

Laredo Middle School Community,

Welcome to the start of another exciting school year! As I embark on my fourth year as your principal, I want to take a moment to reflect on the core values that guide our journey and share my heartfelt enthusiasm for the months ahead.

At Laredo Middle School, we are deeply committed to our district's five core values that shape our educational environment: Growth Mindset, Equity, Whole Well-Being, Engagement, and Relationships. These values are not just words on a page; they are the foundation of our approach to education and the principles that drive us forward.

Growth Mindset is at the heart of what we do. I firmly believe that middle school is a time for exploration and development, where the focus should be on growth rather than perfection. We encourage our students to embrace challenges, learn from mistakes, and continuously strive to improve. This mindset helps our students build resilience and fosters a love for learning that extends beyond the classroom.

Equity ensures that every student has access to the resources, support, and opportunities they need to succeed. We are dedicated to creating an inclusive environment where each individual feels valued and has the tools to reach their full potential. By promoting fairness and understanding, we can help every student thrive.

Whole Well-Being encompasses the physical, emotional, and mental health of our students. We are committed to providing a supportive environment that nurtures the overall well-being of each child. This holistic approach helps our students feel safe, respected, and ready to engage in their learning journey.

Engagement is crucial to a vibrant and effective learning experience. We strive to create an environment where students are actively involved in their education and excited about their school experience. By fostering a culture of curiosity and participation, we help students connect with their learning and discover their passions.

Relationships are the cornerstone of a strong school community. Building meaningful connections with students, families, and staff helps create a supportive and collaborative environment. We believe that positive relationships enhance the learning experience and contribute to a sense of belonging and community.

As we step into this new school year, I am excited about the opportunities and growth that await us. I am committed to working with each of you—students, parents, and staff—to uphold these values and ensure that Laredo Middle School continues to be a place where everyone can flourish.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication. Let's make this year a memorable one, filled with growth, learning, and meaningful connections.

Sincerely,

Joe Stuart

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To assist in a successful start to the school year for all students please see the additional information below and stay up to date by bookmarking and regularly checking in on the [Laredo Middle School website](#).

**Important Dates**

- **Friday, August 9** student schedules will be available at 5 p.m.
- **Thursday, August 15** Back-to-School Night, 5:00-7:00PM (Open house format)
- **Monday, August 12** is the first day of school for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students. (6<sup>th</sup> graders at home)
- **Tuesday, August 13** is the first day of school for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students. (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders at home)
- **Wednesday, August 14** all students will attend.
- **Wednesday, August 14** is Student Picture Day

**Student schedules:** will be made available by 5 p.m. on Friday, August 9. Our Laredo counseling/registrar team continue to work hard to place students in the elective choices made during registration in the spring. **We will not be making changes to student electives this fall.**

**Back-to-School Night:** Laredo’s annual **Back-to-School Night** will take place August 15<sup>th</sup>, 5:00-7:00PM. Please be sure to save the date. This is an open house format.

**Phase in Week:** We will continue with our “Phase in Week” that we have done over the past few years beginning August 12<sup>th</sup>.

Monday, August 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students ONLY</b>
Tuesday, August 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade students ONLY</b>
Wednesday, August 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>ALL students attend</b>

**Check-in Procedures**

To complete the check-in process, all students must have updated **Parent Forms**. Parent Forms are available now and can be accessed by logging via <https://my.cherrycreekschools.org/> and clicking the **PowerSchool / Parent Forms** tile. **ALL new and returning students must have Parent Forms completed prior to the start of school.** If you have more than one child in Cherry Creek Schools, please complete the process for each of your children.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Orientation**

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Orientation will take place on **August 13**. This experience is designed to assist incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders with their transition to middle school and will be a great opportunity for students to engage in some fun activities, meet new friends, and learn from 8<sup>th</sup> Grade WEB Leaders. Students should arrive by 8:40 AM and will be dismissed at 3:45 PM. School buses will be available for students who normally ride the bus during the school year. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle, writing utensil, notebook, and a copy of their class schedule (if they have a phone, a screen shot is ok) and to dress comfortably as the day will be active

## **Transportation**

If you need to find any information regarding bus transportation, including eligibility, **My Ride K-12** is the system used for Cherry Creek Schools. The system is used to determine bus stop locations, pick-up/drop-off times, and allows parents to see in real time when students have boarded and exited the bus on the way to or from school. Students are issued an ID card that must be scanned each time they get on the bus. If your student loses his/her ID card, visit the CCSD transportation webpage for replacement information. [Click here to access CCSD Transportation.](#)

Activity buses will start on **Thursday, August 15**, and will be available Monday through Thursday throughout the school year. Activity buses depart Laredo at 4:45 PM and are available *only* to students who are eligible for daily bus transportation and are staying after school to participate in clubs, athletics, or other enrichment activities.

## **Breakfast & Lunch Information**

Student school breakfast and/or lunch is available in the Laredo Cafeteria daily. Students can also bring home lunch if they choose. Following the passage of the Colorado ballot initiative, **Healthy School Meals for All**, in November of 2022, all Laredo students will be eligible for free breakfast and lunch. These meals do not include items from the snack bar which will continue to be available for purchase.

Students who meet the eligibility guidelines for the Federal Free & Reduced Meal plan are encouraged to still submit the application regardless of the new Colorado food program. Those families who qualify receive benefits beyond meal plans such as discounts on athletic and activity fees, graduation fees, and other school related expenses. Those eligible students will continue to receive benefits only after submitting the appropriate application paperwork. One completed application per household is required (all students in the household can be included on the application). **A new application must be completed each school year and can be accessed in one of the following ways:**

1. The CCSD Food and Nutrition Services is busy working on a new on-line payment and application system. All account balances have been saved and will be transferred to your new account automatically. Please visit [Food & Nutrition](#) for instructions on accessing our new system! If you have any questions, please call the meal program manager at 720-886-7172 or visit in person at the Student Nutrition Center (14270 E. Briarwood Ave, Centennial, CO 80112). Additional program information is available [here](#).
2. Paper Application: Paper applications are available at every school or at the Student Nutrition Center. Paper applications are available in English and Spanish. This application may be mailed to the Student Nutrition Center (14270 E. Briarwood Ave, Centennial, CO 80112), returned to the Laredo Middle School Main Office, or be brought directly to the Student Nutrition Center.

## **Student Devices**

Students turned in their devices prior to the end of school last year. Devices will be housed in computer carts within teacher classrooms for students to access. The purpose of this is to allow students access and opportunity to technology while lessening the burden of repair costs to our families, creating accountability for use, and maintaining an academic focus with technology.

### **Cell Phones, Air Pods, Headphones**

Cell phones, air pods, headphones are only allowed before school, after school, and during lunch or recess times. We do not allow cell phones, air pods, and headphones in classrooms or hallways.