

FROM THE WEST OFFICE

Hello Bruins!

This edition of the Home Herald will be the last for the 2011-2012 school year. It is difficult to believe that the school year passed by so quickly. This year was full of celebrations in the area of academics, activities and athletics. Yet, what makes me most proud to be the principal of Cherry Creek High School is the caliber of people at the school and in the community. Our students are good people, our staff is the best in the state, and I could not ask for a better parent group to support the students and the school. It is good to be a member of the Bruin Family.

The most difficult part of this time of year is saying goodbye to some of our Bruins. Each year close to 900 students graduate from Creek as educated, well-rounded young adults prepared to go into the world and contribute to society. Just like any parent, I am excited for them as they go out into the world to learn more and grow, but I am also sad to see them go. Often with the departure of our seniors also comes a farewell to parents who no longer will have a student at the school. Just as I will say on graduation day, our students and parents are always welcome at Cherry Creek regardless of where you may go or how long you are away. Once you are a Bruin, you are always a Bruin!

Plans and preparations for next year are already underway. We are in the process of interviewing for openings we have for next year and we have already hired two outstanding teachers so far, who I expect to be outstanding additions to the faculty. In fact, one of them is the teacher of the year at one of our sister schools in the district. Unfortunately, we not only welcome new members to the family during this time of the year, but also bid farewell to faculty members who are retiring. This year we say goodbye and thank you to Bill Erickson, Julie Hyde-Porter, Steve Lohman, Linda Mitz, Cecile Schultz, Jack Thatcher, and Wanda Wells.

During my first three years as the principal, I have been proud of what we do at Cherry Creek High School. I firmly believe that there is no better place in Colorado than Creek to provide a student with a comprehensive education that will educate the student and prepare him well for college and beyond. I was recently invited to be a part of the University of Oregon Enrollment Advisory Board. My invitation was not so much because of individual accomplishments, but more because of the school in which I serve as the principal. Educators from around the country take notice of what we do at Cherry Creek High School and understand that it is unique. And thankfully, it is not just one area that shines but several. Colleges want our students because they leave us prepared and they value education and hard work.

Yes, Cherry Creek High School continues to be one of the best high schools in the country, but I think we can be even better. We have already begun work in academics, activities and athletics that will prove to be helpful at improving our school and, more importantly, meeting the needs of all students. Our challenge is finding common-time outside

of non-contact days to work together as a faculty on the curriculum, assessments, individual student needs, vertical articulation, and other areas that will greatly affect student achievement. For this reason, we have decided that starting in 2012-2013 we will incorporate five one-hour collaboration periods to be placed in the months that do not include a non-contact day. Many schools around the country have already included this time in their schedules to improve professional learning teams.

The five collaboration periods will be from 7:00-8:00 a.m. with the school day starting at 8:10 a.m.. Transportation will not be affected on these days and students who wish to report to school at the normal time of 7:00 a.m. may do so. We will have adult supervision in both cafeterias as well as the library. Of course, the feedback from the students has been that they would appreciate a little extra sleep once a month, which would also be fine if parents approve.

I want to assure you that by adding the collaboration period to our calendar during the year no instructional time will be lost. We will continue with the same number of instructional minutes in the school year by ending our school day at 2:51 p.m. and by cutting one minute from the passing period between periods 2 and 3. I am confident that by emulating a model that is present in so many schools throughout the country, we will be able to increase student achievement at Creek. Below you will find the dates for the collaboration periods as well as the schedule we will use on those days.

Collaboration Period	7:00-8:00
Period 1	8:10-8:54 (44 min.)
Period 2	9:01-9:45
Period 3	9:51-10:35
Period 4	10:42-11:26
Period 5	11:33-12:17
Period 6	12:24-1:08
Period 7	1:15-1:59
Period 8	2:06-2:51

Dates for the collaboration work would be 10/17, 12/5, 1/30, 3/20, 4/17.

In closing I do want to wish our seniors luck in their final days at Cherry Creek and I remind them of the high expectations I have for the seniors. My hope is they will leave without any regrets and they will stay devoted to their education beyond our 82 acre campus. To our underclassmen, I also wish you luck on your upcoming final exams. The Class of 2012 has set the standard high in so many areas and now it is up to the younger students to also leave an equally impressive legacy on this school.

I hope your summer plans include rest, fun, and a great deal of family time. The students have worked hard and deserve a wonderful summer vacation. Please do not hesitate to contact me this summer if you have any concerns or questions.



Ryan T. Silva
Principal