



2020-2021
Student-Parent Handbook

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<http://www.cherrycreekschools.org/challenge>

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GENERAL INFORMATION

School Day

The Challenge School day is from 8:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. for all students.

Students attending in-person learning can enter the building through their assigned grade level doors beginning at 7:45 am. Students participating in breakfast will be let in the building at 7:40 am to collect their meal and proceed to their classroom.

After school supervision ends at 3:15 P.M.. The Challenge School Before and After School program is available for those families who need an extended school day.

Hybrid Schedule

8 am - 3 pm	Elementary K - 4	Middle School 5 - 8 Cohort A: A - K	Middle School 5 -8 Cohort B: L - Z
Monday	In-person	Remote Learning	Remote Learning
Tuesday	In-person	In-Person	Remote Learning
Wednesday	In-person	In-Person	Remote Learning
Thursday	In-person	Remote Learning	In-person
Friday	In-person	Remote Learning	In-person

Remote Learning Schedule

Mon - Fri 8 am - 3 pm	Primary K - 2	Intermediate 3 - 4	Middle School 5 - 8
Synchronous	8:00 am - 11:00 am	12:00 pm - 3:00 pm	9:00 am - 1:00 am
Asynchronous	12:00 pm - 3:00 pm	8:00 am - 11:00 am	8:00 am - 9:00 am 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Storm/Emergency Information

School Closures: Should inclement weather or emergency situations result in the closing of district schools, or in an adjustment to school start or dismissal times, the information will be posted on the district web site <http://www.cherrycreekschools.org> and communicated via Blackboard Connect messaging.

In the event of a closure,

- School Day Care programs at the schools will be canceled and closed.
- All Activities scheduled in district facilities are canceled.

Delayed Start: When conditions are not deemed serious enough to close school, but are likely to cause delays, a “delayed start” announcement will be posted on the district web site, and communicated via Blackboard Connect messaging. *Challenge School delayed start is a 1 hour delay. This is consistent with*

the district elementary schedule, not middle school. School will begin promptly at 9:00 A.M. Adult supervision will be available in students' 1st period classroom for students arriving to school prior to 9:00 A.M.

Early Dismissal: If serious storm conditions or other emergency situations develop during the day, the district will monitor the situation and advise affected schools as soon as possible, of a decision to dismiss school early. When this decision is made, this information will be relayed in the same manner as school closures.

Late Dismissal for Inclement Weather: In case of dangerous weather warnings, the school may hold students past their dismissal time for safety reasons. The following plan will be used during thunderstorms, lightning, torrential rain, and/or heavy snowstorms.

1. Poster boards will be placed in the main entrance windows, indicating a delayed/controlled dismissal is in effect.
2. Teachers and students will be notified of the delay.
3. Students will be dismissed and poster boards will be taken down when the weather clears.

Cold Weather: On days when the temperature is above 20°F with the wind chill, and the weather is not inclement, recess will be held outside. If it is below 20°F with the wind chill, the administration will assess the situation and determine if it is suitable to go outside for any length of time. Proper outerwear will be required.

Student Drop Off and Pick Up

Challenge School is currently undergoing traffic revisions in partnership with the city and district to improve the safety and flow of our school traffic.

Carpoolers: Please ensure the drivers of carpools are included in the list of adults allowed to pick up your child. In the event school would be dismissed early or late, school administration needs to know who has permission to take your child home. You may update the list of those authorized to pick up your child any time by logging into your my.cherrycreekschools.org account, and clicking on the Parent Forms tile.

West Carpool Lot:

- Drivers with 4 or more Challenge School students, in the morning and afternoon, 5 days per week may use the west carpool lot.
- After submitting your west carpool lot registration for your carpool, each driver will be issued a pass. Display the pass in the car windshield on the passenger side at all times.
- Do not leave your car while parked along the red curb; this is a fire lane. You must remain in the driver's seat.

Teacher Communication

As in any organization, problems, concerns and conflicts will arise. The Challenge School staff is committed to working with our community through a problem solving process to reach amicable and reasonable solutions. We believe that the best place to start in resolving a problem is closest to the source. Subsequently, we ask that you use the following sequence as a method to most effectively resolve classroom or school problems.

- (1) Phone or meet with the teacher.
- (2) Conference with the teacher and/or team.
- (3) Conference with the teacher/team and the principal.

- (4) Phone and/or conference with the principal.

Visitor Policy

To protect our students, staff, and families during this pandemic, building visitors are restricted.

Animals on Campus

For a variety of reasons, family dogs and pets are not allowed on school grounds. Please be mindful of this at arrival and dismissal. ADA approved service dogs are allowed.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance Policy

One criteria of a student's success in school is regular and punctual attendance. The following shall be considered excused absences:

1. A student who is temporarily ill or injured, or whose absence is approved by the administrator of the school of attendance on a prearranged basis. Prearranged absences shall be approved for appointments or circumstances of a serious nature only which cannot be taken care of outside of school hours.
2. A student who is absent for an extended period due to physical, mental or emotional disability.
3. A student who is pursuing a work-study program under the supervision of the school.
4. A student who is attending any school-sponsored activity or activities of an educational nature with advance approval by the administration.
5. A student who is absent in observance of an established religious holiday.
6. A student whose absence is approved by the building principal at the request of the parent or guardian.
7. A student who is suspended or expelled.

An unexcused absence is defined as an absence that is not covered by one of the foregoing exceptions. Continued unexcused absences and/or repeated tardiness may be considered cause for disciplinary action.

Attendance will be taken during hybrid and remote learning. Engagement, including attendance to synchronous meetings and work product form asynchronous time, factors into attendance during hybrid and remote learning.

Illness and Emergency Absence

A parent or guardian should call the Challenge School attendance line at 720-747-2195 to report an absence. If the student is absent for more than one day, parents are asked to call each morning. The attendance line has a 24-hour voice mail; a message may be left any time, day or night.

Dismissal During the School Day

If a student must be excused during the school day, a parent or guardian must sign the student out by contacting the main office before the student leaves the premises.

Prearranged Absence

If a parent is planning to take a student out of school for any reason, such as religious instruction/service or holidays, or for a medical/dental appointment, notification in writing or by telephone/message should be given to the main office as early as possible. Students will follow the normal policy for make-up work.

Tardy Policy

A student is considered tardy when he or she is not in class and ready to learn by the start of the period. Excessive tardies, 5 or more, may result in an office referral with appropriate consequences.

ACADEMICS

Homework Policy

Homework is a part of any school experience, and should be developmentally and intellectually appropriate. Having a clear understanding of homework expectations by teachers, students, and parents is essential for consistency in student learning. The amount, length, and type of homework will vary according to age, individual needs of the students, and the class. Students in grades kindergarten through second will receive homework on an “as needed” basis. Third and fourth graders will have homework assigned on a regular and predictable schedule. Fifth through eighth graders will receive homework almost daily. Special projects will be assigned as they relate to the curriculum and class experience. In any event, daily silent reading should be part of all evening routines.

Make-up Work

Students are responsible for any work missed because of an absence. Under normal circumstances, students will have the same number of days to complete the makeup work as they have been absent. If a student is absent one day, the homework that is missed should normally be made up at the end of the second day after they have returned. Special circumstances may require more time and teachers may extend this time on an individual basis.

It is very important that both students and parents realize that many of the activities such as lectures, classroom discussions, audio visual aids, and other forms of presentations cannot be duplicated and that the instructional process cannot always be made up. There are assignments that can sometimes compensate but not duplicate what has occurred in the classroom. Therefore, we encourage that absences be kept to a minimum. Recreational vacations and appointments that are scheduled during school days are discouraged. We request and seek your cooperation in this matter.

Grading

Report cards are issued at the end of each of the three 12-week trimesters. Report cards will be a combination of letter grades, standards proficiency ratings, narratives and behavioral checklists.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Virtual parent conferences are scheduled in the fall and in the spring (please refer to the school’s master calendar). The Challenge School staff believes informal conferences are also a necessary part of the educational experience and may arrange additional conferences when necessary. Any time parents have a question or concern, they are invited to call the teacher or arrange a conference.

Math Placement

When students enter Challenge, they are placed in math class based on information gathered from previous schools and comprehensive placement tests. If there is evidence that a student needs grade level acceleration, the teacher will consult with parents, administration, and GT Services to assess him or her further. Acceleration is for highly gifted deep thinkers who are beyond the curriculum, not students who are well prepared, procedurally fluent, or ahead in the curriculum.

The goal of math at Challenge is to meet the needs of our gifted learners by enriching and extending concepts to greater levels of depth and complexity to grow students as mathematicians. Because of our commitment to student success in mathematics both when children are with us and when they are in high school and beyond, we do not allow students to skip math content. Our programming supports an accelerated path for all students in middle school which will allow students to complete Algebra 1 by the time they leave in eighth grade.

Please note that Geometry is the highest class offered at Challenge. If a student reaches a level beyond Geometry, he/she will need to take math classes at their home high school and parents will be responsible for transportation.

Transcripts

For records requests, please email the Registrar, Page Ross, at cross5@cherrycreekschools.org. The records will be sent directly to the receiving school. Please allow **at least two weeks** turn-around time. The Main Office will track the requests and be sure the information is sent out in a timely manner.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

PBIS Framework

Challenge School is a Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) school. Focusing on positive behaviors, in addition to teaching students specific strategies for handling bullying situations, has been shown to create a more positive learning environment and increase academic achievement.

Student Expectations	Be a Part of the P.A.C.K.
Prepared	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be a good student who is ready to learn, explore, and be knowledgeable ● Be reflective in learning and be able to assess strengths and weaknesses
Achieving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be an inquirer and actively enjoy learning ● Be a thinker and creatively approach complex problems with reason ● Make good choices and be balanced and healthy
Cooperative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be open-minded to the perspectives of others ● Communicate and be willing to work collaboratively ● Be a risk-taker with new roles and ideas ● Respect all adults and students
Kind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be caring toward the needs and feelings of others ● Include and help others ● Be principled and act with honesty and integrity ● Take responsibility for own actions

Common Agreements

- Treat others and yourself with respect and courtesy.
- Use appropriate and acceptable language.

- Open containers of food (including candy) and drink are not allowed in the halls or on the playground. Food and drink should be consumed in the classroom if given permission, cafeteria, and at picnic tables only.
- Follow the directions of staff and adults.
- When in hallways and common areas, please keep hands to yourself. Rough-housing and overt public displays of affection are not acceptable.
- Follow social distancing and pandemic safety guidelines.

Student Behavior Expectations and Enforcement

Students at Challenge are expected to abide by all student policies set forth by the Cherry Creek School District. District policies are posted on the Cherry Creek Schools website at <http://www.cherrycreekschools.org>. These policies must be reviewed and signed by parents in order to complete the CCSD school registration process. Written copies can also be provided upon request.

Tri-County Health Department has mandated mask-wearing because research and science show that wearing a mask is critical to slowing the spread of the virus, especially in indoor spaces. We will work with individual students to address any difficulties or medical issues with adhering to the following expectations.

Students who make a conscious decision to not wear their mask - we will first work with individual students to educate them on the requirement to wear a mask in the Cherry Creek Schools; second, we will provide official documentation of the requirement and provide a final warning; finally, we will transfer the student from In-Person Learning to 100% online if they continue to make the choice not to comply with the requirement to wear a mask.

Normally, for less serious misbehavior we expect that reminders and/or brief conferences with any staff member will correct a situation. Supervising staff members may administer other appropriate corrective measures when necessary. For violation of school rules or repeated misbehavior, office referral and parent contact will be necessary.

Lunch Time

The following lunchroom rules will be enforced:

- Students will maintain social distancing and pandemic safety guidelines.
- Students will remain seated in their Connections cohort tables while eating.
- Students will raise their hand to be excused.
- Refrain from running and shouting in the cafeteria.

Playground

We want the playground to be a safe environment for all. Please adhere to the following rules:

- Enjoy food and beverages at the picnic tables or in the cafeteria only.
- Due to health and safety guidelines, no contact or group sports may be played on school grounds.
- Lacrosse sticks may not be brought out to the playground (unless it is part of a lacrosse class).
- Rocks and sticks should stay on the ground at all times.
- Swings are for swinging only (one person at a time, swinging straight while sitting, without jumping off or kicking objects or shoes off).
- Use the monkey bars, without standing on top of them, holding on with both hands.
- When the whistle is blown, line up and wait quietly.
- Toys and electronics are not allowed on the playground.

Hallways

Students are expected to move through the halls in an orderly and quiet manner so they do not disrupt students who are engaged in learning. Social distancing and pandemic safety guidelines will be maintained at all times. If a student is not moving with his or her class, he/she must have a pass.

Academic Dishonesty

Honesty and integrity should be evident in all student conduct, both academic and personal.

Most educational institutions, especially those of higher learning, have serious consequences when encountering scholastic dishonesty by students. Per Cherry Creek School District Board Policy JIDCA: Conduct and Discipline Code, “*scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism, or unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work.*” Plagiarism is further defined as *the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one’s own original work.*

In addition, in accordance with Cherry Creek School District Board Policy JS: Student Use of the Internet and Electronic Communications, “*no student shall access, create, transmit, retransmit, or forward material, information, or software that plagiarizes the work of another without express consent or that is in violation of any federal or state law, including but not limited to copyrighted material and material protected by trade secret.* In order to foster an atmosphere of honesty and integrity at the Challenge School, consequences for scholastic dishonesty may include the following:

- Academic penalty
- Detention
- Conference with student, teacher, parent, and/or administrator
- Suspension
- Revocation of privileges for the school year and beyond. The revoked privileges may include, but are not limited to:
 - Participating in field trips
 - Participating in in-class celebrations
 - Choosing mini-courses other than study hall
 - Participating in Immersions
 - Participating in end of the year activities
 - Other privileges, as determined on a case-by-case basis, by school administration and other staff

Student Dress Standards

CCSD Middle Schools promote a positive dress code where students are encouraged to wear clothing that is comfortable and appropriate for an educational environment. A common dress code cultivates a safe and disciplined learning environment, which is essential to a quality educational program.

CCSD Policy JICAB on student attire is intended to help students concentrate on schoolwork, reduce discipline problems, and promote school order and safety. It is designed to ensure that all students are treated equitably regardless of race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income or body type/size.

Clothing, accessories, paraphernalia, or body adornments **may not**:

- Be profane, obscene, lewd, suggestive, libelous, or vulgar
- Denote gang involvement
- Promote the use of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, or weapons

- Intimidate or threaten any individual or group
- Expose certain body parts (i.e. genitals, buttocks, midriffs, and breasts)
- Disrupt the learning environment
- Promote any activity prohibited by the student code of conduct

Additional Clothing Guidelines include:

- Clothing shall be sufficient to conceal all undergarments at all times (undergarments are any garments that are under the exterior layer of clothing).
- Shoes must be worn at all times; house slippers are not to be worn at school.
- Head coverings are not to be worn except for religious or documented medical purposes.
- Pajamas are not worn at school.
- Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon may not be worn at school.
- Any item that obscures the face or ears (except as a religious observation) may not be worn at school.

If clothing or accessories are inappropriate, disruptive, or outside the expectations, students will be asked to change; parents will be contacted and/or other disciplinary consequences may take place.

Snacks at School

- In accordance with current safety guidelines, sharing homemade or store-bought food is not permitted. This includes all celebrations, birthdays, and parties.
- Teachers may allow students to eat snacks in class. Energy drinks and other products that include energy boosts such as energy gum, energy shots, and energy strips, are not allowed at school.

Bicycles, Skateboards, and Rollerblades

While on school property, students should walk their bikes, and carry their rollerblades, scooters and/or skateboards.

Money and Valuables

It is advisable to retain a list of valuables (with serial numbers) at home before you allow your child to bring valuable articles to school. Students and parents should think judiciously before sending any valuable item, monetarily or sentimentally, to school. Care of such items will be the responsibility of the student.

TECHNOLOGY

Student Computer and Internet Use

In accordance with Board Policy JS, district technology devices are owned by the district and intended for educational purposes at all times. Students shall have no expectation of privacy when using the Internet or electronic communications. The district reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review and store (at any time without prior notice) all usage of district technology devices, including all Internet and electronic communications access and transmission/receipt of materials and information.

Students shall use district technology in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner. No student shall access, create, transmit, retransmit or forward material or software that:

- Is not related to district objectives.
- Promotes violence or destruction of property.
- Contains obscene materials.
- Harasses, threatens, demeans or promotes hatred against another person or group.

- Is for personal profit.
- Plagiarizes the work of others.
- Uses inappropriate or profane language.
- Is knowingly false and could damage another's reputation.
- Impersonates another.
- Accesses another individual's account without written permission.
- Runs port or network scans, password-cracking programs, hacking software or unauthorized file-sharing.

The use of district computers is limited to educational and school business. Personal blogs, wikis, podcasts or other online discussions that do not pertain to school or district educational assignments should not be accessed from district computers through the district's network.

Use of Internet and electronic communication demands personal responsibility and an understanding of the acceptable and unacceptable uses of such tools. Student use of the Internet and electronic communications is a privilege, not a right. Failure to follow the use procedures will result in the loss of the privilege to use these tools and may result in school disciplinary and/or legal action. The school district may deny, revoke or suspend access to district technology or close accounts at any time.

Wireless Connectivity and Access Guidelines

Students may access the district's wireless network at school using their own personal electronic communication devices. Permission to access the district's wireless network in no way obligates parents to provide ECDs for their students. Access to the district wireless network is allowed for applications and activities of an academic nature. Students shall have no expectations of privacy once they have been authorized to connect to the district's electronic network.

In accordance with Board Policy JICJ, neither the school district nor Challenge are responsible for damaged, misplaced or stolen student personal electronic communication devices. Neither the district nor Challenge is able to provide ECD repair or technical support beyond connectivity.

Internet access will go through the Cherry Creek School District filter that is designed to block sites that are inappropriate for the educational environment. Students are expected to follow and adhere to all district Board of Education policies and regulations, as well as terms and conditions of the district's Internet Acceptable Use Agreement, when accessing the Internet through the district's wireless network with their personal electronic communication devices. A student's inappropriate use of a personal electronic communication device will be subject to consequences under applicable Board of Education policy and/or law.

Personal Electronic Devices

Students are expected to use all electronic communication devices ("ECDs") appropriately in the virtual and in-person educational setting and in accordance with applicable Board policy, including but not limited to Board of Education Policy JICJ, *Student Use of Electronic Communication Devices*, and Board of Education Policy JS, *Student Use of the Internet and Electronic Communications*. Personal electronic communication devices that have academic applications may be used in class at the sole discretion of the teacher. Students are responsible for the safekeeping of their personal electronic communication devices.

Possession of a cellular phone or other ECD by a student is considered a privilege, which may be forfeited by any student who engages in misuse of a device so as to violate school rules, Board Policy or law.

Inappropriate use of cellular phones or ECDs includes, but is not limited to:

- Accessing and/or viewing an Internet site that is otherwise blocked to students at school.
- Sending an email, text message or other communication that harasses, intimidates, threatens, bullies, or discriminates against another individual.
- Using a camera device at school or a school-sponsored event to take, send, download or upload an unwanted, harassing, threatening, or embarrassing photos, audio or text of anyone.
- Using such devices to engage in scholastic dishonesty.
- Using such devices to save personal or non-school related files to a district-owned computer.
- Using such devices for any form of cyber-bullying or other unwanted or unsolicited electronic communications or other communications that otherwise causes a disruption to the learning environment.

The use of ECDs with cameras is prohibited in locations where such operation may violate the privacy rights of another person. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the device is turned off and out of sight during unauthorized times.

Technology Learning and Management Systems

PowerSchool, Schoology, SeeSaw, and Google are the primary tools for our hybrid and remote learning environment. PowerSchool is the electronic gradebook and attendance system. Middle school teachers use Schoology to post assignments, as a space for discussions between students, and for collection of classwork. Seesaw is used for similar purposes in primary grades. Parents can access these tools through their my.cherrycreekschools.org login.

Cell Phone Policy

Students who bring a cell phone to school may use them before school starts at 8:00 A.M. and after school is dismissed at 3:00 P.M. Students may not carry cell phones during the school day. Cell phones are required to remain at home or to remain in the student's backpack 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

In order to support this policy, the teacher will call the office to have the phone removed and placed in a locked location in the front office. The next step will depend upon how many times this has happened with each student:

1st Time: Phone is brought to the office and the student may pick it up at the end of the day. Office staff will notify parents.

2nd Time: Phone is brought to the office and will be held in the office until a parent picks it up. The student will call home and inform the parent.

3rd Time: Phone is brought to the office and will be held in the office until a parent and the student can meet with administration to review the expectations and develop a plan together. The student can expect an additional consequence.

4th Time: Phone is brought to the office and will be held in the office until a parent and the student can meet with administration. **Until the end of the trimester** , the student must check the phone into the front office every day and pick it up at the end of the day. The student can expect an additional consequence.

5th Time: Phone is brought to the office and will be held in the office until a parent and the student can meet with administration. **Until the end of the school year** , the student must check the phone into the front office every day and pick it up at the end of the day. The student can expect an additional consequence.

STUDENT SERVICES

Locks/Lockers

Cubbies/coat racks are available for grades K-4. Lockers are not available for the 20-21 school year for middle school. School property provided for the use of students is subject to inspection, clean out, access for maintenance, and search pursuant to Cherry Creek School District Policy JIH.

Athletics and Activities

Challenge offers a variety of clubs and activities for our students. Opportunities are listed on our website and change throughout the year. Contact the front office for limited club offerings in the 20-21 year.

Challenge students in grades 6 - 8 may participate in athletics offered at their home school. If you are interested, please inform the Main Office so we may coordinate with your home school.

School Breakfast and Lunch Program

Cherry Creek's Food and Nutrition Services' is dedicated to providing students with the nutritious and tasty meals they need for optimal learning during the school day and beyond. Due to the unprecedented circumstances during the 2020-21 school year, the USDA has extended the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) waivers, allowing schools to offer meals to all children at no charge through the end of the year. This means that a complete breakfast and lunch with milk is FREE to all students daily, regardless of Free and Reduced Meal Program status. Please note that a la carte items such as snacks, non-milk beverages, and additional entrees are not covered by this and must be purchased at cost.

This year Food and Nutrition Services has a new meal account management system in place of PayPams called Titan School Solutions. To sign up with Titan and start managing your student's account, go to **family.titank12.com**, click Sign-up Today, and flow the prompts. From here you can do the following - make online payments, monitor your children's accounts, set up automatic recurring payments, set up low balance e-mail message alerts, and submit an online application for free and/or reduced meals. Although meals are free to all students this year, we encourage all families who may qualify for the Free and Reduced Meal Program to still submit an application through Titan. There are additional benefits that come with being on the program such as a waiver for school-related fees. It is the policy of Food and Nutrition Services that no child will go hungry at Challenge School unless s/he chooses to do so. Assistance is always available.

Clinic

If a student feels sick at school, he/she should tell his/her teacher and go to the clinic (not to the restroom). For minor injuries and problems that are not time sensitive, a student may go to the clinic between classes or at lunchtime. Should a student become sick or injured at school, it is preferred to get them home as soon as possible. Please help by picking up your sick or injured student in a timely manner when called by the nurse. If a student has a fever, vomiting, or any symptoms of illness in the previous 24hrs, please call the attendance line and keep them home from school.

Medication Policy

The 'Consent for Prescription/Homeopathic Medication at School' form is required by the School Board Policy JLCA for a student to take prescription medication at school. The form is included with the packet of registration materials, can be found online, and are available from the school nurse. New forms must be completed each year and require a provider AND parent signature. Medication must be in the original

container with a label with the student's name, name of medication, medication dose, and provider's name. Please do not allow your student to bring the medication to school. Instead, it is requested that the parent/guardian bring the medication to school. Contact the school nurse if your student will need medication during the school day.

Mental Health

The primary responsibility of the mental health program is to support students, parents and teachers in striving for personal and academic growth. This is achieved through the provision of evaluation and referral services, crisis intervention and consultation services, as well as individual counseling and guidance on academic and personal concerns, consultation, and group guidance on such topics as successful transitions, stress management and drug and alcohol abuse.

Wolf Watch

Challenge School provides the district's Extended Child Services (ECS) before-and-after-school program for Challenge School students. ECS are district-supervised programs that provide enrichment to children of Cherry Creek School District communities. Challenge School's program, Wolf Watch, strives to provide students with a safe and nurturing environment while promoting physical, emotional and intellectual development. In addition to providing childcare before and after school, our program provides care on school holidays, non-pupil contact days, and summer and winter vacations depending on demand. Before-school hours are from 6:30 A.M. to 7:50 A.M.; after-school hours are from 3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.

PARENT INFORMATION

PTCO

The Executive Board welcomes you to the Challenge School's Parent-Teacher-Community Organization (PTCO). Membership in the Challenge School PTCO includes the parents or guardians of each of our school's students, the faculty, the administration of the school, and interested members of the community. While the school program is innovative, the purpose of the PTCO remains very traditional. The purpose is:

- To promote strong relationships among parents, teachers, community, and school officials.
- To implement programs to enhance the regular curriculum.
- To encourage student and parent involvement in school.
- To provide financial and volunteer support for school programs.
- To provide for student health and safety.
- To facilitate communication between the school and the community.

The Challenge School PTCO operates as a 501(3)(c) charitable organization through affiliation with the Cherry Creek Parents' Council. The Challenge community's strong commitment to excellence in education is evident by the number of volunteers who have served at school. The PTCO Board encourages involvement and contribution to school. Please respond freely when the faculty asks for support or come forward with thoughtful proposals. The opportunities to serve are vast and highly flexible.

The community is invited to attend monthly meetings. Check *Wolf Tracks* for meeting dates. Attending PTCO meetings is an easy way to earn Family Service hours. Please join in making this year a year that is both productive and rewarding.

AAC

The Challenge School has instituted an Advisory and Accountability Committee to uphold the Challenge School mission. The AAC will focus its work on Challenge School goals and objectives. It will make recommendations to the principal on the development, implementation, and review of the Unified Improvement Plan based on student and school performance and achievement. The AAC will strive to represent the voices and perspectives of all members of the Challenge School community. All meetings are held virtually and open to the public. Parents and staff members should feel free to attend the meetings. In addition, agendas are set prior to meetings so if you would like to suggest an agenda item you must contact the school principal at least one month prior to the meeting with your request. Check the school website calendar and/or *Wolf Tracks* for meeting dates.

PASS

Partnership for Academically Successful Students (PASS) is comprised of parents and educators who collaborate to promote the success of all students. The goal of PASS is to cultivate partnerships with families of our Black and Latino students. Our work includes developing resources and action plans that support the academic achievement of our students of color. Meetings are held virtually and all families are welcome to attend. Please check the Challenge School website and/or *Wolf Tracks* for a meeting schedule.

Volunteer Hours

An important aspect of the Challenge School mission includes creating a school environment in which a partnership exists between the school and the families of the students. As a result, a Family Service Requirement was created. Each family is asked to donate 25 hours of service to the school each year. A myriad of volunteer opportunities are available for families to fulfill this requirement; however, it is the responsibility of each family to find ways to meet the requirement. In addition to volunteer time, service hours can be met through attending Back-to-School-Night, scheduled conferences, PTCO meetings and parent seminars.

The documentation of the family's hours is based on an honor system. The family is responsible for recording their hours online. If you do not have access to a computer, please feel free to use one at school. Waivers are available to those for whom 25 hours is a difficult commitment. Because of the philosophy of the Challenge School, we encourage every family to contribute what they can.

How do we get involved?

Interpersonal Level – Time donated to enhance YOUR child's life

- Conferences and Back-to-School Night
- Helping with a club in which your child is a part (Chess Club, Girl Scouts, Destination Imagination, etc.)

Intrapersonal Level – Time donated to enhance the lives of MANY students

- Volunteer in the classroom or at the school
- Drive, chaperone, or coordinate Immersions

Community Level – Time donated to benefit the ENTIRE Challenge Community

- Chairing an event, PTCO committee, or a Community Service committee
- Working an event or project, or performing a support role where needed

- Donating needed funds or items
- Attending meetings: PTCO, Accountability, etc.

Recording Family Service Hours

Your dedication and involvement makes the Challenge School the unique educational community that it is!

Not only is your annual Family Service Hours' requirement of 25 hours highly valued by the school, it is a great modeling opportunity for you as parents to your children!!!

Your volunteer time makes a difference! Service hours are intended to involve parents at the family and community level. Some volunteer activities that always qualify toward service hours include:

- Time spent for each parent-teacher conference.
- Attending Check-In, Back to School Night and PTCO meetings.
- Hours spent as an Immersion Driver or Chaperone.
- Actual drive time required to deliver/pick up items for an activity or event that is not part of your daily Challenge commute.
- Actual time spent to volunteer or attend any "at school," "at home," or other school activities/events as solicited or coordinated through Challenge staff or PTCO, or as posted in the volunteer opportunities listing on the service hours website.

Recording your hours is on the "honor system." Please use your best judgment when entering your time. Service hours are audited for accuracy at least three times throughout the year to assist families in staying on track to meet the service goal.