THRIVE Times

Sept 2026

THRIVE SPECTACULAR BRINGS OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

The school year kicked off in spectacular fashion with our annual Thrive Spectacular Back-to-School Carnival, a fun-filled evening that brought students, families, staff, and community members together to celebrate the start of another great year. While rain made an appearance it didn't stop the festivities.

There was something for everyone to enjoy! Families were delighted with sounds of live music, while students tested their skills at a variety of carnival games and eagerly visited the prize booth to claim their rewards. The excitement continued with karaoke performances, where students and adults alike took the microphone and shared their favorite songs.

One of the most entertaining highlights of the evening was a visit from the Sheriff of Thrivingham, who kept a watchful eye on the festivities and wasn't afraid to "arrest" a few folks for acts of good-natured shenanigans.

The event also featured a popular Touch-A-Truck experience thanks to our local Fire Department. Families had the opportunity to explore a real fire truck up close, learn about the equipment firefighters use, and meet some of the community heroes who help keep us safe.

Guests enjoyed hamburgers and hot dogs, and for those looking to cool off on a warm evening, the ice cream truck was a favorite stop for sweet treats and smiles.

More than just a carnival, the Thrive Spectacular was an opportunity for our school community to reconnect with old friends, welcome new families, and strengthen the relationships that make our school such a special place. The laughter, conversations, and shared experiences throughout the evening reflected the spirit of connection and belonging that we strive to cultivate every day.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all of the staff members, volunteers, community partners, and families who helped make the event a tremendous success. We are excited for the year ahead and grateful to have kicked it off with such a memorable celebration of our thriving school community.

Here's to a fantastic year of learning, growth, and connection!









WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THRIVE

🗓️ September Events Roundup

September is bursting with opportunities at Thrive Homeschool Academy -from creative clubs to community connections. Whether you're exploring new interests or planning ahead for picture day, we've got you covered.

🎯 **Clubs Begin** 📅 **September 8** Our student clubs are officially underway! Sign-ups closed Aug 31st, and schedules are available in Homeroom. Please note: some clubs have staggered start/end dates, so double-check in Homeroom to ensure you don't miss a day.

🏫 **Show and Stroll** 📅 **September 23 |** ⏰ **3:30–5:00 PM** Step into your student's world at our relaxed, student-led open house. Families will be guided by their children to meet teachers, explore classrooms, and experience the spaces that shape their school day. It's a wonderful way to connect and celebrate learning. - All grades welcome!

🌯 **Chipotle Fundraiser** 📅 **September 23 |** ⏰ **4:00–8:00 PM** We are partnering with the Chipotle in Southgate for a fundraiser. Pair this up with Show and Stroll and it will be a fun family night! 25% of sales come back to Thrive. You can order online (direct from Chipotle's site **Use Promo Code 6VLL7J2**) or go in person with a flyer (see email or front office).

📸 **Picture Days** 📅 **September 29–October 2** Say cheese! Picture Days are scheduled by grade level on the day each student attends classes. If your student will be absent on their assigned day, they're welcome to come in on another day. Additional details will be sent soon - stay tuned.

🛼 **Skate City Glow Party** 📅 **October 5 |** ⏰ **4:00–6:00 PM**
Private Skate Glow Party at Skate City on Academy just for the Thrive community! Admission is $7.00 per skater, plus $5.00 for skate rental if needed. Not only will you have a great time skating and connecting with other Thrive families, but you'll also be supporting our school. Skate City will donate a portion of the event proceeds back to Thrive, and if we reach 200 skaters, they'll contribute an incredible $1,000 donation to our school! Feel free to invite a friend or two and help us reach our goal. We can't wait to see you there for an evening of fun, fellowship, and community spirit!

We're excited to share this September with you—full of creativity, connection, and community spirit. Keep this roundup handy, mark your calendars, and we'll see you at Thrive! 💚 Here's to a month of growth, exploration, and chameleon-style adaptability!

Read More On
www. thrivehsa. org

Updates & Reminders

A Special Thank You to Our Carnival Supporters

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the many volunteers, staff members, and local businesses who helped make this year's Back-to-School Carnival such a memorable event. Your generosity, time, and support brought smiles to our students and families and helped create a fun-filled evening for our school community.

We are especially grateful to:

- Colorado Springs Fire Department for bringing a fire truck for our students to explore.
- Angelina Tesen, Sloan McCrary, Heidi Guzman and Michaela Smith and their families for volunteering their time to run carnival games.
- All of our teachers and staff who helped organize, set up, run activities, and tear down the event.
- Bimbo Bakeries for generously donating all of the hamburger and hot dog buns.
- Ranch Foods Direct for donating the hamburgers.
- Sam's Club for donating hot dogs.
- Mr. Williams for sponsoring the live music, and Music & Arts for providing the entertainment.

Thank you for partnering with us and investing in our school community. Events like our Back-to-School Carnival are only possible because of the generosity, dedication, and support of people like you. We are grateful for each of you and the role you played in making this year's carnival such a wonderful success!

Pick Up Line

After a successful first week of afternoon pick-up, we are off to a great start! Thank you to all of our families for helping the process run smoothly by following our pick-up line procedures.

If your family still needs an elementary car tag, please stop by the front office and we will be happy to make one for you.

As a friendly reminder, please do not park in the pick-up lane during dismissal so traffic can continue moving safely and efficiently. Also, please pull all the way forward to help keep the line moving and allow more students to be picked up quickly. Thank you for your cooperation and support!

August Event Survey

August was filled with exciting events, and we'd love to hear from you! If you or your student attended any of our August activities, your feedback will help us continue improving and making these experiences even better next year.

If you have a few minutes, please consider completing our short survey about any of the following events:

- K-2 Orientation
- Grab & Go Information Event
- High School Retreat
- Back-to-School Carnival

Your thoughts, suggestions, and insights are valuable to us. Please click the link below to share your feedback. Thank you for partnering with us to create meaningful experiences for our students and families!

August Events Survey

Updates & Reminders

CDE Survey

CDE Recently put out a survey for parents across Colorado to provide input as to why families choose the method of schooling they do, including Homeschool Enrichment Programs. They plan to use this to help policy makers better understand the diverse needs and choices families make as they consider how state funding and resources can best support students and families. Your perspective is important! You can voice your opinion here:

Parent/Guardian Survey

Holiday Shoppe

Thanks to your kindness, we've already collected 250+ donations!
A quick reminder: Please clean any items you plan to donate.
Our donation goal is 800-1,000, and we're hoping to gather a wide variety of gifts for all. We are still looking for father gifts and wrapping supplies (tape, bags etc...).
Thank you all for your continued generosity!

Fall Clubs

Fall clubs begin the week of September 7th. Please check homeroom to confirm your students enrollments, meeting dates and times.If your child is on a waitlist, be sure to keep an eye out to see if a position opens up for the semester.

A quick reminder, students must have supervision when on campus. Children not enrolled in a club will need to be picked up at dismissal after school.

Theater Donations

The Theater Department at Thrive will soon be underway with rehearsals and the building of sets, props, and costumes for both the Winter and Spring Plays, but we could use your help! If you have any of the following items and are willing to donate them to the production, we'd sure appreciate it! If you would like the items returned after use, please let us know and we'll do our best to accommodate that need. Thank you!

Items Needed for Not A Christmas Carol play:

Costumes:

- Top hats (black or brown)
- Green cloak/robe (ala Father Christmas)
- Red cloak/robe (ala Father Christmas)
- Blue cloak/robe (ala Father Christmas)

Props:

- Tall electric candles
- Christmas decorations

Sets:

- Fake fireplace
- Red wingback chair (ala Masterpiece Theater)
- Rolling blackboard (think old school room)

Items Needed for Through the Looking Glass Play:

Costumes:

- Top hats (colorful is okay for this one)
- Animal onesies
- White button-up shirts
- Black pants
- Black ties

Props that are returnable at end of show:

- Fake oysters
- Electric tealights (small)

Props that will not be returnable:

- Colorful teacups and saucers, also white and black teacups and saucers
- Fake white roses
- Croquet set

Updates & Reminders

Library Request

Each enrolled student is eligible for up to $50 in requested materials for the 2026/27 school year that can be added to our library. Requests are for educational materials to be used at home by Thrive students. All orders will be placed through our district-approved vendor, Amazon. Materials intended for repeated use (textbooks, chapter books, etc.) will be added to the Thrive library collection and checked out to your student. Library materials may be kept for as long as your student is enrolled at Thrive and should be returned when they are no longer needed (or withdrawn from the school), so other families may benefit from them. Consumable requested items will be provided to families and will not be processed through the library system.

Parents may request items from two categories:

·Books

·Educational supplies

To align with state requirements, we are only able to order educational materials that could also be used in District 2 classrooms.

Ordering Windows

August 1 – October 31, 2026

January 4 – February 28, 2027

Although Thrive will collect all order requests, District 2 will be placing orders on Thrive's behalf; items will need to meet their parameters. Thrive will manage the receiving and distribution of each family order. Click below to put in your requests.

ORDER FORM LINK

Lost & Found

Believe it or not we have already starting compililng items in our Lost & Found. Please be sure to label your children's items (water bottles, lunch boxes, jackets) so we can help get them back to you at the end of the day.

Also, when you come in please take a peek to see if there is anything that might below to you!

New Website

Our new website is live and your new place to find out all Thrive-related information. We are still going through and updating information, so if you see something that looks out of place (or don't see something you are looking for), please let us know!

www.thsa.hsd2.org



The Chameleon Chronicle

Come take a look at Thrive's community, where Petunia the Chameleon tracks and shares the colorful highlights of student and staff's journeys at Thrive- one fun story at a time.

Staff

Students

Staff Spotlight

In this month's edition of getting to know each other: meet Ms. Denise one of Thrive's para-professionals.



If you've spent any time around our K-2 students, you've probably met the one and only Ms. Denise. For the past nine years, she has been a beloved part of our school family, known for her spunky spirit, quick wit, and enormous heart for children. Ms. Denise is a master at making students feel seen, loved, and encouraged.

☕ Fuel of Choice: Coffee (with extra flavors).

🎤Theme song: Trolls- Can't Stop this Feeling

🏥 Childhood dream job: Pediatrician- showing that her passion for caring for children started at an early age.

🗓️ Her favorite thing about September: Her moms birthday.

Superhero name: she said.... ahem... Super Villian

While her superhero name is still under development, we know she'd have a superpower for making children feel loved and helping them believe in themselves.

When asked what message she would like to share with her students, Ms. Denise didn't hesitate:

"You're not allowed to age out of K-2."

That response says it all. Ms. Denise's students always hold a special place in her heart, no matter how much they grow.

Thank you, Ms. Denise, for nine years of dedication, laughter, love, and unwavering support for our students. We are so grateful for the joy you bring to our school community every day!

Student Spotlight

Meet Mercy, one of our 2nd grade students!



Meet Mercy, one of our amazing second-grade students!

When it comes to staying energized, Mercy keeps it simple. While many adults reach for coffee, she says her fuel of choice is water. It's what helps her get ready for the day and stay focused.

Mercy's favorite song is "Broken Halos," and when she grows up, she hopes to become an architect. She loves walking around her house measuring things and imagining how buildings are designed and put together.

One of Mercy's favorite things about September is the chance to rake leaves and jump into big piles of them. Fall fun is definitely at the top of her list!

If Mercy could give Ms. Denise a superhero name, it would be Captain Batman Helper because, in her words, "She's in charge, my brother loves Batman, and she always helps."

As for her own superhero identity? She would proudly be known as Captain Mercy!

Mercy says she loves coming to Thrive and especially enjoys practicing her writing in class. We are so proud of her creativity, enthusiasm, and love of learning. Keep shining, Captain Mercy!



Come see all the fun things we are learning at Thrive this month!

Kindergarten with Mrs. Paige

Week 1: Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, Letters and Numbers, engineering toothpicks/marshmallows
Week 2: Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, making coconut trees, floating and sinking, Letters & Numbers
Week 3: Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, making bubbles, Letters & Numbers
Week 4: Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, light transparent/Opaque, letters & Numbers
Week 5: Apple Tasting, Graphing, hundreds chart, engineering with straws and paper

1st Grade with Mrs. Stamos

Sept 1 & 2 Theme: Friendship
Writing: practicing lines
Math: Ways to make 10
Science: I am a Scientist!

Sept. 8 & 9 Theme: I am an artist!
Reading: character traits
Writing: Ll
Science: chromatography

Sept. 15 & 16 Theme: Laura Numeroff
Reading: compare and contrast
Writing: Ii
Math: addition problems
Social Studies: biomes

Sept. 22 & 23 Theme: Circus! Circus!
Reading: cause and effect
Writing: Ee
Math: operations of subtraction
Science: biomes

Sept. 29 & 30
Theme: Apples
Reading: facts and details
Writing: Ff
Math: fractions with apples
Science: apple experiment

2nd Grade with Mrs. Brunk

This month we will be studying:

Language Arts-
Phonics/Phonemic Awareness:
Review of vowel sounds, vowel teams, and consonant blends

Comprehension: Main Idea, Supporting Details, Text Features

Math-
Addition Fluency
Place Value to 100s Place

Social Studies-
-My Classroom Community- Respect

Science-
States of Matter- Various experiments







SCIENCE & PE with Mr. Redd

3rd & 4th grade: Human Senses
Students will explore how our five senses help us understand and interact with the world around us. Through hands-on activities and experiments, they'll investigate how the eyes, ears, nose, tongue, and skin gather information and send it to the brain.

5th & 6th grade: Exploring our Ecosystem
Students will dig into the relationships between living things and their environments, learning how energy and resources flow through food chains and webs. Expect outdoor observation and activities that build a foundation for thinking like ecologists.

7th & 8th grade: Foundations of Chemistry
Students will be introduced to the building blocks of matter, including atoms, elements, and basic chemical reactions. Early weeks will focus on safe lab practices and hands-on experiments that make abstract concepts concrete.

High School Biology: Introduction and Cell Theory
Students will kick off the year studying the cell as the basic unit of life, from single-celled organisms up through multicellular systems. This sets the foundation for the semester's progression toward more complex living organisms.

P.E.: Calisthenics and Teambuilding
Students will start the year building strength and body-awareness through calisthenics, paired with activities designed to build communication and teamwork. It's a great way to kick off the year building both fitness habits and a strong class community.

Theater with Mrs. Meredith

Theater (All Levels): An introduction to creativity and innovation in the Theater classroom.
Speech and Debate: Learning the difference between debate and argument.
Shakespeare: Beginning our study of Much Ado About Nothing.
Live @ Thrive: Making plans for the rest of the year and assigning roles in the newsroom.

Parent Note: This year, in Shakespeare, we will be examining and discussing all of Shakespeare's works, with an in-depth focus on these plays in particular:

- Much Ado About Nothing
- Tempest
- Macbeth
- Taming of the Shrew
- Hamlet
- Histories: Richard II, Henry IV, V, VI, Richard III

Please note that there will be certain content that cannot be avoided, but we will be maintaining a mature and school-appropriate outlook. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at any time throughout the semester.

ART with Mrs. Cobb

3rd & 4th grade: Clay
5th & 6th grade: Clay
7th & 8th Grade: Glass Fusion
Art I: Paint Pouring
Advanced Art: Painting with Coffee

Band with Mr. Williams

Beginner Band (5th-6th)

- Develop foundational technical skills on chosen instruments.
- Establish basic rehearsal etiquette and ensemble participation.
- Focus on essential technique and beginning note reading.

Middle School Band

- Focus on foundational technical skills and essential ensemble techniques.
- Begin exploring intermediate developmental concert literature.
- Improve ensemble blend and collaborative rehearsal skills.

Wind Ensemble

- Perform a diverse range of concert literature.
- Emphasize the development of core musical skills, ensemble blend, and technical growth.
- Engage with advanced concert repertoire.

Social Studies with Mr. Grady

Grades 3-4

Studying the historical and cultural history of Colorado.The students will concentrate on state symbols, Mesa Verde, the mountain men and the contributions of the American bison to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians.

Grades 5-6

The RMC Titanic, its short-lived history and tragic ending.



English Language Arts with Mrs. Anderson

3rd Grade

9/1-9/9: Students will be creating a poster about themselves.
9/15-9/30: Students will be studying fables.

4th Grade

9/1 and 9/2: Students will be learning about idioms.
9/9 and 9/10: Students will be learning about Lewis and Clark and journal writing.
9/22-9/30: "Flying"

5th/6th Grade

9/1-9/9: Variations of Fairy Tales
9/15 -9/16: Create a Fairy Tale
9/23 and 9/24: Students will be writing about their favorite memory.
9/30 and 10/1: Students will do an art project about their favorite memory.

7th/8th Grade

9/3: Getting to Know You
9/10: Vocabulary for "I Have a Dream"
9/17-10/1: "I Have a Dream"

Senior Seminar

9/4 & 9/11: Students will be helping create the Senior Seminar curriculum.
9/18 & 10/2: TBD after student contributions.

E.L.A.

9/4: Students will be learning about learning styles.
9/11 & 9/18: Students will be doing a unit on leadership.
9/25-10/2: Meditations Marcus Aurelius

Creative Writing

9/4: Curriculum Ideas
9/11 - 10/2: TBD after student contributions.

Sports Broadcasting

9/4: Students will be helping create the Sports Broadcasting curriculum.
9/25-10/2: TBD after student contributions.

Elementary Music with Mrs. Grady

K & 1st Grades
During music class throughout September, Kindergarteners and first graders will be moving, singing, clapping, and playing rhythm instruments to focus on steady beat as well as sound and silence.

2nd Grade
Second graders will be reading icons and music notation to learn about the differences between steady beat and rhythm, reviewing quarter notes, 8th notes, and quarter rests.

3 & 4th Grade
Students will be using classroom rhythm instruments, and in honor of our nation's 250th, will be singing and listening to patriotic music.

5th & 6th Grade
Students will be drumming, reviewing rhythmic notation, and in honor of our nation's 250th, will be singing and listening to patriotic music.



MUSIC & PFL 7 - 12 with Mr. Mattingly

Music Appreciation
Music Appreciation students will be starting with our most important skill set - understanding the difference between their personal preferences and the quality of the music. We will also start exploring the concept of musical influences, how each artists is standing on the shoulders of those who went before them.

Music Production
Students will assemble their personal classroom studio, learn the basics of how the gear and Garageband work, and then use this equipment to create an initial project. Across this course we will be using collaboration to create multiple projects in an iterative process.

Personal Finance
Students will be starting with the most important aspect of personal finance - the psychology of money and how our emotions and preferences can affect our financial decisions more than our intellectual knowledge of proper money management. Because knowledge is only potent if implemented, we'll be learning about the roadblocks that all people face when trying to use good financial techniques.