



August 2024

Dear Polton families,

It is that time once again to get ready to come back to school! Whether you are a new family or a returning family, we can't wait to welcome you to the 2024-2025 school year! Ms. Blume and I are grateful to be back at Polton for our fourth and fifth years respectively. We are looking forward to a great year full of learning, growing, and JOY!

We will continue our combined **Teacher Meet n' Greet/Back to School Night**. These events are combined in an effort to best utilize the time of our families and community. As you may remember from last year, our Teacher Meet n' Greet is an opportunity to drop off your school supplies in the classroom and meet your child's teacher. Back to School Night is when you will hear more detailed information from us about the upcoming school year and meet other staff members. **BONUS:** You get to find out our school theme for the year!

This combined event will take place on **Thursday, August 8th from 4:00-6:00 pm**. Here is how it works... **Each family will pick ONE session to attend for the hour**. If you have multiple children, you may choose to attend both. All staff will be in attendance for this special night. Plan on connecting with teachers present and past!

SESSION 1

4:00-4:30pm Meet n' Greet (this is when you drop off supplies in the classroom and say hello to your new teacher)

4:30-5:00pm Join us in the gym for a general information session including staff intros, our world famous Hug and Go systems, and other information to ensure a great start to the school year.

SESSION 2

5:00-5:30pm Meet n' Greet (this is when you drop off [supplies](#) in the classroom and say hello to your new teacher)

5:30-6:00pm Join us in the gym for a general information session including staff intros, our world-famous [Hug and Go](#) systems, and other information to ensure a great start to the school year.

FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL

For the first week of school, all Cherry Creek elementary schools will utilize the staggered start schedule to support a smooth and supportive start to our school year!

Monday, August 12th: **ONLY 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students** (No Kindergarten, 1st or 2nd). Kindergarten screenings will take place on this day, and our Kindergarten team will reach out to registered families with specifics.

Tuesday, August 13th: **ONLY 1st and 2nd grade students** (No 3rd, 4th or 5th). Kindergarten screenings will take place on this day, and our Kindergarten team will reach out to registered families with specifics.

Wednesday, August 14th: **ALL STUDENTS in the DEN!** Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade! **This is also the first day of school for Kindergarten students.** Please join us for our "Tissues and Treats" event for our kindergarten families. This will be held from 8:15-8:45 a.m. in our **DenZone** (outdoor learning space under bridge).

Please note: Polton Place will only be providing before & after school care to students who are in the school for the day. There will **NOT** be any full-day programs August 15-19th!

Please help us welcome back all returning and new staff members to our Polton Den!

<p><u>Office Staff</u> Angie Lore, Principal Courtney Blume, Principal Temple Cyr, Office Manager Sha-Nae Orr, Registrar Natalie Lopez, Community Liaison Ginger Daniel, Nurse Bailey Queen, Health Teach Tessa Maldonado, Admin Health Liaison Angel Cruz Luz, Building Engineer Kelly Gaffey, Polton Place Director Sudha Sivachidambaram, Tech TA</p> <p><u>Kindergarten</u> David Ashcraft Jordan Pratt Eliza Burghardt</p> <p><u>1st</u> Kate Donaldson Kim Fleming Devin Velasquez-Diaz</p> <p><u>2nd</u> Meredith Olugbode Megan Plouff Sofie Larson-Fine Erinn Shea</p> <p><u>3rd</u> Aly Barker Brenna Sills Alicia Austin</p> <p><u>4th</u> Mary Derbish Andrea Aibner Amy Faseler</p> <p><u>5th</u> Lynn Baer Ashley Van Sickle Lyndsay Eliason</p> <p><u>General Ed TAs</u> Aspen Fierros Leigh Ann Kervin Suneetha Prakash</p>	<p><u>Support Services</u> Chelsea Carson, PBIS Katie Schell, Instructional Coach Dr. Ana Novelli, Psychologist Sara Miles, Social Worker Robyn Wertheimer, Social Emotional Learning Specialist, Laura Fehrenbacher, Social Emotional Learning Specialist Maureen Dreman, LD Molly Halvorsen, LD Anna Walsh, LD Elizabeth Blackinton, ELL Debby Smith, GT Melissa Sparr, OT Lauren Gutstadt, Speech Language Pathologist(SLP) Raven Talley, SLP Assistant Sydney Loewenstein, Intervention Hannah Lucas, Intervention Mary Corcoran, Aurora Mental Health Terry Campbell, LD TA Devin Frunzi, LD TA Danielle Marsh, Paws Pad Tech</p> <p><u>IA</u> Jeannette Moulard, Art Shianne Cruz, Music James Rodgers, PE</p> <p><u>Integrated Learning Center (ILC)</u> Melanie McLaughlin, ILC Teacher Lorien Archambeault, ILC Teacher Rhonda Tomkinson, ILC TA Taylan Caldwell, ILC TA Mandi Gosten, ILC TA Blake Erickson, ILC TA Somerae Nuanes, ILC TA Hailey Gutierrez, ILC TA</p> <p><u>Behavior Development</u> Erin Hoffman, Cubs Den Teacher Erin Turner, Cubs Den Teacher Emily Austin, Cubs Den Teacher Sammi Valdez, Cubs Den TA Amanda Linsacum, Cubs Den TA Bailey Hough, Cubs Den TA Oakley Castellano, Cubs Den TA</p> <p><u>Cafeteria</u> Candy Buitrago Zelaya</p>
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WHAT ARE THE SCHOOL HOURS AND DROP OFF/PICK UP PROCEDURES?

SCHOOL HOURS

Drop Off – 7:45 am – 8:00 am

School Day – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday (8:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.)

Wednesday (8:00a.m. - 1:45p.m.)

A few years ago, Cherry Creek Schools and the Cherry Creek Education Association agreed to dismiss all elementary schools one hour earlier every Wednesday in order 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 this change, our elementary schools will still exceed the class time required by the Colorado Department of Education.

For families who participate in [Polton Place](#) for after-school child care, Polton Place will be extended every Wednesday. For families who need care, you can register with our school's program. More information about after-school care is listed at the end of this letter.

DROP OFF & PICK UP PROCEDURES: The school hours are 8:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Student drop off will start at 7:45 a.m. Student dismissal will be at 2:45 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Student dismissal will be at 1:45 on Wednesday.

Please do not drop off students prior to 7:45am, as there is no supervision outside.

Students will be brought in as they arrive at their assigned grade level doors. Please drop students off in the designated grade level areas (listed below). You may drop off at the youngest student location if you have more than one student at Polton.

If you arrive after 8:00am, please send your child(ren) up the Bridge to Door #1 so they can be checked in. Students arriving after 8:00 will be marked as “late”.

Due to Fire Department Regulations, the main parking lot is designated as a “No Parking Area” and must remain clear for buses from 7:30am - 8:05am and also 2:30pm - 3:05pm. The parking lot will be CLOSED and NO PARKING will be allowed during these times.

One of the great things about Polton is our beautiful neighborhood. Please be mindful of the neighbors who surround our school as you park in the morning and afternoon. Our Dam West community are huge supporters of our school. We ask that you **DO NOT** block their driveways or park in front of the hydrants when parking in the neighborhood. Thank you for your patience and cooperation!

If you enter the parking lot **outside of the times above**, you may stop along the curb long enough for you to drop your child(ren) off. **Do not park and leave your car unattended in this area.** Again, If you cannot find a parking spot, we ask that you exit the parking lot and search for parking in the neighborhood, avoiding driveways, fire hydrants, and no parking zones including our Hug and Go Lane.

“HUG & GO LANE”

Our [Hug & Go](#) Lane for our Kindergarten-5th grade students has been incredibly successful for the past several years, and we look forward to partnering again with our families to ensure a safe and organized drop off/pick up procedure. If you have any kid-friendly music requests, please let us know! 😊

Paris St/Oakland Street (east side of school)-Drivers must stay in their vehicles at all times. Drivers traveling southwest on Paris St/Oakland Street to drop off/pick up students in our “Hug and Go” lane **may not exit your car.** Please only stop long enough to allow children to exit the car safely and/or safely enter the passenger side of your vehicle. When using our “Hug and Go lane” please pull forward to let other parents also efficiently drop off/pick up their students along this curb. **It’s like “Follow the Leader.” Please no cutting in line or U-Turns.** We will have traffic supervisors outside to help open car doors and get your students safely to/from the building. **After your student has exited the car, please wait to be directed to leave.** If you are traveling northeast on Paris St/Oakland Street and there is parking available, you may park on the far side of the street. Please be sure to cross the street at the crosswalk when walking students to/from the building. **Please understand that the traffic rules are designed to protect our students and keep the flow of traffic safe for our Panther community.**

To ensure a smooth and safe flow, conversations with school staff are discouraged during drop off and pick up. Please email your teacher if you need to meet or have questions. Additionally, please make sure that your student(s) always know their dismissal plan whether they are walking, riding the bus, Polton Place, or using “Hug and Go.” If your dismissal plan changes, please notify the office PRIOR TO 2:00pm, or 1:00pm on Wednesdays.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH ARE FREE!

All students in the *Cherry Creek School District* will have access to free healthy, nutritious school meals thanks to the Health School Meals for All program approved by Colorado voters. Our District is very excited to participate in the program! Here is some additional information and a few important reminders about what this means for our schools and families.

- Please fill out the new combined Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals/Family Economic Data Survey. While meals will be provided for free to all Cherry Creek students through Healthy School Meals for All, **it's important for us to continue gathering this information to receive full access to available federal funds that support nutritional programs at your school.**
- All household income information provided through this form is strictly confidential and protected by law. **Only one form is required for all children in the household.** Immigration, migrant, citizenship or refugee status is not required when completing the form.
- Please complete this form during registration for the 2024-25 school year. By providing this information, you will help our district access all available funds to cover the cost of meals, and other nutritional programs for students. Plus, families who fill out the form may qualify to receive discounted school fees, class

materials, bus passes, utility support and more! Click the link below to receive more information! 😊

[24-25 School Meal Guide](#)

Breakfast will open daily at 7:40am sharp! Students will enter DOOR #2 to join our breakfast line. Please allow for extra time in the breakfast line in the morning as class starts promptly at 8:00am. If your student(s) will be eating breakfast with us, **it is important that they get to school on time.**

Student arrival will be assigned to doors listed below:

Cub's Den- (Door 15 and/or grade level doors)

ILC - go in through their grade level doors

5th grade - (Door 6)

4th grade - (Door 6)

3rd grade - (Door 2)

2nd grade - (Door 2 for Ms. Shea, Ms. Plouff, and Ms. Larson-Fine. Door 6 for Olugbode)

1st grade - (Door 2)

Kindergarten - Ashcraft - Door 3 or 4, Burghardt-Door 3, Pratt -Door 4

During the first week of school, students will be able to connect with their classroom teachers outside and will then enter the building together. After the first week, we will have staff members at the doors listed above to let students in the building.

Student dismissal will be assigned to doors listed below: Grade levels that are highlighted will dismiss from a different door than their arrival door to help with the flow of foot traffic.

Cub's Den- (Door 15 and/or grade level doors)

ILC - grade level doors

5th grade - (Door 6)

4th grade - (Door 1)

3rd grade - (Door 2)

2nd grade - (Door 5 for Ms. Shea, Ms. Plouff, and Ms. Larson-Fine. Door 1 for Olugbode)

1st grade - (Door 2)

Kindergarten - Ashcraft - Door 3 or 4, Burghardt-Door 3, Pratt -Door 4

WHEN WILL WE KNOW WHO OUR CHILD'S TEACHER IS?

For 1st-5th grade, class lists with teacher names will be posted on Door #2 of the building (under the bridge) on Wednesday, August 7th at 3:00 pm. If your name is not on a class list, your parent forms have not been updated. Please log into my.cherrycreekschools.org to update your Parent Forms for the 23-24 School Year. If you have registration/admission questions,

please call Cherry Creek Admissions at 720-554-4550 or call our School Registrar, Sha-Nae Orr at 720-554-4550.

For Kindergarten, tentative class lists with teacher names will be shared by our Kindergarten team after the screening process is complete. Students will be assigned to a class by Wednesday, August 14th when Kindergarten students come for their first day. As discussed at Kindergarten Orientation in the spring, kindergarten lists will stay tentative as we get to know students and may need to make classroom changes to maintain balanced classrooms.

WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS HEALTH NEEDS?

We are thrilled that **Ginger Daniel, RN, NCSN** will continue to serve our school community as our beloved school nurse. Please feel free to contact her with any questions, concerns, or for information about your child's health needs and/or to drop off medications. You may reach her at gdaniel3@cherrycreekschools.org or at 720-747-2603.

DOES POLTON PROVIDE BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL DAY CARE?

Our School-Age Child Care Program, [Polton Place](#), will be under the direction of our new Director, Kelly Gaffey. Kelly has years of experience leading school-aged child care programs, and we are so excited that she joined us this summer! Polton Place is available from 6:30 a.m. to 7:55 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily. It is also available from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on non-pupil contact days and some breaks. If you would like more information on this program, or have any questions related to day care, please call Kelly directly at [720-747-2678](tel:720-747-2678). You may also email her at kgaffey@cherrycreekschools.org.

HOW DO I SUPPORT POLTON PTCO 2024-25?

We are thrilled to introduce our 2024-2025 [PTCO](#) board members. A gigantic thank you in advance for the care and support they provide to our community.

Effie Ginsberg: President **Michael Easton:** Treasurer
Michel Friberg: Secretary **Val Kirkbride-Saucedo:** Co-Secretary

As you know, our incredible PTCO works hard to create and facilitate multiple opportunities for student and community engagement! Over the last few years, our fundraising efforts supported several school initiatives and needs. These included outdoor benches, spirit wear for ALL students, new chairs for student assemblies, several smart TV's that both staff and students will utilize, and various teacher + classroom grant requests! Additionally, our PTCO supported the return of field trips which provided so many great learning opportunities for our cubs!

Again, we love, value, and are thankful to have the partnership of our [PTCO](#) at Polton. If you'd like to know more about how YOU can join or support our PTCO, please email poltonptco@gmail.com!

WHAT ARE SOME EXCITING CHANGES?

Instead of having lunch before recess, **we will be switching to recess before lunch for all grade levels!** Research shows many benefits of recess before lunch including less food waste, decreased number of nurse visits for headaches and stomachaches after recess, and calmer

students who are ready to return to learning more quickly. This will be a change for most of our students and staff, so we will be implementing new structures to support recess before lunch.

Our Read-a-thon has been an incredible experience for Polton, but we want to jazz up our annual fundraiser to become more of a community event. [Stay tuned for more information about Polton's Fun Run this fall!](#)

READY FOR THE MOST EXCITING CHANGE? The exterior of our building is getting repainted! Our kids and community deserve a beautiful school, and we are thankful that our district is making this happen so quickly. This project will get started on July 29th and we hope it will be done before the first day of school!

We look forward to seeing you all very soon! Thank you in advance for your partnership and support! **We truly are better together-Panther Pride!!**

Sincerely,

Angie Lore, M.Ed, LMHP, PLADC
Principal

Courtney Blume, M.Ed
Assistant Principal