

Dear Mountain Vista Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health and high spirits as we prepare to embark on an exciting new school year. As the proud principal of Mountain Vista, it is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I extend a warm welcome to both our returning families and those joining our school community for the first time.

At MVE, we believe that education is a collaborative effort involving parents, students, teachers, and the community at large. Together, we will empower our students to embrace challenges, develop critical thinking skills, and become compassionate, responsible citizens. We are committed to providing an exceptional educational experience that fosters academic excellence, and social emotional wellness.

This upcoming school year promises to be filled with engaging activities, meaningful learning opportunities, and a range of exciting events that will enrich the lives of our students. Our dedicated and talented team of educators have been hard at work during the summer, preparing to welcome your children back to school with renewed energy and creativity. We are so eager to begin the school year!

As partners in your child's education, we encourage open communication between parents and teachers. We value your insights and feedback as they play a crucial role in shaping our school's growth and development. We will continue to provide multiple avenues for you to stay informed about your child's progress, upcoming events, and school activities.

In the spirit of communication, I'd like to share with you some important information about the beginning of the school year. [Please read through the entirety of this letter and the Mountain Vista Elementary Student and Parent Information Handbook that is attached so that you and your children are prepared for school to begin.](#) Should you have any questions or need assistance with any of this information now or at any time throughout the school year, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office. My door is always open, and I am here to assist you in any way I can.

Finally, I want to express my sincere appreciation for your continued support and partnership in making Mountain Vista a remarkable place for learning and growth. Together, we create a nurturing and stimulating environment that encourages our young learners to DREAM, BELIEVE, and ACHIEVE to their fullest potential.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Respectfully,

Megan Carkhuff
Principal
Mountain Vista Elementary

Important Information for the 2023/2024 School Year

Meet and Greet

On **Thursday, August 10 from 4 - 6 p.m.** students have the opportunity to meet their teacher and drop off school supplies in their classrooms. Your child's classroom teacher will send you an email by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, August 8 with a welcome to their classroom. If you do not receive an email from your child's teacher, please double check to be sure you have completed your parent forms online. Classroom placements are not provided until parent forms are complete. Please contact the office 720-886-2700 with questions.

Additionally, during the Meet and Greet, we will have the Kona Ice truck in front of the building from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. if your family would like to purchase snow cone treats. (A portion of the proceeds will come back to the Mountain Vista PTO.) Please note that we will not allow Kona Ice treats inside the building, so please enjoy them prior to or after your meet and greet visit.

1st Day of School Phase-In

All Cherry Creek Elementary Schools will begin the school year with the phase-in model outlined below:

- **Aug 14** -3rd, 4th, 5th grade Only - First Day of School (K, 1st and 2nd do NOT attend)
- **Aug 15** -1st and 2nd grade Only - First Day of School (K, 3rd, 4th, 5th do NOT attend)
- **Aug 16** - Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten First Day of School and all students 1st through 5th attend
 - Aug 16 is also the first early release day with school dismissed at 1:45 p.m. for Kindergarten-5th grade only. Pre-Kindergarten does not participate in early release on Wednesdays.

Early Release Wednesdays

Cherry Creek elementary schools have early release days **every Wednesday at 1:45 p.m.** to enhance professional development and training opportunities for our elementary teachers. By having this specific time set aside, there will be less of a need to pull teachers out of the classroom during the day, which creates continuity for students and less of a reliance on substitute teachers. With early release Wednesdays, our elementary schools still exceed the class time required by the Colorado Department of Education. For families who participate in after-school child care, the after-school program is extended every Wednesday at no additional cost. For families who need care, you can register by contacting Kristy Dwyer-Petrocco at 720-886-2715.

Before and After Care- Extended Childcare Services

Mountain Vista offers before school student care starting at 6:30 a.m. After school student care services are provided from 2:45 p.m. (1:45 pm on early release Wednesdays) - 6 p.m. If you are interested in enrolling your student(s) in extended care, please contact our Director, Kristy Dwyer-Petrocco, at 720-886-2715.

Family Connection Meetings (Formerly Back to School Night)

Again this year, we are planning to do something different with Back to School Night. Instead of a formal Back to School Night with everyone present, we are planning to connect on an individual basis to better understand the unique hopes, dreams and needs of your student(s). Each classroom teacher will reach out to each family personally, to connect and learn about your child within the first few weeks of school. As a parent, you may begin to think about some of the following to share with your child's classroom teacher:

- What is your greatest hope for your child this school year?
- What are your child's strengths, gifts and areas of interest?
- Who are the family members or friends your child most enjoys spending time with?
What are some things they enjoy doing together?
- How can we best support your child in the educational setting?

We know our partnership with you is essential to the success of our students! We look forward to these conversations and this opportunity to learn from you!

Please note that the information typically presented during Back to School Night (grade level specifics and expectations) will be shared virtually, the first week of school.

MVE's 10th Anniversary Celebration

This year MVE turns 10 years old, and we are so excited to celebrate our anniversary! Please be on the lookout for information regarding our 10th Anniversary Spirit Week, August 21-25! All PreK-5th grade students will receive a free anniversary t-shirt, and everyone is invited to join our MVE 10th Year Anniversary Party. This free event will take place on August 25, from 5-7 p.m. There will be great opportunities to visit with current and past students, families, employees and district leaders as well as time to dance with the DJ, run our inflatable obstacle courses, enjoy dinner from some local food trucks and spend time with one another in celebration. We hope you will join us!

Arrival/Dismissal/Bus Loop

Our main goal is to ensure student safety first and foremost with arrival and dismissal. Please know that we also attempt to make these times as seamless and stress-free as possible. If you are interested in supporting our safety efforts, we are hiring crossing guards and general

paraprofessionals at this time. Please feel free to reach out to Caryn Pratt, Assistant Principal, 720-886-2705 with any questions. We'd love to add more members to our Mammoth staff!

During arrival all K-5 students enter the building through the far west doors. This ensures that every driver in the drop-off lane pulls all the way forward prior to letting students out of the car. Please make sure your student is ready to hop out as soon as your car stops. The doors open at 7:45 a.m., and class begins at 8:00 a.m. There is no supervision prior to 7:45am, so please do not drop your child off prior to this time. If you are planning to walk your child to the door, please park in the parking lot and walk your child across the crosswalks. There should be no unattended cars in the drop-off/pick-up loop.

With the addition of Pre-Kindergarten this year, we are expecting the parking lot to be utilized to the fullest extent. Pre-Kindergarten students must be escorted to their classroom doors and signed in and out by their parents/guardians. If you are not a Pre-Kindergarten parent/guardian, we encourage you to use the drop-off lane to reduce the parking congestion in the parking lot.

All students will be dismissed at 2:45 p.m. except for Wednesdays when we dismiss early at 1:45 p.m. (Early release days do not apply to Pre-Kindergarten.) The bus loop, on the east side of the building, is strictly used for buses. Please do not drop off or pick up your child in the bus loop.

For health and safety reasons, please do not bring animals to school or on the school grounds during school hours. Dogs are not allowed on the premises. This includes dogs on leashes at arrival and dismissal.

Breakfast/Lunch

Breakfast and lunch are offered through the Cherry Creek Food and Nutrition Department for free. Please visit the website at <https://www.cherrycreekschools.org/Page/2808> for more information on the menu and for more information on how to deposit funds into your student's account for snacks and treats. If your child eats breakfast, they may enter through the main entrance doors which open at 7:30 a.m. Please do not drop your student off any earlier than 7:30 a.m. as there is no supervision prior to this time. Breakfast is available until 8:00 a.m. every day.