NOVEMBER 2026

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

A Word From the Principal

Dear Deer Creek Families,

As we close out the first third of the school year, I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude. Entering my third year as your principal has been an incredible experience, and the kindness, collaboration, and grace you have shown our staff continue to make this school year truly awesome.

Thank You for a Successful Conference Week

Thank you to all the families who participated in our student-parent-teacher conferences earlier this month. The commitment you demonstrate by engaging in these conversations is vital to our students' success.

A special thank you goes out to our incredible PTO for organizing and providing amazing dinners for the Deer Creek staff during conference evenings. Your support helped keep our teachers energized and focused!

End of Trimester 1: Important Dates

Please note the following important dates as we transition into the second trimester:

- **End of First Trimester:** Friday, November 13, 2026
  - This is the final opportunity for students to submit any missing work for Trimester 1. Please encourage your student to check their progress in the Campus Portal this week and complete any outstanding assignments.
- **Start of Second Trimester:** Monday, November 16, 2026
  - Students will begin their new second trimester schedules on this day.

Second Trimester Schedules & Tracking Progress

All second trimester schedules will be available to view in the Campus Portal on **Wednesday, November 11th**. We will have 7th and 8th grade students refer to Campus to see their Trimester 2 schedules and 6th grade students will also receive a paper copy of their new schedule during Base Camp on **Friday, November 13th**

continued...

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.

CLICK IT
Click on the Ads in this Newsletter
...to learn more about these great companies!

A Word From the Principal, continued...

Remember that all grading and attendance information is available to you online through the Campus Portal. Gradebooks are updated each week, making it the best tool for staying informed of your student's academic progress throughout the year. You can access the Campus Portal directly from the Quick Links section of the Deer Creek webpage.

Brandon Hall
Principal
Deer Creek Middle School

Mental Health Update

The change in November from Daylight Saving Time, when the sun suddenly sets an hour earlier, is a sharp reminder of how precious natural light becomes. This drop in daylight can affect our moods and energy, making us feel sluggish—even triggering the "winter blues" or Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). And it's especially tough on teenagers, whose intense academic and social pressures already cause significant stress. When stress goes unchecked, it directly harms their mental health, often showing up as anxiety or depression. To build a buffer against this, it's vital to prioritize getting outside for fresh air and exercise whenever possible, even if it's just a brisk 15-minute walk with the dog (bonus, your pup will love it too!).

Sticking to a consistent schedule every day is equally important, as it gives kids a solid, predictable structure that minimizes decision fatigue and helps them feel more in control of their lives. And don't forget breakfast! Many students say they do not eat breakfast or forgot to eat breakfast. It can be difficult to concentrate in the mornings on an empty stomach.

Denise Bettcher
Social Worker
Deer Creek Middle School



Dean of Students

Cold Weather and Inclement Weather:

Please do not drop your students off at school until 8:30 AM on days that are extremely cold or when there is other inclement weather. The exception is for students who are eating breakfast.

We do not have outside supervision available until 8:30 AM, so students will not be in the building until that time.

In the morning, if a decision is made to bring students in early due to weather conditions, this will not happen prior to 8:30 when we have supervision in the school. Students entering Deer Creek for breakfast will do so at the same time. It is the season for snow and cold weather, so be prepared to bundle up!

We want to have students outside during recess as much as possible and **we do go outside in snow and colder temperatures**. We make decisions prior to lunchtime on whether we will have students stay in or go outside so students should already be prepared with the appropriate clothing.

Attendance Tips!

Do you have a student who will miss 3 or more consecutive days of school?

A Pre-arranged absence form must be completed, signed by all teachers and turned into the attendance office for all absences of 3 or more days. (family vacations, sports, extended absences, etc.)

The form can be found on deercreek.jeffcopublicschools.org under the "About" tab then click the Attendance tab, or students can pick up a copy in the main office.

Absences for more than 3 days will NOT be accepted through the request campus portal or hotline. Students must be in good academic standing and have no more than 10 absences (excused or unexcused) for the extended absence to be excused.

Kyle Kimberlin
Dean of Students
Deer Creek Middle School



October 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 October

6th Grade

Jovie Feucht - Jovie exemplifies our PEAK expectations every day. She is eager to learn and do her best. Jovie is kind to others and a friend to everyone.

Amy Ayala - Amy is super engaged in class and always ready to participate. She is respectful and helpful every day.

7th Grade

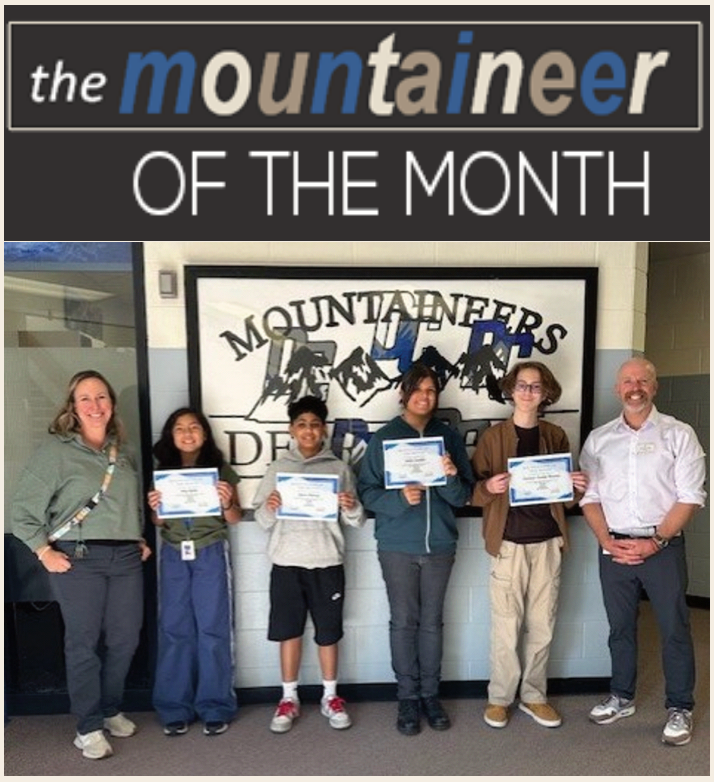
Ayaan Massey - Ayaan his willingness to succeed and be accountable rose to the top. He communicated his needs and worked tirelessly to get his assignments done.

Zoe Brown - Zoe is a PEAK Mountaineer. She is always prepared and engaged in class and checks in to make sure she is accountable for her work. Zoe is incredibly kind to her peers and always willing to help others when needed.

8th Grade

Caetano Seoldo Hinman - Caetano provides great leadership within NASA HUNCH by guiding his group and keeping them on track. He continually tries to poke holes in the process to see what needs improvements and pushes his limits.

Sallie Castillo - Sallie is a bit quiet, but she has a great sense of humor, writes excellent responses, and can be counted on to do the right thing/be on task regardless of what is going on around her.



(L-R Tessa Rathjen-Assistant Principal, Amy Ayala, Ayaan Massey, Sallie Castillo, Caetano Seoldo Hinman, Brandon Hall-Principal. Not Pictured: Jovie Feucht, Zoe Brown)



Milk Caps For MOOOLA

Earn Money for Your School!

Longmont Dairy will donate **5¢** per Longmont Dairy Cap collected by participating schools. Schools can use this money on things like field trips, sports equipment, art supplies, technology and more!

Learn more, sign up, and see if your school participates at LongmontDairy.com.

LEARN MORE

Deer Creek Middle School Information Night Showcase and Open House

Thursday December 3rd 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Do you know current 5th grade families that may be interested in attending Deer Creek Middle School next year? Please share our Information Night Showcase flyer with them!



Health Room Update

Has your student received the required Tdap vaccine? This is a required immunization for all students entering 7th grade. If not, please contact your child's physician to schedule. Please reach out to your school Health Aide, Stephanie Johnson at stephanie.johnson@jeffco.k12.co.us or District RN, Lisa Schalla at lisa.schalla@jeffco.k12.co.us if you have any questions.

Hearing and Vision screenings will be given to all 7th graders and any new students to Jefferson County Public School District on Wednesday, December 9, 2026. If your student wears glasses, please make sure they are brought to school that day.

Deer Creek Security Brief

As we head into another great month, let's all do our part to keep our school a safe, respectful, and welcoming place for everyone!

🔒 **Lock Up Your Bikes and Scooters**
Remember to securely lock your bikes and scooters before heading into school. Help keep your belongings safe by making sure they are properly secured.

🎒 **Keep Lockers Private**
Please use your own locker and keep your combination private. Sharing lockers or locker combinations can lead to confusion, lost belongings, and unnecessary problems. Respect everyone's personal space and belongings.

🙌 **Respect Personal Space**
Everyone deserves to feel comfortable and safe at school. Please keep your hands and feet to yourself, avoid touching others, and do not take someone else's shoes or belongings—even as a joke. What may seem funny to one person may be frustrating or upsetting to someone else. Respecting boundaries helps everyone feel safe and included.

🏀 **Play Safely at Recess**
Recess is a great time to have fun, be active, and enjoy time with friends. When playing with balls, be mindful of where and how you throw or kick them. Avoid throwing balls at others who aren't participating in the game, and always be aware of the people around you to help prevent accidental injuries.

Let's Make It a Great Month!

Small choices make a big difference! By being responsible, respecting personal boundaries, and looking out for one another, we can help make our school a safer, kinder, and more enjoyable place for everyone. Thank you for doing your part!

Thank you!

Eric "Sarge" Pilletere
Campus Security Specialist
Deer Creek Middle School

FCCLA Food Drive

Please consider supporting our Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) students in their donation drive. The goal of this district-wide community service project is to provide blankets for youth ages 0-18 who are in need. The base camp who collects the most donations will receive a donut party!

ITEMS NEEDED: 100% cotton, new or unused, solid color, standard-sized baby blankets (30x40in).
Items can be donated until November 12th. Please turn your donations into your base camp teacher or Ms. Goecks in Room 121.

See the flyer at the end of this newsletter for more information.

Deer Creek STEM/CTE Student Trip to Costa Rica - Spring Break

We're taking a STEM/CTE trip to Costa Rica in Spring 2027 and you're invited! This is open to ALL 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who will be attending DCMS this school year (parents are welcome too!). During this trip students will learn about the ecology of the Costa Rica and visit THREE different national parks. Students will also get the opportunity to kayak around a volcano, enjoy a whitewater rafting excursion, hike to Arenal hot springs, snorkel and so much more!

This is our FINAL call for enrollment. Please email agoecks@jeffcschools.us for more information or enroll using this website: https://www.eftours.com/tour-website/3017220YY. We hope to see you there!

Ali Goecks
agoecks@jeffcoschools.us

Deer Creek Library Update

Book Fair!

Deer Creek is excited to host an online book fair through Follett, our library systems provider, November 2 December 6th.
To purchase books or see what titles are available, visit book-efairs.follettcontent.com and enter our **Book eFair Code: R3DR2.**
Purchasing through our Book Fair will have a direct impact on our library collection. Deer Creek will receive 20% back as credit!
Additionally, books should arrive in time for the holiday season.

Battle of the Books!
Battle of the Books is a program that encourages students to read a variety of good books, have fun, and compete by demonstrating their knowledge of these books. The books are from different genres including historical fiction, graphic novels, fantasy, nonfiction, realistic fiction, science fiction, and novels in verse.

Students who join Battle of the Books will form a team of 2-5 students from our school. The collective group will agree to read all eight books. This means the group is responsible for reading all the books on the list, but not every student needs to read every book. Teams have from November-March to read. Then, they will compete in a Battle of the Books competition that reaches across multiple Jeffco middle schools. For the competition, students will be quizzed about the book(s) that they have read.

This past week, students have come to the library to learn more about Battle of the Books.

Below you will find this year's booklist. Copies will be provided. There is no need to purchase the books. Additionally, we have partnered with JeffCo Public Library. They have copies in various formats (including audiobooks which are allowed!). You can reserve books through this link.

Deer Creek Library Update, continued...

Book	Author	Genre/Tags
Kareem Between	Shifa Saltagi Safadi	Realistic Fiction/Book in Verse
The First State of Being	Entrada Kelly	Science Fiction
The Ruins of Gorlan	Flanagan	Fantasy/Classic
Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise	Dan Gemeinhart	Realistic Fiction
Scritch Scratch	Lindsey Currie	Horror
They Called Us Enemy	Takei	Graphic Novel
96 Miles	J. L. Esplin	Adventure/Survival
Olivetti	A. Millington	Mystery

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.



Deer Creek Middle School PTO News

November 2026 PTO News

DEER CREEK PTO 2.0 - Same Mission. Fresh Approach.
Read through the specifics in our DCMS PTO 2.0 Letter.

A Month of Gratitude!

October was packed with fun and community spirit! From Best Day Ever and our Chipotle Spirit Night to parent-teacher conference dinners, and the 7th Grade Social, there was plenty happening at DCMS!

A huge **THANK YOU** to all our parent volunteers who helped make these events possible. Whether you supervised Best Day Ever activities, provided meals for our teachers and staff during conferences, supported our Spirit Night, or helped with the 7th Grade Social, we appreciate you!

We couldn't provide these experiences for our students and staff without the generosity, time, and enthusiasm of our DCMS families. Thank you for continuing to make our school community such a special place!

PTO Meetings

Monday, November 2 | 6:00 PM | DCMS Library

Join us for our November PTO meeting! All DCMS parents and caregivers are welcome.

Looking Ahead: Our December PTO meeting will be **Tuesday, December 8**. Please note that PTO meetings will move to Tuesdays during Trimester 2.

Panda Express Spirit Night | November 19

Take a break from cooking and support DCMS PTO!

Join us for **Panda Express Spirit Night on Thursday, November 19—all day long!** Whether you're grabbing lunch, dinner, or a little something in between, it's a great opportunity to enjoy a meal while supporting our school community.

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.

Deer Creek Middle School PTO News, continued...

🍎 Stock the Snack Shack!

The Snack Shack continues to be a hit with our teachers and staff!

A BIG thank you to our 8th grade families for generously keeping the Shack stocked throughout Trimester 1! Your contributions have helped provide a little extra appreciation for the people who do so much for our students every day.

As we head into Trimester 2, it's time for our **7th grade families** to take the lead! Please consider donating snacks and treats to help keep the Shack stocked and our teachers and staff fueled. Keep an eye out for the Signup Genius - coming soon!

❤️ Thank You, DCMS Families!

As we head into the season of gratitude, we're especially thankful for our incredible school community. Whether you volunteer your time, donate supplies, participate in fundraisers, or simply help spread the word, your support makes a difference.

Thank you for all you do to support our students, teachers, and staff. Wishing our DCMS families a wonderful November!

Choir Update



We are thrilled to announce the talented students who earned a spot in this year's Honor Choir! Earning a place in this ensemble is a major achievement, it requires navigating a highly competitive audition process and demonstrating immense dedication to the musical craft.

Please join us in celebrating these exceptional singers!

Ellise Friend
Maeve Husted
Brianna Uhrich
Freddy Molitoris

I am so proud of the dedication and hard work our students poured into their auditions, and I can't wait for these upcoming performances! Please mark your calendars and join us to support our amazing musicians:

- **Nov 10 @ 7:00 PM:** Chatfield Area Choir Festival at Chatfield High School Gym (featuring all local elementary, middle, and high school choirs).
- **Nov 13 @ 6:00 PM:** Honor Choir Concert at Alameda International Jr./Sr. High School.

Upcoming Events

November

2	PTO Meeting 6:00 - 7:00 pm/SAC Meeting
5	DCMS Instrumental Music Fall Concert 6:30 pm
11	Tri 2 Schedules Open in Campus
13	First Trimester Ends
13	FCCLA District Conference Field Trip
16	Second Trimester Starts
16	DCMS Counselors visit Ute Meadows 5th Grade
18	DCMS Counselors visit Stony Creek 5th Grade
18	Chatfield Future Charger Night Open House
19	Deer Creek PTO Spirit Night - Panda Express
20	Tri 1 Grades Available in Campus
23-27	**Thanksgiving Break - School Closed**

December

1	Round 1 Enrollment Opens for 2026-2027 School Year
1	Registration for WinterMiddle School Sports (Basketball) opens at Noon
3	Information Night Open House- Prospective Students/Families 6:00-7:30 pm
3-4	MAP Testing - Reading and Math
8	PTO Meeting 6:00 pm - Library
9	Hearing/Vision Screening - 7th grade students
Dec 21 - Jan1	**Winter Break - School Closed** (students return to school Wednesday January 6th)
Jan 4-5	**No School for Students** - Teacher Planning Days
Jan 6	Classes resume

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.



Chatfield wrestling

2026 Little Chargers Wrestling Clinics

Who: 8th Grade and under Boys and Girls curious about wrestling

What: One hour introductions to wrestling, games, and mentors for those age 12 and under

Cost: FREE

Where: Chatfield Senior High Wrestling Room (7227 S Simms St, Littleton, CO 80127)

Schedule:

Monday, November 23rd @ 5:30pm

Monday, December 28th @ 5:30pm



For more experienced or older wrestlers who are interested in advanced and routine practices, please email or text High School Head Coach, Joe Moore via joe.moore@jeffco.k12.co.us/720-990-8491

Mountain Shadows FCCLA
Presents...

BABY BLANKET DONATION DRIVE

This year, the Mountain Shadows District FCCLA Chapter would like to announce that our annual community service project will be a baby blanket drive with Project Linus. The blankets will be donated to youth ages 0-18 who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need.

BRING BLANKETS TO ANY FACS TEACHER!
MONETARY DONATIONS: CHOOSE ARVADA WEST FROM THE DROP-DOWN MENU AND DONATE TO "FCCLA COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT"

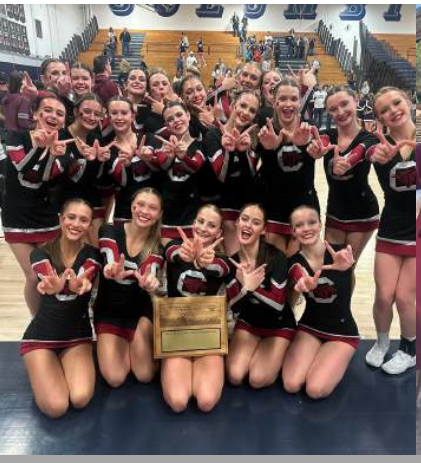
ITEMS NEEDED:

100% cotton, new or unused, solid-color, standard-sized baby blankets (30x40 inches)



For more information, please reach out to Emma Kasic at 2153426@Jeffcoschools.us


Chatfield Cheer
CRAFT FAIR
HANDMADE GOODS . LOCAL MARKETS . COMMUNITY VENDORS
SAT, NOVEMBER 7TH
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
CHATFIELD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
FREE ENTRY FOR ALL
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Shop unique crafts, gifts, decor & artisan goodies!
Made with love
COMMUNITY . SUPPORT . NEIGHBOR






CHATFIELD SENIOR HIGH

Where Our Strength Lies in Unity

November 18th
6:00-8:00PM

FUTURE CHARGER OPEN HOUSE

- PRESENTATIONS BY PRINCIPAL THANOS AT 6:15PM and 7:15PM
- SPEAK WITH TEACHERS & LEARN ABOUT ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES
- ACTIVITY, CLUBS, & ATHLETICS INFORMATION TABLES
- GUIDED SCHOOL TOURS
- JOIN US ANYTIME BETWEEN 6-8PM

www.chargerpride.com | 303.982.3670 | @chatfieldseniorhigh

POINTS OF PRIDE

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Over 80% Advance Placement Pass Rate
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26 Varsity Sports, 7 State Champions Since 2020
Top 20 Neighborhood High School in Colorado according U.S. News & World Report