

The Loma Elementary Carnival!

The Loma Elementary P.T.A. is hosting our annual School Carnival on
September 18th from 5:00 P.M. — 7:00 P.M.
Come and enjoy fun, food, and prizes!

Please sign up with your child's teacher to help with one of our
many fun booths.



Note from the Counselor

Dear Loma Families,

Welcome to a new school year at Loma Elementary! My name is Cassie Ridgway and this will be my 4th year here at Loma as the school counselor. My husband, our two daughters, and I have lived here in Loma for just about 4 years now, and have loved every minute of it! Coming from a ranching family, I have a great passion for raising animals (specifically sheep and horses), so when I am not at school, I can be found raising three little girls and lots of animals. As a school counselor, my primary responsibility is to promote the academic and social/emotional development of all students.

Being a part of the Specials rotation allows me to meet with each class once a month. During this time I will conduct classroom counseling lessons using a curriculum called *Second Steps*. This curriculum will teach students skills to help them become better learners, get along with others, manage their emotions, problem-solve, and much more. Along with these lessons we will have ongoing class discussions that focus on each aspect of **"The Loma Way": Respect, Responsibility, Kindness, and Growth Mindset**. Lessons will help students learn how each aspect looks and feels.

Each month, I will send a **Counselor's Corner** newsletter home that describes our monthly focus and some tips for parents. All students may come to the counseling office to speak informally with me once or twice about an issue that is bothering them. If I need to meet with a student more often on an individual basis about a specific concern, I will contact parents/guardians. Please understand, school-based small group and individual counseling services are not a substitute for community-based mental health services. The focus of a school counselor is to support students' academic and social success in a school setting. I am happy to provide referrals to community-based services upon request. In addition, I will offer small groups where students will work with others who may be dealing with similar life issues. These groups will focus on topics such as grief, changing families, social skills, feelings, friendship, etc. Participation in small groups will happen as students are identified and referred by their classroom teacher, parent or guardian, or by personal request. Small group activities for students will happen during a time that is least disruptive to classroom learning and will happen only with parent permission. I believe that small group workshops can be a powerful way for students to connect and share similar experiences in a safe environment. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at (970)-254-6520 ext. 51103 or email me at cassie.ridgway@d51schools.org at any time. I look forward to sharing a wonderful year with your family!

We are so lucky to have your wonderful children back to school! It has been such a joy seeing their faces, both returning students and new, as they kick off their next big year of learning. In August we focused on building community in classrooms as well as throughout the school. One way we've done this is by continuing to teach students **"The Loma Way"**, which is to demonstrate **Respect, Responsibility, Kindness and a Growth Mindset** in all areas of the school. Students spent time visiting common areas of the school (cafeteria, hallway, playground, etc.) and learning what it looks like to show **"The Loma Way"** in each specific area. This helped students understand the kinds of behaviors expected and needed at Loma School in order to build a positive learning environment for all. Students can earn green Pride tickets for demonstrating those behaviors throughout the school day.

A new idea we're using to build student's sense of belonging and community at Loma is the Star Student of the Week! This is a fun way for students to share about themselves with others so we can learn what makes each member of our community special. Be sure to check out the adorable posters by the cafeteria coat rack!

During the rest of the year we'll be digging more deeply into teaching the four components of **"The Loma Way": Respect, Responsibility, Kindness, and a Growth Mindset**. During the months of September and October we'll be exploring more about **Respect**. I encourage you to ask your student(s) what they've already learned about **"The Loma Way"**!

Nicole Wimsatt
Loma Elementary Principal