Message From the Principal

Dear Columbine Hills Parents,

We are off to a great start! It has been an exciting first few weeks of school. Students have been coming to school ready to learn each and every day. Students and staff are living our school’s mission of “Aiming for Success, Believing...Together We Can!”

I have been visiting classrooms talking with students about what “success” looks like. Our students understand that success is more than just achievement with academics, but it is also the impact of our daily actions on one another. I know that our students will be very successful this year both academically and socially.

Celebrating student success is an important component of our Columbine Hills Community. This year we will continue to celebrate student growth and achievement in writing through our writer of the month awards. Each month one student from each class will be selected as the “Writer of the Month” and will have their writing hung in the front hallway for everyone to read. Students will also be recognized in front of their classmates on the fourth Friday of the month.

We will also continue to recognize students through our B.U.G. award sponsored by The Littleton Breakfast Optimist Club. The purpose of this award is to honor students every month for improvement in their total academic experience. Students selected for this award have shown academic improvement during the month, have good attendance and model appropriate behavior.

continued...
Message From the Principal, continued...

If you are looking for ways to get involved at Columbine Hills, there are many opportunities for you to do so. Our first School Accountability meeting will be held on September 12th at 5:30pm followed by our PTA meeting at 6:30pm. Childcare will be provided for both meetings. We would love to see you at one or both of these meetings.

We are always looking for parent volunteers to help out at Columbine Hills. If you are interested in being a volunteer this year, please contact your child’s teacher. We do ask that you complete a volunteer confidentiality form each year. This form is available in the front office.

As your principal, I am committed to a successful and positive elementary school experience for your child. I welcome any questions, concerns or comments anytime. Please feel free to send me an email or contact me at (303)982-5540.

Sincerely,
Christa Wilson
Principal
Christa.wilson@jeffco.k12.co.us
School Attendance is Important!

Attendance is the responsibility of the student, the parents, and the school. The importance of regular, daily attendance as a basis for academic achievement cannot be over-emphasized. Absences have a negative effect upon instructional continuity, regardless of the attempts to make up work. Our school has designated a target goal of 96% attendance this year and reviews attendance monthly to ensure all students are helping to meet our goal.

There are two types of absences - **excused and unexcused**. Absences will be excused for illness, family emergencies, and religious holidays. Absences for any other reason such as missing the bus, bad weather, waking up late, staying out late the night before and no excuse at all are **unexcused**.

Families are expected to plan family outings and vacations in conjunction with school holidays. If your child will be absent more than two days for a scheduled absence, a **pre-arranged absence form must** be completed 3 days prior and turned in to the office for approval. Approvals will **only** be granted to students with good attendance and good academic standing. If not approved, the absences will be marked as unexcused.

Doctor and dentist appointments should be scheduled after school hours. If you take your student to the doctor, we recommend requesting a note for your child’s attendance file.

We appreciate your help in making sure your child is at school on time!
School Accountability Team

The school-level accountability committee (SAC) serves in an advisory role to the school principal. The school’s principal is ultimately responsible for ensuring compliance with all Federal, State and District requirements and meeting the academic performance expectations defined by Jeffco Public Schools. This committee will meet the second Monday of each month at 5:30pm prior to our school’s PTA meeting. Our first meeting will be Thursday, September 12th. I will be sharing our 2018-2019 state assessment data. We hope to see you there!

Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be Safe!

Columbine Hills’ students and staff work to make sure we have a positive environment for student learning. We are a PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) school, which means we have clear expectations connected to all of the different locations in our building. These expectations are connected to our three school rules; be respectful, be responsible, and be safe. Teachers and students have been reviewing and learning about these expectations over the past few weeks so that we can have a successful year in creating a great learning environment at CHE in each and every classroom. We ask that students model these expectations even outside of school and in our community. It is a good reminder to be respectful of our neighbors and their property when coming to and from school.

SOUTH JEFFCO OUTLAWS FOOTBALL

For those players in the 1st through 8th Grade
FOR ALL SKILL LEVELS AND ABILITIES
Sport Scholarships Available!
2019 FOOTBALL Registration IS NOW OPEN! AND INCLUDES:
• An Outlaws T-shirt
• Helmet Decals
• AYL League Fees
• Games on Turf Fields
• Liability Insurance

For more information please contact our office at 303-979-9239 or www.southjefffootball.org
Watch D.O.G.S

Our Watch D.O.G.S kick off was a huge success! On August 22nd, CHE held our 2019-2020 kickoff for this national program which is part of the National Center of Fathering. There are two primary goals of the WATCH D.O.G.S. program.

1. To provide positive male role models for the students, demonstrating by their presence that education is important.

2. To provide extra sets of eyes and ears to enhance school security and reduce bullying.

WatchDOGS are fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and other father-figures who volunteer for at least one day each school year. During the day, WatchDOGS may read and work with students, eat lunch with students, watch school entrances and hallways, assist with traffic flow and other assigned activities where they will actively engage with not only their own child, but other students as well. Please visit the program website at www.fathers.com/watchdogs.

We thank everyone who attended our kickoff and look forward to seeing all of the WatchDogs this year at school. If you would like to hear more about the program, please contact the main office. The Watchdog signup has been added to our school website!
From the PTA

The PTA would like to thank everyone that joined us at the Back to School BBQ. It was fun connecting with new and returning families. Thank you King Soopers and Target for the donations to the BBQ. Also, thank you to all of the volunteers and the Kiwanis Club of Columbine for helping to serve the food. We appreciate you!

A huge thank you to our local businesses who joined the PTA with business memberships. Thank you, Anderson Builders and Law Offices of Jacob Kartchner. We appreciate your support!

Catalog Fundraiser - The PTA runs one major fundraiser each year to fund many academic opportunities and fun community events. We will be kicking off our fundraiser this year on September 9th and forms will be due September 23rd.

If you would rather make a donation instead of purchasing items, you are welcome to do that as well. The CHE PTA receives 100% of the donation, and your child is still eligible to earn prizes for every $10 that is donated.

Students can also earn a limo ride to Dairy Queen!
- 15 items (1 student) or 20 items (as a family)

See the packet going home on September 9th for more details.

Family Movie Night will be Friday, September 27th from 6pm - 8pm. Look for fliers in your Monday folder for the featured movie and more details.
September Communications 2019

Hello from the Instrumental Music area! 5th grade students in our area have the opportunity to choose their first elective class in either band or orchestra.

At this point all 5th grade students have had the opportunity to try out the instruments that they may be interested in, and have received an interest and sign up sheet to bring home. The document link can also be found at the music website http://www.columbineareamusic.us/home

The next step in enrolling your student in band or orchestra is to attend our Instrument Rental Night. This will be held at Columbine High School Auditorium on Monday August 26 at 6:00pm. I will be delivering an initial presentation about instrumental music expectations and important information. After that you will be able to visit stations put up by local music stores in order to rent an instrument and buy necessary materials for your young musician. I will also have a station set up to rent school owned instruments if you need it.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our information night, and please contact me if you have any questions.

Eric R. Whaylen
Instrumental Music
Columbine Articulation Area
Dutch Creek, Columbine Hills, Leawood, Normandy, Governors Ranch
eric.whaylen@jeffco.k12.co.us
Columbine Hills Would Like to Welcome Our New Staff

I have been a teacher for 16 years, 13 in Jeffco. I have known since I was in second grade that I wanted to be an Art teacher and am convinced I have the greatest gig on the planet. I am impressed how students take ideas and instructions and quickly transfer them to visual creations without hesitation. I have two children, 4 ½ and 1 ½, and have been married to my best friend, David, for 19 years. When not at school I most enjoy spending time with my family on hikes and walks, experimenting in our home art studio, building with Legos, and the wonderful mundane of being a mom.

Gina Rauh – Art Teacher

Hi, my name is Diana Garren. I have been an elementary art teacher for 20 years. I did my first year and a half in Kansas, Go Wildcats! I’m a mom with two teenage boys and one of them just graduated from Dakota Ridge High School; the other one is a sophomore. I’m excited for the opportunity to be one of the art teachers who will be teaching your children this year. I will also be teaching at Blue Heron Elementary, which has been my home school for the last 13 years. My philosophy as an art teacher is to create a safe environment for kids to learn about and create art without being judged for thinking outside the box. I tell my students to Always Do Your Best, Respect Everyone’s Art and Take Creative Risks. If you ever visit the school, don’t forget to walk the halls and see what the kids are doing and stop in the art room to say hi!

Diana Garren - Art Teacher

My name is Andrew Schilling. I am a native to Colorado (I know! Almost unheard of these days!!). I have been a physical education teacher in Jeffco for the last 17 years.

I earned my undergrad degree at Metropolitan State University in 1998 and my master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction at Colorado Christian University. My ultimate goal in becoming a physical education teacher was and is to teach children how to gain the skills necessary to maintain a healthy and happy lifestyle. I believe in fostering each child's interests, passions and goals through physical exercise so that they can become strong, healthy and successful members of society.

When I am not teaching P.E., I enjoy spending time with my family; we love to camp, travel, swim, and be outside as much as possible.

Andrew Schilling – Physical Education Teacher
New Staff, continued...

Hi everyone! My name is Ms. Brittany Gilbert and I am your new 2nd-grade teacher at Columbine Hills Elementary. I am so excited to get to know each and every one of you and your families. Here is a little about me! I have a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education and a master’s degree in School Counseling, both from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. I have been a teacher for five years and I absolutely love what I do! For fun, when I’m not teaching, I love running, reading, scrapbooking, and taking road trips. I cannot wait to start this school year and see all of your shining faces each morning! See everyone on the first day of school!

Brittany Gilbert - New 2nd Grade Teacher

Hello Columbine Hills families! My name is Alaina Johnson and I am the new Principal Secretary. I have worked in a school office setting for the last ten years in Denver, and am very excited to now join the Jefferson County district and your community! I grew up in Golden and now live with my Husband and three children in the Morrison area. We enjoy spending time together playing family games, attending different sporting events that they participate in and relaxing on the boat! I very much look forward to meeting everyone and making Columbine Hills my home away from home!

Alaina Johnson - New Financial/Principal Secretary

Hi, my name is Denise Woodin. I have been the Heath Aide at CHE for 5 years, so I might look familiar. I am so excited to be the new Enrollment Secretary this year! I have worked in a school setting for over 20 years. I am married and have three children who are 22, 20 and 12. Many of you might not know that I attended Columbine Hills, Ken Caryl, and then graduated from Columbine High School, many moons ago! As you can see I love this community, and have stayed in the area most of my life. My family and I love to camp and be on the water any time we can! I look forward to seeing all of you again this year, and meeting new families as well.

Denise Woodin - Health Aide
My name is Melissa Bushmann, and I am thrilled to join Columbine Hills in a new role this year, as the Social-Emotional Learning Specialist, after supporting our ASD Program last year. I was raised in Missouri, but have lived in Colorado for five years now, and call it home. I finished my Master's of Social Work at the University of Denver in 2016, and since have been working with kids in a variety of settings. For the past two years I have been working in schools supporting students with disabilities, building on each child's strengths to develop skills they need to grow in confidence, curiosity, and joy. Social-emotional learning is where my heart is, and I can't wait to join the Columbine Hills team in this role, and grow alongside students this year. In my time away from school, I love to hike with my dog, Maya, read, write, dance, and enjoy live music.

Hello Columbine Hills! My name is Madi Flack! I am the new Health Aid for the elementary school! I grew up in Littleton and just moved back here from Phoenix! I am thrilled to be a part of this community and serving the students of CHE! I went to D'Evelyn High School and then went on to Grand Canyon University, however, family is my #1 joy in life so it is a blessing to be back home!! I enjoy a good laugh, a sunny day and a beautiful sunset! Hope to eventually meet all of you!
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<th>Monday</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Entree: Pretzel Stick with Cheddar Cheese Sauce, Teriyaki Chicken</td>
<td>Entree: Choice and Pepperoni Pizza, Ham and Cheese, Original Flavor</td>
<td>Entree: Crispy Chicken Sandwich, Nachos</td>
<td>Entree: Cheeseburger, Cinnamon French Toast Sticks, Hamburger</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Monday: Cheese Stick, Yogurt and Granola Meal, Mac &amp; Mini Dog</td>
<td>Tuesday: Breakfast Bites, Turkey Box Pie</td>
<td>Wednesday: Italian Hoagie, Turnip Cheese Stuffed Breadsticks</td>
<td>Thursday: Chicken and Waffles, Fall Salad</td>
<td>Friday: Homestyle Chicken Nugget, Soft Tacos</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Entree: Cheese Stick, Yogurt and Granola Meal, Mac &amp; Mini Dog</td>
<td>Tuesday: Corn Dog, Mac &amp; Cheese</td>
<td>Wednesday: Enchilada Burrito, Cheese and Pepperoni Pizza</td>
<td>Thursday: Ham and Cheese, Original Flavor, Ham and Cheese, Roasted Red Pepper, Marshall Slices</td>
<td>Friday:</td>
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**SCHOOL LUNCH Menu**
BE THE DIFFERENCE

IN A STRUGGLING STUDENT’S LIFE.
BECOME A READING TUTOR.

In Colorado today, 60% of third graders can’t read at grade level. If they don’t read proficiently by the end of third grade, odds are against them for catching up in the future. Join Colorado Reading Corps as a tutor and you’ll help students build skills needed to become successful readers. Our tutors work one-on-one with students in grades K-3. No experience? No problem! Reading Corps provides comprehensive training in strategies proven to help students learn.

PERKS AS A TUTOR

$ Get paid a stipend twice a month, up to $10,000 total.

Earn an education award to pay tuition or student loans. Tutors 55+ may gift the award to their child or grandchild or use for certain types of travel.

Build your career skills, network, and resume.

LEARN MORE

YouthForAChange.org

Questions? Call (720) 840-1897

Join Colorado Youth for a Change in a national movement of tutors across twelve states and Washington D.C. to help struggling students and get paid and earn money for college or pay off student loans while doing it.
Columbine Hills Elementary School “Home School Connection”

Please return to Christa Wilson, Principal

I have a question, a concern or something positive to share:

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

This information is optional:

Name:________________________________
Daytime Phone:_________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________

We would like to give you an opportunity to share your appreciation of our staff by using this form below. Simply return the form to the office.

Staff Appreciation

Dear _________________________,

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________