several Jeffco high schools. Come out and support the band as they go for their 13th State Championship.

To further support the Marching Band, come to the one-day Mattress Sale Fundraiser on **August 23rd from 10am-5pm**. There will be adjustable bases, mattresses, protectors, and pillows available. This is an opportunity to not only get an unbeatable deal, but support a great cause.



Fall Sports

Be sure to support our student-athletes this fall!
Click the sport below for more information.

[Football](#), [Softball](#), [Boys Soccer](#), [Boys Tennis](#), [Boys Golf](#), [Cheer](#), [Cross Country \(XC\)](#), [Girls Volleyball](#)



Ways to Support D'Evelyn Athletics

If you are interested in attending any D'Evelyn sporting events, tickets can be purchased through [GoFan](#)

If you would like to stream events live, check out the [NFHS Network](#).

Looking for rankings and stats, click [HERE](#) for Max Preps.

Girls Lacrosse

If you are interested in playing high school girls lacrosse, Green Mountain currently has a team. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Check for upcoming events on our [Athletics Calendar](#).
Follow our athletics Instagram page [@develynathletics](#)
for updates and celebrations!

News From the Junior High Counselors

Click [HERE](#) for the Newsletter



News from the High School Counselors

Click [HERE](#) for the Newsletter

News from the Social Emotional Learning Specialist

Kelli Benninghoff, D'Evelyn's SEL, is excited to welcome everyone back to school next Tuesday. Click [HERE](#) to see some tips for returning to school after summer break.

Scheduling

All scheduling changes need to be requested by August 21st. Contact your counselor by then for any requests. To see the rules and policy regarding schedule changes, click [HERE](#).

Parent Mentoring

New Parents: Welcome to D'Evelyn! If you are interested in having a parent mentor help you throughout the school year, please sign up at this link.

<https://forms.gle/s8SuwKP4r96EMEXN6>

Returning Parents: Welcome Back! If you are interested in becoming a mentor for a new family, please sign up at this link. <https://forms.gle/3h8pwTtCZbZNUXW16>

Mentoring might be grabbing a cup of coffee or just answering questions by email. It can be whatever you decide.

College Night

Save the Date, College Night will be on **September 9th at 6pm**. This event is for any families interested in learning more about various aspects of what comes after high school.



D'Evelyn Accountability Committee

August 2026 Update



- First meeting: Tues, Sept 14 5:30-7pm @ Library
 - Meet the new D'Evelyn teachers
 - Learn more about AC –what it does and how you can help
 - Hear updates from Principal Shapiro, Steering Committee, and DEF
 - All parents, teachers, and admin are welcome!
- School Improvement Plan for 2026/2027 (developed by the Accountability Committee and adopted by the Steering Committee):
 1. **Promote Student Retention**
 2. **Continue focus on student well-being and family sense of belonging**
 3. **Create a vision for the future of the D'Evelyn Community**
- Officers for 2026/2027 are Case Collard, Seth LaLiberty, and Vilma Balnyte.
- Contact develynsac@gmail.com with questions

Steering Committee meetings are open to the public and take place twice monthly on Mondays. The next meeting is on: **Monday, August 24 from 4:30-6:30pm** in the library conference room. We adhere to all state of Colorado and Jefferson County School District transparency and open meeting laws.

The meeting agenda includes time for public commentary so that we can hear from our community. If you have questions, want to see the agenda, or want to submit a public commentary, please visit our [website](#) to learn more about the unique role the Steering Committee plays at D'Evelyn Junior & Senior High School.

August 10 Meeting Highlights:

- Votes: Approve new DEF board member Prakriti Jha (Kirti
- Principal Report including hiring updates, 2 Campus Supervisors for this year, SRO to be shared with Deer Creek Middle, District guidance on lawsuit regarding the OCR Title IX issue involving Jeffco, 2026-2027 School Goals, Assistant Principal roles/responsibilities, Communication to community re: student Personal Electronic Devices and parking updates
- Planned Steering Committee Breakfast with school staff
- Finalized Curricular Reviews for 2026-2027
- Preliminary discussion of the Education Freedom Tax Credit (EFTC)
- Committee updates
- New & Upcoming business for future meetings

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about becoming a member of the Steering Committee board as well as [contact information](#) for the board