



August 1, 2024

24 Hour Attendance Line: 720-886-2795

August 8	Kindergarten Meet and Greet, on the playground, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
August 8	Meet and Greet, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
August 8	5 th Grade Outdoor Ed Parent Night, 6:00 p.m.
August 12	First day of school for grades 3/4/5 ONLY (other grades do not attend)
August 12	Kindergarten assessment, by appointment
August 13	First day of school for grades 1/2 ONLY (other grades do not attend)
August 14	First day of school for Pre-K and Kindergarten ALL GRADES ATTEND (early release Wednesday, dismiss at 1:45 p.m.)
August 14	PTO Community Meeting, Library, 6:00 p.m.
August 20	Student pictures with Studio 5
September 2	NO SCHOOL, Labor Day
September 5	Vista Voyage, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
September 13	STOMPede/Fun Run
September 19	Skate City Night
September 19	RAIN DATE - STOMPede/Fun Run
September 20	NO SCHOOL/Non-contact Day

Dear Mountain Vista Families,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! I hope this letter finds you all well and excited as we begin another wonderful year at Mountain Vista Elementary. It is with great joy and enthusiasm that I welcome back our returning families and extend a special greeting to those joining our community for the first time.

At Mountain Vista, we see education as a shared journey among parents/guardians, students, teachers, and our wider community. Together, we aim to inspire our students to tackle challenges, enhance their critical thinking abilities, and grow into compassionate and responsible citizens. Our commitment is to offer an outstanding educational experience that prioritizes academic success and emotional well-being.

This year is set to be filled with engaging activities, meaningful learning experiences, and a host of exciting events that will enrich our students' lives. Our dedicated and talented educators have been busy throughout the summer, preparing to welcome your children back with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. We are eagerly looking forward to starting the new school year!

We value open communication and see parents as essential partners in the educational process. Your insights and feedback are crucial in helping us shape our school's future. We will continue to keep you informed about your child's progress, upcoming events, and school activities.

The safety and well-being of our students and staff are of utmost importance to us. We are committed to maintaining a safe and supportive environment where every child can thrive. We have implemented comprehensive safety measures, including regular drills, secure campus protocols, and ongoing staff training, to ensure that our school remains a secure place for learning. We encourage all families to review our safety guidelines and discuss them with your children to help reinforce these important practices.

Please take a moment to read through this letter and the attached Mountain Vista Elementary [Student and Parent Information Reference Guide](#) (formerly our Parent/Student Handbook). This will help ensure that you and your children are well-prepared for the start of the school year. If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our office. My door is always open, and I am here to support you in any way I can.

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

Looking forward to an amazing year ahead!

Warm regards,

Megan Carkhuff
Principal

Important Information for the 2024/2025 School Year

Meet and Greet

On **Thursday, August 8 from 4:00 -6:00 p.m.** Students have the opportunity to meet their teacher and drop off school supplies in their classrooms. Kindergarten families are invited to join our Kinder teachers for popsicles on the playground from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Kindergarten students are encouraged to bring their school supplies to their assessment conference on Monday, August 12.

Your child's classroom teacher will send you an email by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 6 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 12** - 3rd, 4th, 5th grade Only - First Day of School (PK, K, 1st and 2nd do NOT attend)
- **Aug 13** - 1st and 2nd grade Only - First Day of School (PK, K, 3rd, 4th, 5th do NOT attend)
- **Aug 14** - 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.

Safety

The district follows the Standard Response Protocol from the I Love You Guys Foundation. You can read more about these protocols and our drills [HERE](#).

All visitors must be buzzed in through the main entrance and need an ID to be identified through our RAPTOR safety system. You will be asked to retrieve your ID if you have forgotten it. Once identified, visitors will be given a printed visitor badge to wear. We kindly ask that you do not hold the doors for others who are entering the building. This helps ensure the safety of our students and staff.

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 childcare, 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) – 6:00 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.

Back to School Events

Family Connection Meetings

We hope that you'll share the unique hopes, dreams and needs of your student(s) by signing up for a family connection meeting with your child's teacher. Each classroom teacher will offer individualized time to connect with parents/guardians during the first month 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!

Vista Voyage Night (Parent Information Night)

Please join us on **September 5 from 5:00 -7:00 p.m.** for our first annual Vista Voyage night. During this evening classroom teachers will share what makes their grade level a unique part of your child's educational journey at Mountain Vista. This parent information night will be offered in multiple sessions. Be on the lookout for more information from your child's teacher.

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.

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 in the unloading zone. The doors open at 7:45 a.m., and class begins at 8:00 a.m. There is no supervision prior to 7:45 a.m., 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.

The parking lot is often used to the fullest extent during these busy times. Due to the fact that Pre-Kindergarten students must be escorted to their classroom doors and signed in and out by their parents/guardians, we have a designated number of spots for Pre-Kindergarten spots in the parking lot. 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. Please note there is no parking on the streets (Radcliff or Tibet).

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. There is no charge for breakfast or lunch. 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 or restrict funds into your student's account for snacks and treats. If your child eats breakfast, they may enter through the main entrance doors from 7:30 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. After 7:45 they should use the west doors. 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.

Attendance

As a reminder, per board policy JH, a student's success in school is directly related to regular and punctual attendance. Students need to be at school, on time, every day. Attendance is mandatory per policy JEA. This year, the district will be taking the lead on monitoring every student's attendance, and they will take sole responsibility for sending out attendance reminders letters. If student absences (excused or unexcused) extend beyond 10 days, you will receive a notice from the district reminding you of the policy. The district will be sending out more communication about this process soon.

In case of sickness or absence, please call the 24-hour attendance line at 720-886-2795. If a student is not called in absent by 8:15 a.m., we are required to call you to confirm your child is unaccounted for at school and is safe.

If you plan to take an extended (10+ days) vacation, you will be required to unenroll your student and re-enroll them upon your return. We cannot guarantee the same classroom placement upon return.

The Mammoth family has grown! Read below to learn more about the newest 24-25 members of the MVE staff!



Monica Nisonoff-IERC Coach

I am so excited to be a part of the Mountain Vista Community this year! This will be my 14th year in Cherry Creek School District. During this time I have taught Gifted and Talented K-5, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grades. When I am not at school, you can find me enjoying the outdoors, hiking, skiing, biking, and spending time with my family. The beach is our happy place where we visit each summer. I am excited to get to know you all and look forward to a great year.



Hannah Luetkenhaus- 2nd grade teacher

Hi, my name is Hannah Luetkenhaus. I am a new second grade teacher who just graduated from Colorado State University! This last spring, I student taught for a third grade class in Fort Collins. I am now so excited to be a part of the Mountain Vista family! I love to hike and go on runs. I've lived in Colorado my whole life, so I feel lucky to have seen so much of it!

Nicole Johnson - Social Worker

Hi- I'm Nicole Johnson! I have been a school social worker with Aurora Public Schools for the past 11 years. I have my Bachelors in Social Work from Colorado State University and my Masters in Social Work from the University of Denver. I am a born and raised Coloradan who grew up attending Cherry Creek Schools and graduated from Grandview High School. Outside of work I enjoy spending time with my husband Charlie, my 18-month-old son Jackson, my two dogs, and two cats. I enjoy gardening, camping,

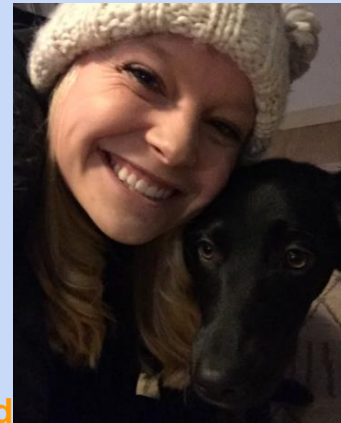


spending time with family, and am a huge Denver Broncos fan!



Sarah Elrod- Music

Hello! I am a Cherokee Trail graduate and hold a Bachelor of Arts in music education and a minor in theater arts from Augustana College in Rock Island, IL. I taught pre-school in West Virginia and was an elementary and middle school music sub in CCSD last year. Outside of school I enjoy paddle boarding, embroidery, reading, playing clarinet, singing, and dancing. I can't wait to be a Mammoth!



Madeleine Adams - K-2 Gifted and Talented

Hello! My name is Madeleine Adams, and I am so excited to be the new Gifted Education Teacher at Mountain Vista Elementary School! I am originally from Colorado (Littleton Public Schools graduate) and am ecstatic to have moved back to the Mile High City after some time in South Dakota. This will be my seventh year in education. I have previously taught first grade and kindergarten. I graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with my bachelors (go Huskers!) and the University of Denver with my master's (go Pioneers!).

Outside of school, I love traveling, reading, trying new restaurants, spending time with friends and family, and taking my dog Lula hiking and paddleboarding (although she doesn't quite love paddleboarding as much as I do). I am very passionate about identifying and supporting gifted students and am looking forward to meeting everyone in the MVE community!



BACK TO SCHOOL EVENTS!

Please join us for the following events!

1.

Meet and Greet

When: August 8, 4-6pm, Open House

Who? All families and students welcome!

Why? Get to know your teacher, see the school and your classroom, and drop off school supplies!

2.

Vista Voyage Night

When: September 5, 5-7pm (multiple sessions offered)

Who? All families and students welcome!

Why? Learn about the ins and outs of your students' journey in this grade level and what unique experiences the grade level brings!

3.

Family Connection Meetings

When: The first month of school

Who? Parents/Guardians

Why? You may sign up for a family connection meeting with your child's teacher to share the individual needs of your child. This is one-on-one time with your child's teacher.

Adopted by the
Board of Education
December 13, 2021
Revised – March 1, 2023

Cherry Creek School District 2024-2025 School Year Calendar ALL SCHOOLS

JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER							DECEMBER							JANUARY							FEBRUARY						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28			

MARCH							APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No School for Students and Staff ■ School Starts ■ Last day of School 	<p>Days marked with colors below are non-pupil contact days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Teacher Work Days Prior to Start of School ■ K-12 Non-contact ■ K-8 Non-contact/conferences 	<p>If for any reason the school district must close schools for more than two days, this 2024-2025 calendar will be amended by the Board of Education to provide additional school days.</p>
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