



Fall 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for such a wonderful start to the year. Quarter one has come and gone and we are ready to move right into quarter two with ease. It is amazing how fast time goes by and our students have adjusted to the new school year with confidence and many smiles. I am so proud of each and everyone one of them and you all should be so proud of your child/children too. They are amazing. I wish you could see them in class, asking questions, participating, helping each other out, and striving for excellence.

They inspire me, each day, to be better for them and create an environment for them to flourish socially, emotionally, and academically. In October we examined our Thunder Values with the focus on *Inspiring Everyone*. In November, we are focusing on *Creating a Roadmap*.

Dream Big, Inspire Everyone, Create a Roadmap, Believe in Yourself, Achieve, and Work Hard.

We ask our students to **Inspire Everyone**: Support and be a role model because you never know what opportunities may come your way because of how you act or what you say. We are encouraging students to take advantage of being the best they can be every single day.

Creating a Roadmap for success is a strategy we encourage all of our students to construct. Hearing from your child about their plans for the future always brightens my day. Their hopes and dreams are heartfelt and endearing. I have asked our staff to find out about each student's dream and help them create a roadmap to get there. Having a plan of action is essential to their success. Sometimes the plan is small and other times the plan is big. "Success doesn't just happen. It's planned for." Encourage your child to share their dreams and their roadmap with you. We want our students, your child, to dream and plan for their future because it is never too early to talk about college and career readiness.

It is our responsibility, as educators, to inspire students to achieve in their academics and in their dreams. Ask your child to share their dream with you and with us so that we can be their biggest fan.

As students continue to progress through their academic studies, please encourage them to seek out and advocate for their needs. We have several after school supports available for students, and many of their teachers have support offerings either before or after school. The library is also available to students before school with our study hall starting at 8:00 a.m. Continue to encourage your child to participate and get involved in school, as many clubs and athletic activities are up and running and available for students to participate.

To recap a few highlights for our start to the year, I wanted to start with looking back at the start of our school year. We started the year with our Eclipse Day. We had over 200 volunteers here to ensure our student safety and well-being. Our volunteers helped to create a memorable experience for our students. It will definitely be an exciting memory for me that will last a lifetime and hopefully for your child too. In September, we kicked off our T-Bird Giving Campaign and we raised almost \$9,000. We really appreciated all your support. The funds raised from the T-Bird Giving Campaign fundraiser will help to support grants for additional learning experiences, resources, materials, and opportunities that impact our students.



This month, in partnership with the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Department, the Y.E.S.S. program, which stands for Youth Education and Safety in Schools, will be taught by our SRO-School Resource Officer. He will teach lessons about digital safety, substance abuse, and teen relationships. There will also be opportunities for parents to attend parent academies in the evenings, so be on the look out for these. John Gray, our SRO will be teaching digital citizenship on the following dates:

- 6th grade lessons for students-October 16 and 17
- 7th grade lessons for students- October 18 and 19
- 8th grade lessons for students- November 20 and 21

Next month, we will be having our **annual community pancake breakfast on November 4**. Please join us, as it is always a great turn out and so fun to have everyone together. We are also going to be honoring our Veterans. If you or someone you know is a Veteran, please tell them about our **Veterans Day celebration luncheon on November 10**. Although this is a non-contact day, we are excited about hosting a luncheon for our Veterans from 11:30 to 12:30 in our cafeteria. Flyers with this information will be coming home soon.

As a reminder, we will start administering districtwide ACT Aspire testing this month. The following is our testing schedule:

8th grade: November 7 and 8

7th grade: November 14 and 15

6th grade: November 16 and 17

If you want to opt your child out of this district testing, please send an email to Heather Ahrenkiel, hahrenkiel@cherrycreekschools.org, our School Assessment Coordinator. Please also contact her with any questions or concerns you may have.

As always, please feel free to stop in at any time. I really appreciate seeing all of you and don't hesitate to give me a call. Thank you again for your continued support.

Gratefully,

Angie Zehner
Principal
Thunder Ridge Middle School