

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



## OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM!



## MEET OUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL ESTHER MATHOKA!

Members of the Place Bridge Community,

Greetings, I am Esther Mathoka. I'm excited to be your Assistant Principal at Place Bridge Academy. I was born and raised in Kenya, Africa. I moved to the United States in 2005. I started my career as a teacher in Kenya. I have taught 3rd, 4th and 5th grade both in newcomer and mainstream classes. I have served as a Senior Team Lead for 3 years. I have been with Denver Public School for 15 years.

Education is a basic human right and our students are entitled to high-quality education. I value equity to make sure that students have access to effective instruction, engage in grade-level work, and educators set high expectations for all students. I will continue to advocate for equitable education for all students because it reshapes the health outcomes of people, it breaks the cycle of poverty; it improves housing conditions, it raises the standard of living, and most importantly, educational attainment significantly increases voter participation. Education strengthens democracy.

I look forward to a partnership with you to prepare our students for a bright future. Feel free to reach out anytime.

Sincerely,  
Esther Mathoka  
[Esther\\_mathoka@dpsk12.org](mailto:Esther_mathoka@dpsk12.org)

# PARENT MEETING IS TODAY THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, @ 6pm!

Dear Parents,

Don't forgot that our 1st ELA PARENT MEETING is today Thursday, September 24, at 6:00 pm!

**TO JOIN THE MEETING IN ENGLISH:**

[meet.google.com/mee-xyug-fei](https://meet.google.com/mee-xyug-fei)

by phone - 1 208-718-1703,

Pin- 444 031 893#

If you need interpretation, please join the meeting by phone using the phone number provided below in your language.

- Amharic - Phone - 1 567-401-0093, Pin - 218 598 176#
- Arabic - Phone - 1 956-520-3772, Pin - 760 467 906#
- Burmese - Phone - 1 323-673-4037, Pin - 957 207 249#
- Chin from Burma - Phone - 1 917-336-3017, Pin - 498 327 032#
- French - Phone - 1 334-472-8099, Pin - 508 119 503#
- Karen - Phone - 1 417-616-3881, Pin - 591 791 750#
- Korean - Phone - 1 636-707-2731, Pin - 570 554 747#
- Napoli - Phone - 1 347-486-7695 Pin - 809 130 268#
- Russian - Phone - 1 520-815-1451, Pin - 994 188 778#
- Somali - Phone - 1 754-900-1575, Pin - 269 766 345#
- Spanish- Phone - 1 478-292-3710, Pin - 403 022 911#
- Swahili - Phone - 1 347-363-2063, Pin - 194 347 711#
- Tigrigna - Phone - 1 209-788-3580, Pin - 558 032 634#

For questions, please reach out to Ms. Akudo Nwokeukwu at [Akudo\\_nwokeukwu@dpsk12.org](mailto:Akudo_nwokeukwu@dpsk12.org) or by phone at 720-424-0965.

See you tonight at 6:pm!

Sincerely,  
Drew Schutz  
Principal

## IN-PERSON LEARNING START DATES!

KINDERGARTEN - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

1st Grade - MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020

2nd Grade - 8th Grade - OCTOBER 21, 2020

## UNIVERSAL SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SCREENING FOR STUDENTS!

Dear Parent or Guardian:

As part of our effort to support the Whole Child, our school will be implementing a universal social and emotional screening for students.

Universal social and emotional screening can provide a fair and impartial way of looking at how students are progressing in their social and emotional development. Screenings can also help identify areas where school personnel can improve or adjust our supports.

Universal social and emotional screening is NOT an assessment or an evaluation. Instead, screenings are a useful tool to help identify students who may need extra social or emotional support.

Denver Public Schools currently uses a social and emotional screening questionnaire called the Behavior and Emotional Screening System (BESS). The online tool takes approximately ten minutes to complete and consists of 28 questions for the student to answer.

The social and emotional screening may occur two or three times over the course of the school year. Repeated screening helps us determine if the supports we provide to students are effective in meeting their needs.

You have the right, upon request to review the questions on the screener. If you would like to review the questions on the social and emotional screener, please contact: Joanna Olson (Joanna\_olson@dpsk12.org).

**You also have the option to EXEMPT your child from participating. If you DO NOT want your child to participate in social and emotional screening, please indicate so by:**

- Use this link [Click here to complete the form](#). OR
- Fill out the second page of this letter below, and send it to [Joanna\\_Olson@dpsk12.org](mailto:Joanna_Olson@dpsk12.org)

**If we do not receive an OPT-OUT form from you, we will assume you are choosing to have your child participate in the social and emotional screening.**

Thank you for your assistance as we work together to educate and support your student!

Click [HERE](#) for a video-message about the BESS.

Sincerely,

**Joanna Olson, School Health Professional  
Jessica Aragon, School Social Worker  
Aleksandra Matysek, School Psychologist**

## SPORTS!

Welcome Back student-athletes! 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](mailto:kathleen_nickless@dpsk12.org)**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS!

**September 24 - 1st Quarter PARENT MEETING - Meet and Great our New Principal and hear update on return to in-person learning! You do not want to miss this!**

**September 28 - Planning Day for Teachers - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

**September 29 - FIRST DAY OF IN PERSON LEARNING FOR KINDERGARTNER STUDENTS**

**October 5 - FIRST DAY OF IN PERSON LEARNING FOR 1 GRADE STUDENTS**

**October 13** - Collaborative School Committee Meeting - Virtual  
**October 16** - Family Conference Day - **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**  
**October 19** - Planning Day for Teachers - **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**  
**October 20** - Planning Day for Teachers - **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**  
**October 21** - **FIRST DAY OF IN PERSON LEARNING FOR 2ND - 8TH GRADE STUDENTS**  
**November 1** - Daylight Savings Time Ends - Remember to Set your Clock 1 Hour Back on Saturday, October 31 before bedtime  
**November 10** - Collaborative School Committee Meeting - Virtual  
**November 23 - 27** - **Thanksgiving Break - No school for all - Offices closed**  
**November 26** - **THANKSGIVING DAY**  
**December 8** - Collaborative School Committee Meeting - Virtual  
**December 21 - January 4** - **Christmas Break**

## RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES!

### **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

### **ONLINE CITIZENSHIP CLASSES!**

#### **THE ASSIAN PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER - OCT. 19 - DEC. 23:**

The Asian Pacific Development Center Adult Education Program is offering free online classes from October 19 - December 23, 2020. Classes include ESL, ABE/ASE/GED, Culinary Pathways, Small Business, Career Exploration, Citizenship and Computer classes.

To register, students must complete the following steps:

- Complete the registration form found **HERE** or copy and past this website <https://tinyurl.com/y3f2wr6r>
- Go to APDC and take two tests. Click **HERE** to download schedule/flyer. Individuals may also contact us at 303-923-2940 to schedule a virtual test.
- After the test, speak to a teacher on the phone to choose a class.
- Start class online on Monday, October 19.

#### **THE CENTER FOR ADULT EDUCATION AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA - OCT. 6 - DEC. 10:**

The Center for Adult Education at the Community College of Aurora is offering citizenship classes this fall. Their registration has already begun and classes will begin in October 6 and ends December 10. Classes cost \$30. Click **HERE** to complete registration. For questions, please contact Keenan Sweigart at 719-626-1391, Rebecca Pickett at 719-257-3842, or Jackie Zvejnieks at 720-314-8213. Click **HERE** to download flyer.

## **THE DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY - FREE VIRTUAL CITIZENSHIP STUDY GROUP AND/OR ONE-ON-ONE:**

The Denver Public Library has free virtual citizenship study groups, as well as one-on-one appointments for people to prepare for the citizenship exam. Citizenship Study Groups meet weekly on Thursdays 5:30-7:00 (you can attend the whole time, or just come for any portion you're available) via Google Meet or via phone. You can find the info [HERE](#) or copy and pasty this website [denverlibrary.org/plaza](https://denverlibrary.org/plaza) (scroll down the page a bit, then you'll see 'Plaza Online Citizenship Study Group' you can choose to join on Google Meet or just calling in from a phone). Or click [HERE](#) or use this link (<https://meet.google.com/gxr-jjiz-tbw>) [to join directly](#) on Thursdays, 5:30-7:00 pm  
The Study groups are free and open to all!

## **PANDEMIC-EBT APPLICATION PROCESS IS STILL OPEN TILL SEPTEMBER ENDING - APPLY NOW IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO!**

P-EBT provides families with children eligible for free or reduced-price school meals with funds to help buy food since schools were closed this Spring due to the pandemic. You can receive up to \$279 per eligible child to stretch your food budget. Click [HERE](#) to start your application.

### **Common P-EBT Question and Answer:**

**What if a family does not have a SS number?** While providing a Social Security Number for the head of household helps with EBT card issuance, families will still be able to apply for P-EBT without a Social Security Number.

**Can a family receive a check?** No, If the household does not have an EBT card in their possession, a **P-EBT card** will be issued by mail.

Please feel free to send questions by email to [PEBT2020@state.co.us](mailto:PEBT2020@state.co.us).

**\*\* Update Aug. 19\*\*** If you need a replacement EBT card or have received the application error "We were unable to match your student's State Issued ID Number (or SASID) or "We were unable to match a part of your student's information. This might be due to a Date of Birth or School Name typed incorrectly into the previous application pages," please fill out this form for assistance. We will respond to requests through the [form](#) in order of receipt as soon as possible.

## **FAMILY CONSTITUENCY SERVICES - CONTENTS SCHOOL AND DISTRICT RESOURCES!**

Family Constituency Services provides high quality services using culturally competent practices. We provide services to families, schools, and community members who need assistance accessing school and district resources, addressing concerns, and building skills to be strong partners in their students' education. We have Spanish-speaking staff and have access to multilingual interpretation services. Please state the language you speak when calling in and we will connect with an interpreter.

**For assistance, call 720-423-3054 to access the Family and Community Helpline or email [FACEHelpline@dpsk12.org](mailto:FACEHelpline@dpsk12.org)!**

## **PARENT-TO-PARA PIPELINE TRAINING CLASS OFFERED BY DPS!**

**Are you interested in making a difference?** Denver Public Schools is seeking bilingual/multilingual paraprofessionals and has created a program to support interested DPS parents in becoming paraprofessionals.

A Parent-to-Para class is being offered virtually by the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Centers this fall. After successful completion of this program offers participants a pipeline to employment to Denver Public Schools. The class is taught in English only using the Google Classroom platform. Please reach out to FACE Center directly if you have any question.

**This program include: A 12-week course designed to prepare participants to pass the TABE test, get job placement assistance, and resume and interview support. Registration is required! Classes will run from September 14—December 11, Monday — Thursdays 6:00 — 7:00 pm.**

To register and for more information please call the FACE Center Southwest Location - Johnson Elementary 720 424 2970, or Far Northeast Location -John H. Amesse Elementary 720 424 2961 Or by email at [FaceCenters@dpsk12.org](mailto:FaceCenters@dpsk12.org).

## **DPS SEESAW AND SCHOOLOGY LOGIN GUIDE FOR PARENTS:**

Please see below, two links to download the DPS Seesaw and Schoology parent login support guide for the online learning platforms that teachers are using. Please reach out to the main office at 720-424-0960 if you have questions.

Seesaw Parent Login Support  
Schoology Parent Login Support

## **FREE AND LOW COST TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES:**

Some Denver Libraries are offering outdoor computer use. Click [HERE](#) to download all free and available low-cost Technology Resources in Denver.

## **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



**Our Remote instruction will continue through Oct. 16.**  
**ECE programs will start in-person learning September 14.**  
**View the K-12 Family Guide, and enroll in your preferred learning option through Annual Family Update.**  
**New food sites and schedules have been added this school year.**



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



**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](http://place.dpsk12.org)**