



DEER CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL

JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

9201 W Columbine Dr, Littleton, CO 80128

Phone 303-982-3820 | Fax 303-982-3821 | Attendance: 303-982-3809

the mountaineer

Helpful Links

[Deer Creek Website](#)

[Jeffco Public Schools](#)



[Deer Creek PTO](#)



[Deer Creek Facebook](#)

Advertising in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by the school or district.

A Word From the Principal

Dear Deer Creek Families,

As we wrap up our first full month of the school year, I am continually reminded of what makes Deer Creek Middle School such an exceptional place to learn and grow. Our Mountaineers have jumped right into the semester with energy, focus, and a whole lot of school pride.

I want to take a moment to celebrate a few standout highlights from these opening weeks:

1. Exceptional Effort on MAP Testing

Our students recently completed their fall MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessments. I have incredibly high expectations for our students and was not surprised by the diligence and perseverance shown across all grade levels. Testing days can be demanding, but our students approached their assessments with focus and a genuine commitment to showing what they know. These results give our teachers valuable insights to tailor instruction and support every student's academic growth this year.

2. Exemplifying PEAK Expectations with Guest Teachers

At Deer Creek, we hold our PEAK expectations close to heart with students always being Prepared, Engaged, Accountable, Kind and Respectful in everything we do. I am especially proud of how our students demonstrate these values when guest teachers step into our classrooms. Visiting educators frequently compliment our school culture, noting how polite, helpful, and respectful our Mountaineers are. Thank you, students, for representing Deer Creek so well!

3. Energetic Support for Our POP Fundraiser

A huge thank you to all our families and students who participated in our annual POP Fundraiser! The enthusiasm in the halls has been contagious, and your generous support directly funds student activities, classroom resources, and school-wide events throughout the year. We are deeply grateful for our supportive community. Our students are excited to participate in the fast-approaching Day of Awesomeness.

4. Charger Pride at the Chatfield Pep Rally

Our community spirit was on full display when our students joined in the Chatfield High School Pep Rally! It was wonderful to see our Mountaineers celebrating alongside our feeder high school, showcasing their school pride, and experiencing the incredible energy of the Chatfield Charger community. Seeing our students connect with their future high school home was a true highlight of the month.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership, encouragement, and support as we build

continued...

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Newsletter



...to learn more about
these great companies!

A Word From the Principal, continued...

momentum for a fantastic school year ahead. As always, please reach out if you have any questions or if there is anything our team can do to support your student.

Thank you to Deer Creek friends and families!

The PTO annual fundraiser has ended, and thanks to the generosity of Deer Creek families and friends, **\$25,425 was raised this year**. These funds will be used at Deer Creek Middle School to:

- Bridge District-to-School Funding Gaps: Directly offset severe budget shortfalls by replacing reduced central funding, ensuring that crucial school-level programs, staffing support, and daily operational needs remain fully intact.
- Provide Essential Tech & Instructional Supplies: Supply classrooms with critical resources that go beyond basic budgets—including updated classroom technology and supplemental curriculum materials.
- Sustain a High-Quality Learning Environment & Thriving School Culture: Protect our student experience by funding PEAK incentives that keep our students focused and engaged.

We had over 325 students participate and qualify for the Best Day Ever/Day of Awesomeness on Friday, October 2nd, by either registering with 10 contacts and/or raising at least \$50.

Halloween is coming up. As you are planning for costumes, please be aware of the following guidelines for students on the 31st.

As we approach the Halloween season, I want to take a moment to share how we, as a school community, strive to make this time of year enjoyable and inclusive for all of our students and families.

Halloween can be a fun and imaginative holiday that encourages creativity and community spirit. At the same time, we recognize that not all students celebrate Halloween in the same way—or at all. For some, cultural, religious, or personal beliefs may lead them to opt out of certain festivities. Others may have sensory sensitivities, dietary restrictions, or financial barriers that make participation in traditional ways challenging.

Please see the [flyer linked here](#) and attached at the end of this newsletter for student guidelines on October 31st. Please leave Halloween candy and treats at home.

Emergency School Closures

When weather is harsh, Jeffco may close schools to keep students and staff safe. Jeffco families and staff are notified via School Messenger through phone call, email, or text message. You determine how you get messages by setting up notifications in Campus Portal. The district will place information on its hotline at 303-982-6600, on its website at www.jeffcopublicschools.org, on Facebook and Twitter. The local news channels are also alerted so they may broadcast school closures.

What are the possibilities during a weather situation?

2-hour delay schedule: A 2-hour delay at the start of school due to bad weather. A late start decision will be made as early as possible and direct notification will be by 6:00 AM. Buses are delayed two hours, and students are not expected to arrive at school until two hours after the regular start time. There will be limited staff at schools to supervise any early-arriving students.

Snow day: The determination to cancel school for an entire day will happen as early as possible. Families and staff will be directly notified by 6:00 AM

Warmly,
Brandon Hall
Principal, Deer Creek Middle School



FUNdue with the Family

Saturdays & Sundays / 11–4 P.M.
Beginning October 10, 2026
Reservations Required

-  Complimentary Hayride
-  **\$60**
Per Person
4-Course Preset Dinner
-  **\$10**
Costume
Discount on Reg. 4-Course Dinner

*Kids 10 & Under Eat Free.
Additional kiddos: \$25

Melting Pot
Littleton

Fall Student Parent Teacher Conferences

2026 Fall Conferences Information and Sign Ups Link

- **Conference Sign Up is now open and closes Wednesday Oct 7.** Conferences are In Person at Deer Creek Middle School.
- **Review your student's Tri 1 schedule and grades before signing up for conferences.** You will only sign up for teachers that your student currently has in Trimester 1.
- **Plan to bring your student with you to conferences.**
- **Conferences are scheduled with individual teachers and are 5 min in length*, per teacher.** You will move between teacher classrooms for each 5 min conference. Come prepared so you can make the most of your 5 minutes with each teacher.
*Conferences with Learning Specialists, Counselors and Social Work are 10 minutes in length
- **Conferences are optional and teachers' 5 min time slots are limited.** Please prioritize scheduling with just the teachers you really need to meet with - **you do NOT need to schedule a conference with all teachers**
 - If you do not need an in-person appointment with your student's teacher, but would still like to touch base, please email the teacher

Due to a limited number of conference slots, you may not be able to schedule with all teachers you would like to meet with. In this case, please reach out to the teacher directly via email.

Please allow at least 5 minutes between teachers you sign up for, so you have time to move between classrooms.

- If you miss your scheduled time slot with a teacher, you will need to contact that teacher via email to arrange an alternate time for a brief conversation. We cannot accommodate conference rescheduling the night of conferences.

[Fall 2026 Conference Sign Ups Link](#)

Winter 2027 Conference Family Survey

We are reviewing our current conference structures and would like to collect community input to ensure winter conferences are meaningful and useful for families.

This survey should take approximately 2–3 minutes. Thank you for helping us better understand what families want and need from winter conferences.



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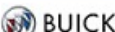
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 Castle Rock Chevy Buick GMC
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September Mountaineers of the Month

Each of these students has demonstrated PEAK (Prepared, Engaged, Accountable, and Kind and Respectful) behavior and in doing so, is being recognized as our top Mountaineers for September.

6th Grade

Brynn Jessee - Brynn consistently exhibits PEAK expectations. She is always engaged in the learning and produces quality work. Brynn is a very polite and kind student.

Noelle (Noey) Parker - Noey is respectful and consistently asks if she can help around the classroom once she is done with her work. She is a wonderful example of PEAK expectations. Adding on, she also takes control of her learning with respect and resilience and strikes a powerful balance between being engaged, and leaving space for her classmates to shine.

7th Grade

Annabelle Krimmer - Annabelle has been incredibly helpful, kind and respectful. She is always willing to help out others and works hard in class.

Cameron Jussel - Cameron consistently asks questions to clarify his understanding. He takes ownership of his work and it shows every day.

8th Grade

Vivi Sacks - Vivi shows up, works very hard, and is willing to work with anyone at the school despite being new to DCMS.

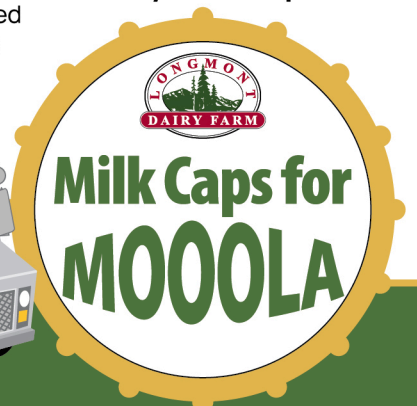
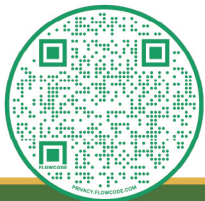
Stella Scott - Stella is consistently kind and helpful to those around her. She is always engaged in class and is willing to take a leadership role with opportunities like Student Council. She is a great example for PEAK expectations.



(L-R Tessa Rathjen-Assistant Principal, Annabelle Krimmer, Stella Scott, Vivi Sacks, Cameron Jussel, Brynn Jessee, Noelle Parker, Brandon Hall-Principal)

Earn cash for your school! Save Longmont Dairy Milk Caps.

Longmont Dairy Farm will donate 5¢ per LDF produced product bottle cap. Schools are free to spend these funds as they wish to benefit students.



To sign up, use this QR code or go to LongmontDairy.com/mooola.html

From the Dean - Kyle Kimberlin

Sweater/Jacket Weather!

Fall is here and with it comes cool mornings and beautiful afternoons. This is the time that we can also have some unpredictable weather just like last Friday! Remind your student to check the weather report each day and come to school prepared to go outside during recess. Students have 25 minutes of continuous outside time opposite their lunch every day and we will be outdoors whenever possible. Students must come to school prepared with a warmer jacket or coat for cool and even cold temperatures!

School IDs

Families may not realize that students are expected to have their school ID every day, especially at lunch. Students scan their ID when getting lunch or snacks. With limited time for lunch, and all students having access to a free lunch, it is important that students have their ID to make the process efficient. Students without an ID must wait until all students with an ID have gone through the line because it takes more time without the ability to scan the ID and set up the keypad. The fastest way to get lunch is to bring their student ID every day.

For students who have lost their ID, they can purchase a new one in the office for \$5. Students who continually fail to bring their ID to lunch will contact a parent/guardian to problem solve and could receive school consequences. Please help your student practice preparedness. Old IDs from past years, as long as they were from a Jeffco school, will also work. You can also now print a paper ID from Campus by having your student login to their Campus profile - all that is needed is the barcode.

Helpful Communication

At Deer Creek we are committed to supporting your students, and we need some help from families. If your student tells you something has happened at school or has a concern or challenge, please reach out. It is possible your student has not reported this issue to someone at school, or assumes an adult already knows something is wrong or challenging. There can be a difference between what is shared at home with what is shared at school, so we appreciate it when a parent/guardian asks for more information. Check in with a teacher, counselor or admin if you need clarification, want to verify a story, or would like someone to follow up or check in with your student. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with you to support your Deer Creek Mountaineer.

I hope you have opportunities this month to enjoy the Colorado fall season!

Kyle Kimberlin

Deer Creek Spirit Wear is available to order through October 16th



Go to this form to place your order - [Deer Creek Spirit Wear Order Form](#)

- **All payments must be received by 4pm on Wednesday, October 21st,** or your order will not be processed.
- **Spirit wear will be given to your student sometime during the week of November 9th** (as long as payment has been received by the above deadline).
- If you have requested that your order will be picked up, we will contact you to let you know when it is ready. If the order is not picked up by 4pm on Thursday November 19th, the order will be delivered to the student on Friday, November 20th.

Library/Student Council Update

Library Update

JCPL Library Card

Does your student have their own Jefferson County Public Library card? Did you know that you can do a lot more than just check out physical books? A public library card gives students access to research websites, homework help, language apps, state parks, museums, audio and eBooks!

If your student has a public library card, please allow them to keep it at school or in their backpack. This will allow them to log in and access important resources at school.

If your student does not have a public library card, they can get an application from the DCMS library or print one up [here](#). Applications can be dropped off at the DCMS library. A JCPL librarian will be at Deer Creek in October to pass out library cards for all students with a completed application.

Because this is a public library, your student will have access to a variety of books and content. We encourage you to check in with your student frequently to ensure the content they are accessing aligns with your family values.

Book It!

The Pizza Hut BOOK IT! program is back! This is an optional reading program for our 6th grade students. Interested **students** can fill out [this form](#). It is also posted in 6th grade Base Camps. The goal is for students to read an average of 20 minutes every day. Each month that the goal is met they will earn a personal pizza from Pizza Hut. Mrs. Zanetti will work with students to record their progress and award certificates. The BOOK IT! Program is available for our 6th grade students only.

Library Books:

The library is open and available for book check out. Books are checked out for 3 weeks at a time. There are no overdue book fines in Jeffco. However, a fine will be placed on your student's account for any books that are lost or damaged beyond repair.

If a library book needs to be renewed your student can stop by the library or email Mrs Zanetti. The book does not need to be present to be renewed!

We have been increasing our library collection to reflect the diverse population at our school. Please take a moment to read [this letter](#) regarding our library collection.

Student Council Update

Selection for this year's Student Council is officially wrapping up, with one student representative being chosen to give each Base Camp a voice while planning and implementing Spirit Weeks, school-wide activities (for example: last year's Clue and Olympics), hat days, clothing drive and fundraising opportunities.

- **Application & Review:** Students submitted applications sharing why they would be a great leader for their peers. Teacher recommendations were also gathered during this stage.
- **Blind Runoffs:** In Base Camps with multiple applicants, candidates participated in a blind review based on their written response to the prompt: "What makes you the right person to represent your Base Camp classmates?"
- **Final Selections:** Final decisions were determined by carefully weighing teacher recommendations, runoff results, and direct input from Base Camp teachers.
- **Ongoing Meetings:** Student Council will meet monthly during lunch. There should be little impact or time outside school hours.

A big thank you to all the students who stepped up and applied!

[Here is our list of Student Council members for the 26-27 school year.](#)

Deer Creek Yearbook

Eighth grade parents. It's not too early to start thinking about a dedication ad for the yearbook. The price is \$15 until December 31 and increases to \$25 in January. The FINAL deadline is January 31.



To access the DCMS ad templates, use the following access information:

1. Go to <https://www.yearbookordercenter.com> • Enter the School Code: 6131 • Choose: Buy a Yearbook Ad
2. Create your ad with past and/or present photos of your child. Add a congratulatory message.
3. Pay for your ad with a debit/credit card on the website to complete your order.

The Yearbook staff needs your help. Covering every aspect of the school year, every classroom, and every student is important to us. If you take photos of your students, you can easily share them by visiting this website yearbookshare.com and entering the school code Deercreek. Please include important details such as names of students, activity description, and date.

Mental Health Corner

October 10th is World Mental Health Day—a great reminder that taking care of mental health should be an everyday priority. School gets stressful for our kids, and real progress starts when we check in on each other, drop the stigma, and offer real support when things get heavy.

Depression is common, and it's a lot deeper than just having a rough week. It often shows up as feeling constantly drained, losing motivation for stuff you usually love, or struggling to focus on schoolwork. When ignored, it can bleed into your daily life, relationships, and grades.

Taking care of your mind also means stepping away from the screen and the books. Getting outside for some fresh air does wonders for your head—and with the November 1st time change right around the corner, we definitely need to soak up every bit of daylight while we can!

Mental health matters just as much as physical health, and every student deserves the space and support to thrive. Let's keep looking out for one another!

Help support our Deer Creek SSN and FCCLA programs at King Soopers

If you sign up for King Soopers Community Rewards, then a portion of what you spend will be donated to Deer Creek to benefit our SSN and FCCLA programs. It only takes a couple of minutes! Please use the instructions below to sign up.

1. Sign in to your digital account.
2. Search for your organization [here](#).
3. Search for Deer Creek FCCLA or Deer Creek Middle School SSN Program
4. Select from the list and click "Save".

Ali Goecks (FACS) and Rachael Stevens (SSN)

Destination Imagination at Deer Creek MS

☀️ Creative Thinkers Wanted: Join Destination Imagination!

Informative videos:

- [What does Destination Imagination Mean to You?](#)
- [Why Parents Choose Destination Imagination](#)
- [Why kids love Destination Imagination?](#)
- There's a lot more on YouTube!

Calling all creative thinkers! Do you like to build, create, perform, design, invent, or solve problems? Destination Imagination (DI) is coming to DCMS, and we are looking for students to join our team!

What: DI is an international STEAM creative problem-solving competition where small teams work together to take on exciting challenges. Whether you enjoy engineering, technology, building, writing stories, acting, art, or designing costumes and props, there is a place for you. Your team chooses a challenge, develops its own creative solution, and presents it at the Jeffco Regional Tournament in March!

Who: DCMS students who want to create, collaborate, and try something new—no experience required!

Commitment: Team members must be able to commit to one 1.5-hour meeting each week, the Jeffco Regional Tournament on March 13, and, if the team advances, the State Tournament on April 3. We'll work, create, and problem-solve together throughout the DI season!

Why join? Make new friends, learn new skills, challenge yourself, and bring your ideas to life!

Interested? Come to our short DI informational meeting on **Wednesday, October 21 at 6 pm** to learn more and see if DI is right for you. Can't make the meeting but want to learn more? Contact Jennifer Hedger at DCMS.DI@gmail.com

Come imagine what your team can create! 🚀



Deer Creek Middle School PTO News - September 2026

October 2026 PTO News

DEER CREEK PTO 2.0 - Same Mission. Fresh Approach.

Read through the specifics in our [DCMS PTO 2.0 Letter](#).



September was very busy with our PoP! Fundraiser, 8th Grade Luau, and Skate City and Raising Cane's spirit nights! Thank you to all of the families who supported students with their fundraising efforts. And, thank you to the parent volunteers who handed out fundraiser prizes for students, assisted with the social, and supported our spirit nights! We're excited to kick off October with the Best Day Ever on October 2nd and celebrate our students' efforts toward raising funds for the school.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Oct 2: Best Day Ever! (PoP! participation reward) - [Best Day Ever Volunteer Signup](#)
- Oct 5: PTO Meeting
 - Email questions or ideas to deercreekpto1@gmail.com or check out our [website](#)!
- Oct 14: Spirit Night at Chipotle!
- Oct 14-15: Teacher Conference Meals
- Oct 29: 7th Grade Social - Keep an eye out for **Permission Slip** and **Volunteer Sign Ups**!

Stock the Snack Shack

Let's show our teachers and school staff our appreciation! The PTO stocks a Snack Shack in the staff lounge throughout the school year to help fuel the amazing individuals who make DCMS a special place for our kids! Each grade level will be responsible for donations for one trimester - with 8th grade supporting Trimester 1. Please consider making a donation! **Eighth grade families, please sign up here to donate:** [8th Grade Snack Shack Sign-up](#).

Fall Fundraiser

Our POP! Fall fundraiser concluded last month, and students who participated are looking forward to the Best Day Ever on **Friday, October 2nd**! This event can only take place if we have enough parent volunteers. We hope you'll join us and help the students celebrate with a well-earned reward! Please sign up to help here [Best Day Ever Volunteer Signup](#).



Power of Purpose!

We had 328 qualifying students and over \$25,000 in NET profits in just two weeks! Phenomenal job, DCMS!

Teacher Conference Dinners

The PTO will be providing dinners for our teachers and staff who are staying late for Fall conferences on the evenings of October 14-15. We would love your help in decorating for the dinners and cleaning up afterward. Please keep an eye out for the sign up, if you are able to assist!

7th Grade Social

Don't miss the 7th grade Social on **Thursday, October 29, at 6:00-7:30pm at DCMS**. Be on the lookout for additional information, as well as volunteer opportunities, in the coming weeks in the Deer Creek Weekly Updates & Reminder emails!

Help Needed!

We're still looking to fill our remaining board and committee chair positions for the 2026-27 year. Please visit the [DCMS PTO About Us](#) page for detailed descriptions, or email us at deercreekpto1@gmail.com if you would like to learn more - we'd love to have you join us!

Deer Creek Middle School PTO News, continued...

Fall Spirit Night!

Looking for an easy weeknight dinner solution? Stop by our participating partners during our scheduled spirit nights to grab a delicious dinner while also supporting DCMS!



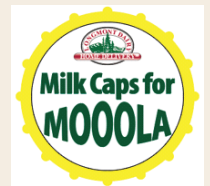
Wednesday, October 14: 4-8pm
Chipotle
 12512 W Ken Caryl Ave.

Milk Caps for Mooola

Milk Caps for Mooola is a program sponsored by Longmont Dairy that helps students earn money for their schools. Longmont Dairy milk caps are worth 5¢ each and are redeemable for cash!

How does the program work?

1. Drink Longmont Dairy products
(Eligible cap products include: Milk, Chocolate Milk, Strawberry Milk, Half & Half, Whipping Cream, Orange Juice, Lemonade, Raspberry Lemonade, and Classic and Cinnamon Eggnog.)
2. Save the bottle caps. Save as many as you can—from your bottles, or collect them from your family and neighbors.
3. Bring your milk caps to school and put them into the collection box in the school office.



**Sponsorship space in this
 newsletter
 is extremely affordable!**

**Reach parents in your local community
 and a significant portion of your
 investment goes back to the school!**
**Want to sponsor this school? Please
 contact Rob Mangelson at**
Rob@tscacolorado.com
or (720) 878-4107.

Sponsor This School!

YOUR NAME HERE

Rob Mangelson
(720) 878-4107
Rob@tscacolorado.com

The School Communications Agency
Supporting Schools & Local Businesses

The School Communications Agency

Upcoming Events

October

1	October Count Day (Student Attendance VERY Important!)
2	PTO Fundraiser Best Day Ever/Day of Awesomeness
5	PTO Meeting 6:00-7:00 pm/SAC Meeting 7:30 pm
6-9	6th Grade to Outdoor Lab
7	NASA Hunch Field Trip (w/ Mr. Cataldo) 9:15 am - 1:15 pm
12	Fall Break - School Closed
13	Fall Break –No School for Students - Staff Development Day
14	Fall Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:30 - 7:30 pm
14	PTO Spirit Night Chipotle (Ken Caryl) 4:00 - 8:00 pm
15	Fall Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:30 - 7:30 pm
20	Theatre Field Trip to Arvada Center
29	7 th Grade Halloween Social 6:00 – 7:30 pm
30	SSN and Mentors Field Trip - Bowling 9:40 am - 1:35 pm
30	Halloween Dress Up Guidelines

November

2	PTO Meeting 6:00 - 7:00 pm/SAC Meeting
5	Instrumental Music Fall Concert 6:30 pm
13	End of Trimester 1
16	Start of Trimester 2
18	Chatfield Future Charger Night Open House 6-8 pm Chatfield High School
23-27	Thanksgiving Break - School Closed



HALLOWEEN COSTUME GUIDELINES



Follow school dress code



Remember that a culture is not a costume



Be safe: No weapons or safety hazards



Costumes should not interfere with movement or learning (this means no inflatables)

In keeping with our commitment to belonging, students should choose Halloween costumes that celebrate creativity without causing harm or distress to others. Instead, we encourage costumes that are imaginative, original, and considerate of the diverse backgrounds represented in our school. By doing so, we ensure Halloween remains a fun and welcoming celebration for everyone.



Hats and hoods not allowed today, keep face visible (no mask/ make-up)



Be kind: Costumes may not be demeaning or offensive to any person or group

Please leave Halloween candy/treats at home



Students will be asked to change if costume is deemed inappropriate