







**August 2022  
Executive Summary**

The Leadership Cherry Creek (LCC) Class of 2023 started its year of exploration and discovery on Aug. 18 in the Library at Horizon Community Middle School. The group was welcomed by Abbe Smith, Chief Communications Officer, who offered an overview of the LCC program. Board of Education President Kelly Bates, a LCC graduate, provided information about herself, the board and the LCC program from a participant’s perspective. Horizon Principal Dr. Brad Weinhold was also on hand to offer details about the school, its programs, and its students.

Members of the new class then introduced themselves, sharing information about their careers, children, and the schools they are involved with. The group also met members of the CCSD Leadership and Communications teams.

The featured presentation came from Superintendent Christopher Smith, who welcomed and thanked the group and shared highlights of some of the district’s accomplishments during the past two years, which were especially challenging because of the COVID-19 pandemic. He then shared his own story of growing up in Pueblo, working to support his family when his father was too ill to work, and how three exceptional educators changed his life.

Smith also provided background and insights on the Cherry Creek School District’s foundational principals:

- Our Promise: Dedicated to Excellence
- Our Mission: To inspire every student to think, to learn, to achieve, to care.
- Our Strategic Plan: Future Forward
- Our Vision: Pathway of Purpose

Smith explained that Pathway of Purpose is a fundamental mindset, rather than a tactical plan, to “re-imagine our purpose, role, and responsibility as an educational ecosystem, to ensure our students’ educational pathway leads each student to discover and fulfill their individual purpose in life.”

He also talked about [CCSD’s Core Values](#): Growth Mindset, Equity, Whole Wellbeing, Engagement and Relationships, and how the district is working to operationalize those values into everything it does.

Smith took time to answer questions from LCC participants, then Abbe Smith wrapped up with a reminder that the September LCC meeting will be held on Thursday, September 15 in the Lecture Center at Eaglecrest High School.

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Our very own Principal, Dr. Bradley Weinhold and Horizon Community Middle School was selected as the school site to kick off the first 2022-2023 CCSD LEADERSHIP Cherry Creek meeting. What an honor! CCSD houses 70 schools with a total of 54,184 students.



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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

CCSD SUPERINTENDENT Christopher Smith





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Everyone has a story, a journey in life, that we walk. What I found so special about Superintendent Smith's story is his ability to hold a position of high esteem and yet, live in his truth. A truth of a young person struggling in school, living in his older sibling's shadow, being angry and insecure about many things. . A journey of a young person having his

academic and self esteem trajectory changed by three staff that made it their mandate, to see beyond the display of anger and insecurity. When students excel in life because of a great support system in which we are our brother's keeper, the resilience is powerful.



A promise..... Is a debt

Are we paying our debts?

My Takeaways:

CCSD DEBT:

- CCSD four foundational principles
- CCSD core values overlay on the four foundational principles

HCMS DEBT:

- Administration: Incorporating CCSD four foundational principles with the overlay of core values for HCMS's unique student body, families and staff
- Staff: How are we empowering HCMS staff to fulfill this promise in their area of expertise?
- Families: How are we showing up in spaces to change the academic and social/emotional trajectory of our students? Participating in family engagement nights? SAC (school accountability committee), PTCO (Parent teacher community organization) and other volunteer opportunities thus, leveraging our skill sets to pay down our portion, of the debt?
- How are we holding ourselves accountable for this debt?
- I challenge every person to add their piece of support (A kind word, a compliment, a handshake or a "rock on") to every student and staff you come in contact with.
- Students: where is your authentic voice, culture and subculture showing up at HCMS?
- How are you co creating your school journey? What is your current trajectory (academically, athletically, musically, etc.) of becoming good stewards, what is missing for you to feel empowered and valued?

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