



ROCK RIDGE ELEMENTARY

ROCK RIDGE REVIEW

400 Heritage Avenue, Castle Rock, CO 80104

AUGUST 2021



Note from the Principal, Mr. Mosby

Dear Rock Ridge Families,

Welcome back! It was so wonderful seeing everyone at our clap-in to kick off the year and so many excited kids and families. On Thursday I was able to host a clap-in for our incoming kindergarteners as well. Sixty-five kindi's have joined us this year, our largest class in several years. Welcome to Rock Ridge!

A new school year brings many opportunities including the opportunity to become more involved with your neighborhood school. There are many ways you can be a part of RRE, including joining our [PTO](#), [SAC](#) (School Accountability Committee), [Watch Dogs](#), and [volunteering in the classroom](#). Please take the time to check your calendars and make time to help make Rock Ridge a better place. It takes a Village. J Also, be sure to check out upcoming events on the [school calendar](#) so that you can be prepared and join us for some fun!

All parents and children are invited to attend our **Meet and Greet PTO BBQ** on Thursday, August 19th starting at 5:00 pm. RRE [PTO](#) will host the back to school barbecue located on the basketball court. Food, drink and jumping castles will be supplied. This is a FREE event. Thank you, PTO!!!

I would also like to welcome the following new teachers to Rock Ridge:

Katie McChesney-1st Grade

Steve Harvey-Spanish

Raechel Anderson-Affective Needs

Be sure to give them a warm Rock Ridge welcome!

Looking to work at Rock Ridge? We have several support staff postings on the [district website](#) that need to be filled asap. If you are interested, please apply and send me an email letting me know of your interest.

Have a great day!

Sincerely,

Peter Mosby, Principal

Peter Mosby

Principal

Julie Roach

Assistant Principal

Attendance Line

303-387-5152

Office

303-387-5150

Weather Closure

303-387-SNOW

Hours

First Bell 8:30am

School Begins 8:35am

All Dismiss 3:30pm

AM Kinder 8:30-11:15

PM Kinder 12:45-3:30

School Website



*Advertising in this newsletter does
not imply endorsement by the
school or district.*

Mark Your Calendar, Important Dates to Remember

August

19th Picture Day for all students and staff

19th 5-7pm - RRE Back to School BBQ

31st 6-7pm - PTO Meeting on Zoom



September

8th Rock Ridge Run Kickoff

14th 6pm - WatchDOGS Pizza Night and Dodgeball night

17th Rock Ridge Run Day

20-23rd RRE Parent Teacher Conferences

21st Smart Cow Spirit Day!

22nd Rock Ridge Run donations due

October

1st Rock Ridge Run Prize Day



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Celebrating our Students!

We kicked off the 1st day of school with our annual Clap-in! Students and teachers entered the building through a human tunnel made by our 6th graders. It was so great being together with everyone again!



6th Grade Clap-in



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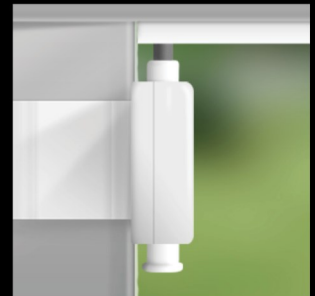
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or
(720) 878-4107.

Important Notices

Item 1 – Breakfast

A gentle reminder that breakfast runs from 8:20 am till 8:35 am. Students may enter through the cafeteria doors at first bell. Please let Mrs. Mary Keefe (mckeefe@dcsdk12.org) know if you do NOT want your child(ren) to participate.

Item 2 - Car Loop (Kiss N'Go)

For the safety of our students, please do not have students exit vehicles before the Drop-Off Zone and only to the right (towards the sidewalk). Please stay in the single file lane until the vehicle in front of you proceeds forward. Moving out of the single file lane to go around vehicles creates a dangerous situation when children are crossing between cars. Our Kiss N'Go lane is also a fire lane so please do not park and leave your vehicles unattended at any time during the day for they may be ticketed. This applies to Preschool and Kinder pick up and drop off as well. Please use the church or our parking lot if you need to leave your vehicle. Per Douglas County Fire Code, we need to make sure the Fire Lane is clear in case of an emergency. We appreciate your understanding.

Item 3 - Dismissal

Students will be released at 3:30pm when the bell rings. We ask that if your child(ren) need to leave early, you have them picked up by 3:00 pm as the office gets very busy at the end of the day and classes are packing up. Please contact the school before 3pm if there is a change in pick up routine as we deliver notes to students at 3pm.

Item 4 - Texting in car loop

I probably do not need to really point out the obvious. However, if you are texting while driving through the car loop, it is possible to receive a wreckless driving charge from a police officer. We will be having a police officer on duty during car loop randomly during the school year to help remind parents of this safety issue.

Item 5 - Picking up your child early?

Please remember that the procedures that we have in place at RRE are designed to keep your children safe. We cannot call your children down to the office until you are physically present at the office to sign them out. This safeguard ensures that someone authorized is picking up your child and we have documentation of who and when he or she was picked up. **We ask that if your child(ren) need to leave early, you have them picked up by 3:00 pm as the office gets very busy at the end of the day and classes are packing up.** Thank you for your understanding of the safety procedures we have in place.

Item 6 – Checking into the Office

As a reminder, for the safety of our faculty and students, every parent or visitor must check into the office when entering the building. Parents are not allowed to go to classrooms unless they are volunteering or have been invited for a special event. Please do not enter through the side doors when school is in session. *Please make sure to bring your driver's license so you can be processed through our District Safety System. This process is repeated every year for every visitor.*

To enter, please press the buzzer on the right side of the front door and wait for the click. Open the door after you hear it. Then proceed to the front office prepared to show your driver's license. Everyone entering the building needs to have his or her license scanned into the Raptor system once every six months. On subsequent visits, we will enter your last name and print off a sticker badge. This is a district policy for the safety of our students and staff.



Specials Spotlight

**Gym:**

6th-3rd: We are reviewing expectations, learning about rock wall procedures/challenges/techniques, and starting our first team building unit.

K-2nd:

Our younger students will be going through a progression of games that reinforce appropriate behavior while in PE. The 1st and 2nd graders are also learning about our rock wall procedures/challenges/techniques...kindergarten will be learning about the rock wall in about a month.

Spanish:

¡Hola! In Spanish this year, younger grade levels (K-3) will be learning mostly through songs, stories, and games, while older grade levels (4-6) will also be using a variety of other techniques ("comprehensible input," "total physical response," and "Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling"). It's a both very fun and very productive class! I've asked my students to practice at home by teaching their parents, siblings, pets, and stuffed animals what they've learned. I will also make the songs, videos, slideshows, and other materials we use available to you online so that you and your children can access them whenever you want.

Music:


Welcome back to Music at Rock Ridge! Students are beginning the year with a look at "How We Express Ourselves" through our appreciation of the aesthetic, sharing their favorite songs and creating class playlists. We will also be jumping right into instruments with 6th grade learning keyboard, 5th grade guitar, 3rd and 4th grade Ukuleles and K-2 exploring percussion instruments and Music Fundamentals. I am so excited to see everyone again and looking forward to a fantastic year!



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New Staff Member Spotlight

Meet **Steve Harvey**, RRE's new Spanish Teacher!

Hi! My name is Steve Harvey, and I'm very excited to be the new Spanish teacher at Rock Ridge! I've done a few things along the way: I'm a lawyer, a nonprofit founder, an author, a former college lecturer, and a world traveler. Though I took Spanish in college, I became fluent while living in Mazatlán, Sinaloa (Mexico), where I wrote the final draft of my novel and met my wife. We have a wonderful daughter who is starting college this fall, and a dog who thinks she's in charge. When I'm not teaching, I like to bike, swim, hike, read, and write.



Counselor's Corner

The beginning of a new school year is an exciting, yet challenging time. There can be a lot of anxiety about having new teachers, new friends, and new things to learn! Our attitudes and mindset can be the key to conquering those worries. I teach students to have a growth mindset. A growth mindset means that we believe we learn through dedication and hard work. Challenging times are opportunities to improve and grow. Our perseverance through challenging times builds our resilience and confidence. Here are [2 resources](#) from The Big Life Journal that we use with students to help them build a growth mindset. I hope these resources are helpful at home as well!

Dawna McKnight, RRE School Counselor
dtmcknight@dcsdk12.org

Important PTO information

Our biggest fundraiser, the Rock Ridge Run, is coming up soon! This is our biggest fundraiser, with funds split between the school and the PTO operating budget. The Rock Ridge Run fundraiser will kick off on September 8. The Run will take place on September 17. Mark your calendars!



We currently have two open positions on our PTO Board: Vice President and Treasurer. Both positions would require 2-6 hours of your time a month, depending on the position and the month (and what events we are able to have). Please mail rockridgepto@gmail.com for more information.

We are excited to continue our Spirit Rock program! Parents, students, and staff are invited to rent the rock to celebrate birthdays, acknowledge special occasions and accomplishments, or show school spirit. Please see our website for more information!

One of the easiest ways to help support the PTO is by signing up for the King Soopers Community Rewards Program. All you have to do is register your King Soopers card online at www.kingsoopers.com. Every time you shop, you support the PTO.

— WELCOME — BACK TO SCHOOL

As we enter into Cold/Flu season and as we continue to navigate through the Covid 19 pandemic we are asking parents to help us stop the spread of illness through our school.

Please keep your child home for any of the following symptoms that aren't related to an existing chronic health condition.

Major Symptoms

- Feeling feverish, having chills, temperature of 100.4° F or greater
- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Loss of taste or smell

Minor Symptoms

- Sore throat
- Runny nose or congestion
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If your student experiences any major symptom for greater than 24 hours or any minor symptom for greater than 48 hours please reach out to their health care provider. Additionally, we ask that you communicate with our school nurse consultant, Whitney Chapman at wchapman1@dcsdk12.org prior to your student's return to school.



B.A.S.E

Rock Ridge is proud to present the Rock Ridge Rockets Before and After School program (rocket B.A.S.E. for short). This program provides a fun and relaxing way for your students to start or end their day on site here at Rock Ridge Elementary. Your kids have the opportunity to play gym games, participate in crafts and learn in a safe, professional environment right here in their own elementary school. Hours of operation daily are 6:30-8:30am and 3:30-6:00pm. B.A.S.E. also provides full day care during breaks and school closures from 6:30am-6:00pm.

If you think you may need care for your children or have general questions please visit them at the Rock Ridge B.A.S.E. website or feel free to reach out to the program manager, Amanda Pierce.

Also... Our B.A.S.E. program is growing!! We are looking for enthusiastic, energetic people to join our team. This is a great position for a high school student, or someone just looking for a few hours per week (10-15). If you or someone you know is interested please reach out to:

Amanda Pierce
Rock Ridge BASE Manager
303-549-7283



Box Tops

We will not be conducting the Box Tops competition between classes this year, but WILL continue collecting Box Tops. Please remember to scan all of your receipts!

For more information about Box Tops for Education as well as instructions for downloading the app, go to:

<https://www.boxtops4education.com/>.

International Baccalaureate



Each month we focus on an IB Learner Profile and *Courageous* is our focus for the month of **August**.

Students who are Courageous have the confidence to try new things. They try to solve problems in a lot of ways. They have the courage to tell people what they think is right.

How can parents help to develop students who are Courageous at home?

- If your child is feeling uneasy about trying something, encourage them to attempt it and then reflect on both whether they liked the activity and how it felt to try something new.
- Your child might want to set some short-term goals. Consider activities that make him/her nervous. What are realistic goals for the week? Your child might set a goal to:
 - Offer an opinion in class
 - Spend one recess with someone they might not usually play with
 - Order something different from the lunch menu
 - Try an activity they haven't tried before
- Be careful to explain to your child the difference between being a risk-taker by trying new things and doing dangerous things.

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