Dear Columbine Hills Community,

I hope you are finding your summer break filled with adventure and joy! I am excited to begin the 2019-2020 school year and I know all of you are excited for your children to have a superb educational experience this year.

Our vision at Columbine Hills Elementary is to ensure that we are meeting the needs of each and every one of our students. We know that we must work together as staff, students, parents and the community in order to provide the very best education that the Columbine Hills students deserve. Our vision, “Aiming for Success, Believing Together We Can!”, is carried out by each staff member to ensure the best for each and every student at Columbine Hills each day.

Although there are still a few weeks left until school starts, it is time to start thinking about registration and back to school business. Registration is on Thursday, August 1st from 7:30am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-5:30pm. During registration you will update your Jeffco connect information, pay your child’s school fees, find out your child’s teacher assignment and sign up for your child’s fall assessment time.

We look forward to seeing each of you at our Back to School Night on Monday, August 12th. Please plan on arriving at 5:00pm to enjoy a free BBQ sponsored by the CHE PTA. This will be a great time to reconnect with friends and CHE staff. Teachers will then open their classroom doors starting at 5:30pm to meet you and your child. You will be able to drop off your child’s school supplies as well. We look forward to seeing you at Back to School Night!

The beginning of the school year is a great time to get back to consistent routines and structures for students. There are some very simple, important steps you can take now, to ensure a smooth start to the year. These include: setting a REGULAR, EARLY bedtime each night, providing time for reading each evening, and talking with your child everyday about school. These small steps go a long way in preparing them for school, even beyond this year!

We look forward to a successful year at Columbine Hills Elementary, “Aiming for success, believing, together we can!” As your principal, I strive for a successful experience for your child. Please know my door is always open for questions, concerns or comments. Please feel free to send me an email or contact me at (303)982-5540.

Sincerely,

Christa Wilson
Principal
Thank You to Our Amazing Custodial Team!

This summer district and school staff worked hard to continue to improve our school. Our custodial crew, led by our facility manager, John Labbat, worked to ensure that our building was cleaned top to bottom for our students and staff. We appreciate their hard work and dedication to making CHE a clean and safe environment for students. A HUGE thank you to John, Larry and Alma!

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 typically meet on the second Thursday of each month at 5:30pm prior to our school’s PTA meeting.

SAC Meeting Dates for 2019-2020:
- September 12th
- October 10th
- November 14th
- January 9th
- February 13th
- March 12th
- April 9th
- May 14th

Parking Lot Safety

Please help us keep our students safe by driving slowly through our parking lot and watching closely for students walking to cars. Please use the crosswalk so that we can ensure that students are getting to and from school safely. We are asking that families do not cross at the entrances of the parking lot. There are no crosswalks at these locations. Please do not park in the bus lane in the front of the school or in no parking areas in the parking lot. Thank you for your help and support!
Fee Payment for the 2018-2019 School Year

Fee payment for your student can be made online through Jeffco Connect. You may make payment for the 2019-2020 school year with your debit or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover are accepted). To access Jeffco Student Fee Payment, go to our school’s website and click on the Jeffco Connect link, or go to the Parent Portal at www.jeffcopublicschools.org. Once you are logged into Jeffco Connect, click on the “Jeffco Student Fee Payment” link on the left side. Help guides are available on the page. A receipt will be sent via e-mail confirming your payment.

If you do not wish to take advantage of the online system, fee payment can be made at the school office during registration on August 1st from 7:30am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-5:30pm.

Communication

Consistent communication is an important part of our home-school partnership. The Hoofprints is our monthly school-wide newsletter that will be filled with important reminders and information for your family. This communication will be sent out electronically through email at the beginning of each month and can also be found on our school website. If you would like to receive a hardcopy, you may request one from the office. Please take the time each month to read the information so that you are informed about what is happening at Columbine Hills. Communication between parents and the school is essential and we are always open to comments and suggestions. Feel free to contact your child’s teacher, myself, or use the “Home School Connection” form at the back of the newsletter.
District Policy on Birthday Celebrations at School

Last school year we implemented the district policy for student birthday celebrations. Student birthdays should only be recognized with non-food celebrations. This means no student or family should bring any food item to share for their birthday. This standard is in place to limit exposure to life-threatening allergens, increase equity related to food sharing, and protect family decision-making around foods consumed. Columbine Hills will be recognizing each student on their birthday through the daily announcements and with a birthday bag. If you wish to celebrate your child’s birthday, only non-edible treats such as bookmarks, pencils or stickers to share with your child’s class are allowed.

CHE Website!

Check out the Columbine Hills website! This webpage is a great resource of information for everything taking place at CHE. You can also access the school calendar, the lunch menu, newsletters and much more at our website. http://columbinehills.jeffcopublicschools.org/

Watch D.O.G.S

Our Watch D.O.G.S kick off will be on Thursday, August 22nd at 6:00pm. Join us for free pizza and a fun night hearing about how you can be a part of this great program at CHE. This national program is an innovative father involvement, educational initiative 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, each 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/atchdogs.
Student meal prices for school year 2019 – 2020:

**Breakfast:**
- Elementary: $2.00
- Secondary: $2.25
- Reduced meal price for PK – 12: $0.00

*(The Smart Start Nutrition bill allows all reduced eligible children to eat breakfast for free.)*

**Lunch:**
- Elementary: $3.25
- Secondary: $3.50
- Reduced meal price for PK – 12 students: $0.00

*(HB19-1171 was passed by the Colorado Legislature on May 10, 2019, which allows students in grades PK – 12 who are eligible for reduced price meals to eat lunch for free.)*

There will be increases in various *a la carte* items:

- 8 oz. Milk carton: $0.95

**Adult meal pricing is set to comply with USDA regulations**

- Adult breakfast meal price w/o beverage will be at *a la carte* prices
- Adult lunch meal price, w/o beverage: $4.15
New Playground!

Our new playground is almost complete! This is going to be an amazing space for our students and the community. On Saturday, July 20th, we had over 60 volunteers come out to help build and install the playground equipment. It was a reminder of what an outstanding community we have. Thank you so much to all the volunteers. We appreciate your time and dedication to our school. We also thank our community for raising $12,000 towards this project and 5280 Burger Bar for providing lunch for all the volunteers.
Jeffco Healthy Schools
Family and Classroom Wellness Guidelines

Policy Overview
As required by law, Jeffco's Wellness Policy and Guidelines include standards for foods shared in schools.

Why?
Improve Nutrition
Address Allergies
Promote Equity
Protect Family Decisions on Food

Student birthdays should only be recognized with non-food celebrations, starting in 2018-19.

Over 50% of schools already had a similar policy in place.

Actions for Schools:
★ Clearly communicate these standards with families and engage family groups
★ Work with students to determine other non-food options for celebrating birthdays
★ Ask families to not bring in food to share (this does not apply to food for individual consumption)

Students can still have FUN and celebrate with their classmates!

Ideas from Jeffco Students

Extra recess with birthday student picking a game
Wear a sash or crown, sit in a special chair while class sings
Grab bags with fun items, like stickers, markers, small toy, etc

Have an outdoor bubble party
Do an art project to make cards or a coloring project
Play the student’s favorite song/music

Read a favorite book aloud, have a birthday parade, or play a favorite game
Have a “Celebrate” poster to share kind words
Donate a ball, have class sign it, and play a game

To access the full Wellness Policy and Guidelines including standards for food as reward and holiday celebrations, visit: www.tinyurl.com/jeffcohealthyschools
SchoolCafé Available on July 1!

Free and Reduced Meal Applications

✓ Submit your application online from your SchoolCafé account
✓ Remember, a new application must be filled out each year to continue receiving free or reduced-price meal benefits

SchoolCafé replaces MyPaymentsPlus for online meal payments

✓ All student and adult balances will roll over into SchoolCafé
✓ Visit www.schoolcafe.com to create your account

For assistance, contact Jeffco Food and Nutrition Services at 303-982-6748
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 _________________________,

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________