

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



Principal's Corner

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETURN TO IN-PERSON UPDATE & FAQ!

Families of Middle School Students:

This message includes lots of information about your middle school students returning to school including dates, schedule updates, transportation, and school expectations. Please see the questions and answers below for information.

While this school year has been unlike any we have seen before, we are excited to have students back in the building. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation this school year.

Q: When will middle school students who have chosen in-person instruction return?

A: Students who have chosen in-person instruction will return the week of January 25.

8th grade will return Monday, January 25, 6th grade will return Tuesday, January 26, and 7th grade will return Wednesday January 27.

Q: Will my child attend in-person everyday?

A: All students who have chosen in-person instruction will attend in-person four days a week (Monday-Thursday). Friday will be an asynchronous learning day for all students (in-person and 100% virtual). Students will have advisement classes on Friday from

Q: Will in-person and 100% virtual students receive equal educational opportunities?

A: Yes. Classes will be a blended learning environment, meaning teachers will have in-person and virtual students in the same class. Students whether in-person or 100% virtual will have similar expectations and similar experiences during the class period. Teachers are working on strategies to best meet the needs of all of our students.

Q: Can I change my decision between in-person and online learning?

A: It is still possible to switch, but needs to be done with Principal approval. Currently, there is limited space for additional in-person students. If you are considering switching, please call the office and we will

9:00-9:30, club offerings for social time, assignments to complete, and a chance to meet individually with teachers if additional supports are needed.

Q: What will the schedule look like for students?

A: All students (in-person and 100% virtual) will follow an A/B block schedule. Students will have 3 classes a day and 6 classes in total. Monday/Wednesday will be an “A” day and Tuesday/Thursday will be a “B” day. Students will have the same classes they currently attend, though periods may be adjusted starting January 25. Fridays will be asynchronous days for all students.

Q: How does attendance work for the Friday asynchronous day?

A: Fridays will be asynchronous and students will have assignments for all classes that they must complete in order to be considered “present” for attendance. Please remind students that they must complete Friday asynchronous work to be marked present for that day. Students who do not complete assigned tasks for a teacher will be marked absent for that class period.

Q: Will transportation be provided?

A: We are working with DPS transportation to get as many middle school students on a bus as possible. Students who have younger siblings in PBA’s elementary grades should have access to transportation. We have worked with transportation to get siblings on bus routes based on availability. If you do not have a younger sibling on a bus, we are unable to provide transportation. If you are unsure if your child has transportation, please call our office at 720-424-0960. For routing information and questions please contact transportation at 720-423-4600.

Q: If I am bringing my child to school and picking them up, what is the procedure?

A: Students who are dropped off need to go to our “Parent Drop Off” lane at the back of the school. Do not drop students off on Cherry Creek North (front of school). Students can be dropped off between 8:45 and 9:00. There will be no supervision outside before 8:45 and students will not be allowed into the building until 8:45. In the afternoon, students can be picked up at 3:30. Again, please go to the back of our school where we have our Parent Pick Up lane. Staff will assist getting students to the appropriate vehicle. Please stay in your car until your child has been picked up.

let you know if it is possible.

Q: If my child is attending in-person, but can’t attend in-person that day, can they still be marked present if they attend virtually?

A: Yes. Students who are in-person but don’t have transportation for that day, are feeling sick but are able to attend class, or are in quarantine due to possible COVID exposure should still log into their classes. This is an opportunity for those students to still attend class even if they are not physically present.

Q: Will in-person students need to wear masks?

A: Yes. All students who are in-person will need to wear masks throughout the day. Students will have to follow all safety guidelines and procedures. Teachers will be modeling and practicing these guidelines with students. While we do not anticipate major issues, if a student is repeatedly unable to follow safety guidelines, they can be moved to 100% virtual instruction for the safety of others.

Q: Do in-person students need to bring their chromebooks daily?

A: Yes. Because classrooms will be blended instruction (both in-person and 100% virtual), students will need to access the google meet classes and their online schoology course pages throughout the day.

Q: What does my child need to bring to school?

A: Your child must bring their chromebook, a writing utensil (pencil or pen), notebook, and be dressed appropriately. Please follow the school dress code. Remind your child that they will not be able to share equipment with other students.

Q: Will students have lockers?

A: No. Students will not have lockers this year. They will carry all things with them to class. Students may have backpacks, but need to follow classroom expectations with backpacks.

Q: If I am unsure of my child’s schedule or have questions what should I do?

A: Please contact the school office and we will assist you with questions you may have. If you have a question about a particular class, you may email the teacher. Please understand that our teachers have a busier than normal schedule this year and may not be able to immediately respond. If you need immediate support, calling our front office is recommended.

ACCESS TESTING

Dear Family,

Beginning on January 11th, Multilingual Learners (MLLs) in grades K-12 will participate in the ACCESS for ELLs state assessment. This assessment measures a student's English language skills in the areas of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. ACCESS is used by classroom teachers to determine the level of language support that a student may need during instruction. With this information, we are able to monitor student progress on an annual basis and determine when a student is ready to be placed in mainstream instruction.

Place Bridge Academy will be administering the assessment on the following day(s)

We will be having 4 Asynchronous days to test.

- **January 29, 2021**
- **February 5, 2021**
- **February 12, 2021**
- **February 26, 2021 (Possibly)**

Those days only students who are taking the ACCESS test should be coming to school. Students who are 100% virtual and are scheduled to take the ACCESS test have the option to come to school. There will only be transportation available for students who are in person. No transportation for students who are 100% virtual. A list of the students who will be testing will be communicated. Please make sure you pay attention if your student needs to test.

If you have any questions about the testing schedule, please contact Marisol Chavez at marisol_chavez@dpsk12.org or call the main office.

Please be sure that your student arrives on time for their scheduled day(s) so that they do not miss sections of the test, as this would require a make-up session. We will continue to follow all health protocols during testing. Students need to be sure to bring their device to school each day and charge it at home each night.

If you have general questions regarding the assessment, please contact your student's teacher.

**PLEASE REACH OUT TO ME IF YOU NEED ANY
SUPPORT!**

andrew_schutz@dpsk12.org



FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS!
Monday, January 25 - Return for 8th Grade Students only
Tuesday, January 26 - Return for 6th Grade Students only
Wednesday, January 27 - Return for 7th Grade Students only

YOU ARE INVITED TO A VIRTUAL MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION DAC MEETING!

Denver Public Schools is excited to invite all our English Language Acquisition (ELA) families to a virtual Multilingual Education DAC meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 27 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

At this session, you will receive important information about:

- ACCESS 2.0 for English Language Learners
- Programs and activities offered in schools to support your students' future success in college, careers, and life.
- Helping to select the dates for the next School Calendar for the 2021-2022 School Year:

To register for the event in advance, click [HERE](#) or copy and paste the link below.
<https://forms.gle/tfFrXeR3eaQxqUwn8>

To join the meeting on Jan. 27 at 5 p.m., use this link: <https://zoom.us/j/97027845966> or click [HERE](#).

For more information, please visit ela.dpsk12.org or call 720-423-2040

SPORTS!

Dear Parents,

Please be informed that the Athletic Department is still waiting to hear if and when middle school sports will begin for the new school year! Stay tuned!

As always, please feel free to contact me with any question(s) you may have.

Good Luck, Roadrunners!

Kathleen Nickless
Athletic Director
Phone: 720-424-1042
Email: kathleen_nickless@dpsk12.org

UPCOMING EVENTS!

January 29 - Access Testing

February 5 - Access Testing

February 9 - CSC Meeting - 4:15 - 5:15 pm - Meeting Location - Virtual - Join with Google Meet
meet.google.com/gsy-jhtr-mmq Join by phone (US) +1 931-683-2558 PIN: 851 090 881#

February 12 - Access Testing

February 15 - President's Day - No School for all, Offices closed

February 16 - Teacher Professional Development Day - No School for all students

February 26 - Access Testing

March 9 - CSC Meeting - 4:15 - 5:15 pm - Meeting Location - Virtual - Join with Google Meet
meet.google.com/gsy-jhtr-mmj Join by phone (US) +1 931-683-2558 PIN: 851 090 881#

March 29 - April 2 - Spring Breaks - No School - Offices closed

March 31 - Cesar Chavez Day

April 5 - Teacher Professional Development Day - No School for all students

April 6 - First Day of Return for all students

April 13 -CSC Meeting - 4:15 - 5:15 pm - Meeting Location - Virtual - Join with Google Meet
meet.google.com/gsy-jhtr-mmj Join by phone (US) +1 931-683-2558 PIN: 851 090 881#

May 11 -CSC Meeting - 4:15 - 5:15 pm- Meeting Location - Virtual - Join with Google Meet
meet.google.com/gsy-jhtr-mmj Join by phone (US) +1 931-683-2558 PIN: 851 090 881#

May 28 -Last Day of School - HALF DAY FOR ALL STUDENTS

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES!

1ST ROUND OF SCHOOL CHOICE APPLICATION IS NOW OPEN!

This is important for all 8th grade students who are applying to high schools outside of their attendance boundary. If you are planning to use School Choice for your High School, you must fill out this application. The 1st round window is January 15 - February 16. Students can ask their advisement teacher for more details. More information on School Choice can be found at <https://schoolchoice.org/>.

UPDATES ON CITIZENSHIP TESTING & CLASSES!

Did you know that in December, 2020, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) updated the US Citizenship test. The test now has 128 questions and applicants will need to answer more questions correctly. The geography section was removed and the history and civics test expanded, resulting in a longer test requiring more complete answers. If you or someone you know is interested in participating in the class, please contact Julio Trujillo 720-424-2972 or via email at Julio_Trujillo@dpsk12.net or Tristan Benitez at 720-424-2961 tristan_benitez@dpsk12.net. The class will start on January 19th, virtually during the day and in the evening.

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH PAYMENTS FOR ESSENTIAL BILLS?

If you are having issues with payments for essential bills, FACE CENTER is supporting families with utility bills - rent, energy etc. They will also help walk families through completing your application. There is also support for undocumented families available and they will connect families to those who are processing the apps. If you are interested, please reach out to: FACE Center - Johnson Elementary School - Phone: 720-424-2970 FACE Center – Phone: 720-424-2961

FREE COVID TESTING!

DPS is pleased to announce we are expanding our partnership with COVIDCheck Colorado to offer our free COVID-19 testing for students to support a safe return to school. Our full community of students and staff will now have the opportunity to take an initial COVID-19 test before coming back to school as well as ongoing screening tests every other week... For more information click [HERE](#). You can see an updated list of testing sites [HERE](#) including a link to register and schedule testing appointment for your students. The test will be completed via nasal PCR test or SalivaDirect™, and results will be returned within 36-72 hours.

FREE FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES OFFERED AT THE FACE CENTER!

The FACE Centers offer free wraparound services to community members 16 or older in order to obtain critical life skills to increase their economic self-sufficiency and the academic achievement of their students. The FACE Centers offer a variety of multi-generation services at one location, making it convenient for families to benefit from multiple services offered in their school community. Participants do not have to be DPS parents, all services are open to all community members.

LIST OF SERVICES OFFERED:

1. **GED Classes**
2. **Workforce development - job placement, resume building, workforce training, interview preparation**
3. **DPS Hiring Pipeline - for jobs available in Food Services Department, Facilities, Paraprofessional and more!**
4. **English Classes**
5. **Financial Literacy**
6. **Citizenship classes**
7. **Computer classes**
8. **Early Literacy classes**
9. **Legal Clinics and Workshops**
10. **Basic needs assistance**
11. **Social Emotional Support**
12. **Free Childcare during all classes**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CLASS SCHEDULE AND TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE

CLASSES AND SERVICES, PLEASE CONTACT:

- FACE Center - Johnson Elementary School 1850 South Irving St, Denver, CO 80219

Phone: 720-424-2970

- FACE Center – John H. Amesse Elementary School 5440 Scranton St, Denver, CO 80239 Phone: 720-424-2961

FAMILY CONSTITUENCY SERVICES - CONTENTS SCHOOL AND DISTRICT RESOURCES!

For general Denver Public Schools questions or concerns, contact the Family & Community Helpline at [720-423-3054](tel:720-423-3054) or email FACEHelpline@dpsk12.org.

PLACE BRIDGE ACADEMY/DENVER HUMAN SERVICES PARTNERSHIP - HELP WITH APPLYING FOR BENEFITS:

Our Partnership with Denver Human Services is ongoing! Please reach out to Juanita Chavez @ 720-483-6606 if you need assistance with any of the following:

- Rental Assist
- Motel Vouchers
- Family Reunification
- State ID/Birth Certificate Waivers
- MEDICAID, SNAP, TANF ASSISTANCE



PBA WEBSITE CLICK [HERE](#)

**2020/2021 STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK
CLICK [HERE](#)**

**2020/2021 DPS SCHOOL CALENDAR CLICK
[HERE](#)**

**COLLABORATIVE SCHOOL COMMITTEE (CSC)
CLICK [HERE](#)**

**1ST QUARTER PARENT MEETING
PRESENTATION SLIDES CLICK [HERE](#)**

**2ND QUARTER PARENT MEETING
PRESENTATION SLIDES CLICK [HERE](#)**

CYBERBULLING HANDOUT CLICK [HERE](#)



PLACE BRIDGE ACADEMY

— *Bringing the World Together* —

School Vision: Competent, Confident, and Caring Students Ready to Pursue their Dreams!

Place Bridge Academy
Attendance Line: 720-424-0968
720-424-0960 | place.dpsk12.org