Grow | Relate | Engage

--- WELCOME ---
BACK TO SCHOOL

http://jeffcogovernorsranch.ss12.sharpschool.com/

**Peek at the (Already Busy) Weeks**

**August**
- 15  Students’ First Day of School | Opening Ceremony 7:45
- 18  Columbine Area Block Party at CHS
- 23, 24, 25  Fall Pictures (individual)
- 25  Spirit Wear Day

**September**
- 1  Modified Assessment Day
- 4  Labor Day NO SCHOOL
- 5  Modified Assessment Day
- 11  GRE Accountability Meeting – 5:30 pm
-  PTA Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 12  Safety and Security at GRE Seminar
- 15  Field Day and PTA Carnival
- 16  GRE Day at Colorado Rockies
- 22  NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS/Teacher Planning Day
- 30  GRE Day at Colorado Rockies

**IMPORTANT:** Support GRE’s school funding by having your child in attendance between September 25th and October 9th this year. The official count day is October 2nd.

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

The picture day schedule will be published soon so be on the lookout for which day your child’s class will have individual photos taken along with purchase options. We will have makeups late October and class photos taken in the spring (no additional spring pictures will be taken this year.) Bloom School Pictures comes highly recommended from other schools and has been named a preferred vendor in the district. Check them out: [https://bloomschoolpictures.com/](https://bloomschoolpictures.com/)

We have a Preschool!

Welcome students and staff!

Our Preschool

Our preschool will launch in August 2023 with two multi-age classrooms. These classrooms will consist mostly of four-year-old students with a handful of three-year-old students. Each classroom will have both a licensed early childhood teacher (birth through eight years old) AND a certified early childhood education partner (ECIP). This will maintain a 10:1 ratio (students:adults).

For questions about curriculum, please contact Suanne Hawley, Director of Early Learning

Suanne.Hawley@jeffco.k12.co.us  
303-982-9576

Tuition Schedule

Download Jeffco’s Preschool Tuition Schedule: [2023-2024 Tuition Schedule.pdf](2023-2024 Tuition Schedule.pdf)
Mr. Johnny Arnold, Teacher
Johnny.Arnold@jeffco.k12.co.us

Mr. Arnold is new to GRE, but not new to teaching. He has a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction and is licensed to teach birth to sixth grade. He has been teaching in Jeffco for 28 years, mostly in kindergarten but also 1/2 multi-age, and K-1 multi-age. He has a wonderful wife named Shannon, who also teaches at GRE, and he loves to spend time with her, his daughter Ella (20), and his son Sam (17). He spends time listening to music and singing, travelling, and cheering for the Broncos. He also has a crazy dog named Ollie, who keeps his family busy. Mr. Arnold is looking forward to being a part of the Governor’s Ranch community and creating a fun environment where young kiddos can thrive and grow.

Ms. Riley Dougherty, Teacher
Riley.Dougherty@jeffco.k12.co.us

Ms. Dougherty is excited to start her first year teaching at GRE! She has worked at GRE in the SSN classroom and before and after care.

Ms. Dougherty graduated from the University of Florida with a bachelors degree in Business Administration. She then went on to get her masters degree in Elementary Education.

In her free time she enjoys hiking and being outdoors. Her favorite place to be is somewhere warm with a beach!
Welcome, continued...

Jackie Ellis, Early Childhood Educational Partner
Jackie.Ellis@jeffco.k12.co.us

Jackie is so excited to be a part of the GRE community as a member of the preschool family.

What Jackie loves most about teaching in preschool is getting to be a part of helping our youngest kiddos find the joy in learning and being at school.

Jackie has been in the Jeffco ECE program since 2015. All three of her children received their education in Jeffco. David is almost 30, a Law Enforcement Agent in Lakewood, married to Jacque, a Special Ed teacher and he’s daddy to Leon. Grasyn, 20 soon, is exploring a career in the vet tech field while working at a local vet clinic. Josie just turned 12 and is a typical bubbly preteen, a student at Ken Caryl MS and helps to keep Jackie young while simultaneously making her feel old. Jackie enjoys spending time with her family, crafting, reading, taking walks and binge-watching documentaries.

continued...
WELCOME, continued...

Angie Thomas, Early Childhood Educational Partner
Angie.Thomas@jeffco.k12.co.us

While Angie Thomas was completing her masters in Applied Mathematics she was a classroom volunteer in her eldest son’s preschool class; this is where she found her passion for early childhood education. It’s been 28 years in Jeffco’s Preschool Program and five children later! She has two sons, Mitchel and Brisen and three daughters, Sierra, Jaidyn and Ryker. When she’s not teaching preschool she’s spending time with her children with their sports, theater and school activities. She also loves to hike, travel and just hang out with her family playing games, watching movies and creating lifelong memories together! Even though this will be Angie’s first year at Governor’s Ranch Elementary, she is looking forward to a lasting partnership with the GRE community.

Meet Mr. McConkey, our new Facility Manager. He has worked tirelessly to get the school ready for students this year. We are so happy he joined our team!

Dillon McConkey, Facility Manager
Dillon.McConkey@jeffco.k12.co.us

This is Dillon's 11th year working for Jeffco public schools. He is very excited to work at Governor's Ranch and can't wait to get to know everyone. He has worked at multiple elementary, middle, and high schools. His last position before coming to GRE was night manager at Green Mountain HS. When Dillon is not working, he enjoys a variety of hobbies including leathercraft, fly tying, fishing, hiking, swimming, reading, football, and basketball. He plays viola, bass, and guitar, and playing music is his favorite hobby of all.

If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world.” – Thorin Oakenshield

While Mrs. Dalesio is not new to GRE, she is moving out of the classroom this year and into the role of Instructional Coach. Yay!

Mrs. Laurie Dalesio
laurie.dalesio@jeffco.k12.co.us

Mrs. Dalesio has spent her entire 16 year career at Governor's Ranch, and absolutely loves it! Originally from Portland, OR, a move to attend Colorado Christian University made Colorado her permanent home. She earned her bachelors in Education and then continued her college career to earn her Masters in Curriculum and Instruction a few years later. When not in the classroom, Mrs. Dalesio enjoys spending time with her husband, Jeremiah, and her two boys, Grayson and Jack. You can always find Mrs. Dalesio cheering on the Oregon Ducks football team, dreaming of her next DisneyWorld trip, or relaxing at home.

Look for more new employee bios next month as we are welcoming several new staff members this school year!
Helpful Links and Reminders

New Start/End Times

**Preschool** 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (more info on logistics will come from teachers after August 9th)

**K-5**
- 7:30 a.m. soft start (breakfast is available)
- 7:45 a.m. to 2:35 p.m.
- 2:45 p.m. school supervision ends

(Printable) Quick Reference Calendar

Specials Classes Calendar

Health Room Info
Mrs. Marshall returns to GRE as our favorite health aide! Contact her via email kara.marshall@jeffco.k12.co.us with any health related questions and find common forms below.

Medication Agreement Form:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/17ES1O7FniLcBimGEtV7BVWAv82sfYDL/view?usp=sharing

Colorado Asthma Care Plan:
https://www.cde.state.co.us/healthandwellness/coloradoasthmacareplan

Colorado Allergy and Anaphylaxis Emergency Care Plan:
https://www.cde.state.co.us/healthandwellness/standardanaphylaxisplan2016

And while we’re talking about health…

Jeffco Public Schools has partnered with Hazel Health, Inc. to provide a telehealth extension of mental and physical health supports to Jeffco students enrolled at district-managed schools, through evidence-based, culturally responsive, on-demand integrated healthcare services, accessed at home with a legal parent/guardian. Visit the Hazel Health webpage for more information about accessing services for your student, opting out, etc.
Breakfast and Hot Lunch

Breakfast and Hot Lunch are available to all students for free thanks to voters who approved the Health School Meals for All (HSMA) legislation in November 2022. A la carte items (e.g. snack cart) are available for purchase and money can be added to students’ accounts using School Café.

Student Fees

Please pay all student fees online ASAP. If you cannot pay online, you may write a check payable to GRE or bring in cash (the exact amount) to pay fees. Confidential financial arrangements can be made by contacting Lesa Higgins (lesa.higgins@jeffco.k12.co.us). To see if your fees can be waived, please complete the Meal Benefits Application on School Café (www.jeffcoschoolfood.org). Directions for paying fees online can be found here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UHfGu-712HmGhFIlQnsEQ_qlSB_Hj6Ea/view?usp=drive_link.

Drop-off and Pickup Procedures

We’ve grown from 340 K-5 student last year to 440 students in PK-5. This will create a very full and busy parking lot. For families that can, please walk or bike to school. Bikes can be locked in the bike cage by the north playground.

If you are dropping off, please review this highly instructional video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-ysGrJHmUE) and allow time to navigate the parking lot. Please follow the directions for safe and efficient traffic flow (https://drive.google.com/file/d/13gQJNoKkajuHLCpScUBpGKPYE1CrJWa8/view?usp=sharing). And remember to be gracious, patient and careful in this area so that all our little ones and their families stay safe.

Finally, if you choose to use the Clubhouse parking lot, please only cross Field Street at the crosswalk. We need all adults to model what it looks and sounds like to cross a street safely.
On-time Arrival, Attendance, and Dismissal

It's so important that children arrive on time so that they can begin the day with their classmates as well as minimize disruptions. Arriving even a few minutes late disrupts the classroom, and students start the day trying to catch up to their peers.

Our doors open at 7:30 a.m. and all K-5 students should be in their classrooms by 7:45 a.m. so learning can begin. All K-5 students should enter the building using the front doors. Students wanting to eat breakfast should line up and enter the door by the picnic tables/gym.

If your child will be absent or late, please call the attendance line (303-982-4623) before 7:45 am. 303-982-4623. Please save this phone number in your phone for easy access.

K-5 students are released at 2:35 p.m. through their classroom’s exterior door. We have a very busy parking lot so please plan extra time to park so that you can meet your child at 2:35 p.m. On-site childcare is provided by Foothills Parks and Recreation for students 5 years of age and older. Foothills staff will pick up Kindergarten students from their teachers; all other students should meet Foothills staff at the temps that are north of the main building. https://www.ifoothills.org/school-care-camps/#before-after-school

New Secure Entryway

Thanks to voters who passed the 2017 Bond, a new secure entrance has been added to our school this summer. Visitors will need to ring the doorbell and identify themselves. Next, the visitors will enter a secure foyer and sign in. Be prepared with an ID and an explanation for your visit. Students can only be released to the individuals indicated as guardians or emergency contacts in Parent Portal.
Colorado Crisis Services is the statewide behavioral health crisis response system offering residents mental health, substance use and/or emotional crisis help, information and referrals. Its mission is to strengthen Colorado’s mental health system by providing the people of Colorado with greater access to crisis services wherever they are at, 24/7/365, regardless of ability to pay. No matter what you’re going through, help is available. Call Colorado Crisis Services at 844-493-TALK (8255) or text TALK to 38255. Learn more at ColoradoCrisisServices.org

SAFE2TELL

Governor’s Ranch will continue to participate in Safe2Tell, which allows students to anonymously report their concerns regarding friends, family or community. Reports can be made by phone call, online or using their app. Concerns will be sent to a team of officials which may include school personnel or law enforcement. Safe2Tell should be used wisely and only for serious concerns. False reports or prank calls waste limited resources and will be investigated by law enforcement. We encourage everyone to make a community a kinder and safer place.

PTA News

Join YOUR PTA!

Join here: https://grepta.org/join-pta/

- Zero time commitment
- Participate as much or as little as you want
- Help raise $$ for GRE School improvements, classroom upgrades, fun students events and more!
- Only help with events that YOU want to! NO commitment!
- Put your skills to work helping our community through this challenging time
- All PTA meetings are virtual this year!

Curious about the PTA? Want to meet us first? Come to our first meeting!
- Monday, September 12th at 6:30p

Your PTA membership dues pay for the annual membership to the Colorado PTA and help fund programs, equipment and events that are not available through the GRE School budget.

Some examples are:

- School technology equipment
  - Chromebooks
  - Classroom projectors
  - Art kiln
  - Security cameras
- Reductions in student fees
- Field trips
- Knights & Princesses Dance
- Boys & Moms Event
- Playground and gym equipment
- Annual Carnival
- Field day
- Science fair
- School store
- Teacher appreciation
- … and so much more!

Also check out member discounts benefits! https://copta.org/memberbenefits/

Join here: https://grepta.org/join-pta/
Stay tuned for details and sign-up info!
Thank you to our D.O.G.S. volunteers for wrapping up the school year in May.

Now 4th grader Maddie P. poses with dad, Chris.

Michael P. and Darren C. tag team D.O.G.S. duty. **Michael P. deserves Uncle of the Year Award for showing Stella his support!**

Ben G. makes lunch duty look easy. :)

Governor's Ranch Elementary School Newsletter
August 2023
Thank you to our many parent volunteers who made this project possible. It was hard work, but our families stepped up and did a GREat job. We appreciate you!

We couldn't have done it without these ladies! Thank you for the days you spent beautifying our school!

3rd graders have fun at Field Day!

1st grade fun at the Denver Zoo!
Ben W. passes mascot duty to incoming 5th grader, Zach M. It was hot enough without the raccoon suit at continuation!