



December 4, 2023

Dear Cottonwood Families,

WOW, it's December already! We have a lot to do before winter break. Please review the following information regarding upcoming testing, awards, school of choice for SY 24-25, and school performances.

Cougars of the Month Award:

As you know, we started a new tradition this year to celebrate Cottonwood students who consistently demonstrate ROAR (**R**espect **O**wn it **A**ttitude **R**esponsibility) behavior. One student from each grade level is nominated each month for the Cougar of the Month award. Congratulations to our December Cougars!

Kindergarten: *Sunny Halterman*

First Grade: *Keira Brennan*

Second Grade: *Nicole Rogers*

Third Grade: *Maddie Detampel*

Fourth Grade: *Xander Bye*

Fifth Grade: *Aimee Teng*

Upcoming STAR Testing:

The mid-year STAR assessments will be given to students K - 5 in the areas of reading and math. Testing will begin Monday, December 11th 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.

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 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 and grade level. 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 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.



Winter Choir Concert:

On Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30 PM the 3rd/4th 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](#).

Winter 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.

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 (which is huge, as it's only December 3rd!). 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](#).

Student Pick-Up:

It is amazing that we have so many after-school clubs and activities. However, there are challenges that come with this because regular student pick-up routines are off. Given that we cannot deliver all students to their various club locations after school, we expect that parents and children are on the same page regarding their after-school plans. Please communicate all after-school pick-up plans directly with your child and your child's classroom teacher. Additionally, please let your children know that, if they are unsure about the pick up plan or are not able to find you, they should always come to the front office for help. For safety reasons, we do not want students walking home if you have not instructed them to do so.



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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