



December 11, 2023

Dear Cottonwood Families,

Only two more weeks until Winter Break, however, they will be busy! Please see the following information on upcoming school events.

Spirit Week:

To take us into winter break, all staff and students are invited to participate in Spirit Week, which begins Monday, Dec. 18th and continues through Friday, Dec 22nd. Please see the Spirit Week [flyer](#) for details.

STAR Testing:

The mid-year STAR assessments started today and will continue through Friday, December 20th. Make-up testing will be scheduled for the first two weeks following winter break. Please see the attached grade-level [schedule](#) for details.

Band Concert:

On Tuesday, December 12th at 6:30pm the Cottonwood beginning band will be performing some songs they've learned this semester in the gymnasium. Admission is free, and family and community members are invited to attend.

Winter Choir Concert:

This Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30 PM the 4th/5th grade Show Choir will be performing an adaptation of The Sound of Music in the Cottonwood Gymnasium. There is no charge for admission, and families and community members are invited to attend. Details can be found [HERE](#).

SEAC Meeting:

The next Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting will be held this Thursday, December 14th at 9:30 am. Please see their [flyer](#) for details.

CCSD Educator of the Year:

Cherry Creek School District is happy to announce the kick-off of our process for nominating the 2023-2024 Educator of the Year. If you are interested in nominating an exceptional educator who represents Cherry Creek's Mission – "To inspire students to think, to learn, to achieve, to



care,” and the District’s Core Values: Growth Mindset, Equity, Whole Wellbeing, Engagement, and Relationships please complete Cottonwood’s Nomination [Form](#) by January 19, 2024. All teachers, special service providers and non-teaching licensed personnel are eligible to be nominated.

Golden Heart Awards:

It is time to nominate for the 2023-2024 Golden Heart Awards! This prestigious award is for any individual who has "opened their heart" to touch the life of a Cherry Creek School District student with special needs. This includes, but is not limited to, bus drivers, teachers, cafeteria workers, paraprofessionals, specials teachers (media, art, P.E., music), those in support positions, students, and community employers. **ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THIS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15th.** If you would like to submit a nomination, please complete the Golden Heart Awards Nomination [Form](#).

School of Choice:

School of Choice (SOC) [applications](#) for the 24-25 school year are now being accepted. Through SOC, the Cherry Creek School District gives district residents and non-residents the opportunity to apply for enrollment in a Cherry Creek school of their choice. The first lottery will run in February 2024 on or before the 15th of the month. Subsequent lotteries will run bi-weekly starting February 28th.

Applications are considered based on lottery number and space availability for each school. Priority is given to students with siblings who will be attending the same school and children of district employees. There is a limit of one application per student, on which 3 different schools can be requested. Addresses must be up to date for residents of the school district in order to be considered for School of Choice. If you are moving at a later date, applications for School of Choice can be submitted once you move and update your address with the district admissions office.

Please note, School of Choice does **NOT** apply to you if:

- You live within the Cottonwood Creek boundaries and you want your child to attend our school.
- If your student was previously accepted through the SOC process to Cottonwood Creek, and continues to meet the eligibility criteria.



If you have any questions about the SOC process or your student's enrollment status, please contact Thessica Covato at (720) 554-3201.

Helping Hands:

First and foremost, thank you to ALL the families who have adopted a kiddo or more this holiday season. Your generosity is immensely appreciated!!! And thanks to you, every spot is filled. The Cottonwood community never ceases to amaze us.

If you still are wanting to help, though, we have just added some more slots for a different type of assistance, as this year has brought heightened needs to many of the families on our list. We have created new listings within the families for specific, non-children needs, household items... if you are able to donate, please visit the signup genius.

Here's the signup genius [LINK](#).

From the School Clinic:

As it is cold and flu season, we are experiencing a high number of illnesses. Please remember that if your child is sick, please follow the CDC/Cherry Creek School District policy for keeping them home during their illness. See the [link](#) for guidelines regarding fever, vomiting, diarrhea, cough etc.

Specials:

In an effort to provide parents information about what is happening during your student's specials time, the Specials Team will be publishing monthly updates that can be found at the following [LINK](#).

Sincerely,

Drew Francis - Principal [Cottonwood Creek](#) Elementary School

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