



BELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

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May 2020

[School Website](#)

[Menu](#)

[Lunch & Bell
Schedule](#)

Message from the Principal...

Dear Bell Families,

In preparing to write this newsletter, I decided to look at what I wrote this time last year. Much of the letter was about upcoming events and celebrations of students' achievements in various endeavors over the spring; things that are conspicuously missing from this year.

While most of us would much prefer being back to "normal" with our students and staff at Bell, I want to recognize the guidance our District leadership provided our schools in making a swift and definitive decision to transition to Remote Learning without losing weeks of precious learning time. Jeffco was the only District that I know of anywhere that did this practically overnight. It was a heavy lift, and there were growing pains (still are); however, we had mostly navigated through the hard parts by the time other school districts were just re-starting their instruction, weeks later.

Closer to home, the Bell leadership team and staff worked tirelessly to make sense of this new reality and to implement a completely different way of "doing school." Again, there have been growing pains and, while we have worked hard behind the scenes, I am happily surprised that things are going as smoothly as they are. Truth be told, none of us knew what to expect.

Yes, we have much to celebrate, not least of which is our school's perseverance and resilience during the greatest challenge most of us have encountered in our lives. After being in the Golden area for 8 years, I continue to be awe-struck by our students, staff, families, and community. My cup is full with gratitude.

continued...

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Message from the Principal, continued...

Bell Celebrations!

- **Congratulations to Orchestra Teacher Barb Casanova!** Mrs. Casanova was selected as one of two Golden educators to receive the Golden Schools' Foundation's 2020 Teacher Recognition Award! Barb is retiring this year, and she has influenced so many musicians over the years. Her orchestras were always the highest quality, and she has earned tremendous recognition and respect throughout the state from her colleagues. Congratulations, Barb.
- **Teacher Appreciation Week** (Staff Appreciation)– Next week is Teacher Appreciation Week, and if there has ever been a time where staff members have risen above and beyond, it has been this year in these most challenging times. I could not be more proud of our staff's resilience and willingness to learn and adjust to a new reality. So, if you haven't already, take a few minutes to reach out to a staff member who has positively influenced your child (it could be any staff member: a counselor, para, teacher, administrator, custodian, or other mentor, etc). You can also reach out to someone from your own school days to say thank you. Your outreach means more than you can imagine.
- Once again, **Student Council** collaborated with Golden High School students to help **raise money to support the Make-a-Wish Foundation**. Specifically, GHS has adopted **Neveah, a child recovering from Leukemia, to help her realize her wish through the Foundation**. This is the second year that Bell has asked to partner with GHS, and we raised \$7,800 for Neveah! This is \$1,000 more than we raised last year. I'm so proud of our StuCo kids, Ms. Swift, and Mr. Krisl for their hard work and our students for their generosity to help Neveah realize her wish!
- **Jeffco Schools Values Award Winners from Bell** – In case you missed it in last week's Friday Blast, our staff nominated the following staff members as Bell's nominees for the District's 2020 Values Awards. Congratulations!
 - ◇ **Lance Krisl** for Valuing People
 - ◇ **Allison Johnson** for Integrity
 - ◇ **Jessica Swift** for Teamwork
 - ◇ **Terri Buruse** for Exemplary Performance
- **8th Grade Awards and Celebrations** - We are excited to be hosting a virtual awards and celebration for our 8th graders during the last week of school. More information will be coming out next week.

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Message from the Principal, continued...

An Ever-Changing World

As we celebrate a successful launch into the unknown waters of Remote Learning, more questions and complications continue to arise because of the impacts this long-term pandemic is having on our world. *What will the end of the year look like? Will we be able to come to the school to collect personal belongings and medications still there? Do we need to return our devices that the school loaned us? What kind of an impact with the State's budget crisis coming as a result of the pandemic have on our school? What might the beginning of next year look like at Bell?*

I do not have many answers right now, but I am hopeful that by next week we will receive more guidance about some of these questions. That said, ***I am planning to hold a Virtual Community Meeting on May 7 at 4:00 - 4:50 pm.*** We will celebrate our successes, address some challenges, and answer questions during this meeting. We will send out the link for this virtual meeting and post it on our website next week. Additionally, if you did not see [Superintendent Glass' Facebook Live](#) on April 23, you might want to take some time to look at the [presentation](#).

Finally, again I want to extend an invitation to reach out to any of our counselors, administrators, or teachers if you need help or have questions about your students' school work or mental health. It is our honor to serve and support our students. Email is the best way to contact us right now. Here is our [directory](#), which is also located on the [Bell Website](#). Thank you all for the amazing support you've shown us and your children. I know it is not easy to "home school" your kids, but you are really doing a great job! Take care of each other. Stay home. Stay healthy.

Truly,
Michele DeAndrea-Austin, M.A.
Principal
Bell Middle School



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VIRTUAL ONE-ON-ONE LESSONS AVAILABLE NOW

Call: 720 662 ROCK
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A young girl is shown in profile, sitting and playing an electric guitar. She is looking at a tablet device that is propped up in front of her, which displays a video lesson. The background is a simple indoor setting with a lamp.



STAFF APPRECIATION

Just a reminder that **Staff Appreciation is the first week of May**. We have a variety of ways you and your student can participate. The PTA will be purchasing gift cards for our incredible staff members. If you would like to make a donation towards our staff gift cards purchase, please visit the Bell Middle School website. There is a link to make a donation, and 100% of your donations will go to staff appreciation gifts. Thank you in advance for your help in making it special!

Our counselors will have links on their [Google Classroom](#) to send thank you messages to your teachers, admin, office staff members, counselors, or any staff member you would like to share gratitude towards.

Now more than ever, I think we can all appreciate our incredible staff and the work they do. Please help us to shower them with the biggest THANK YOU we can muster.

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Today!

Rob Mangelson
(720) 878-4107
Rob@tscacolorado.com

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Families, if you are having trouble with devices for online learning, please click on this flyer from our IT department for simple troubleshooting steps and contact information for the IT parent support hotline:

[TECH SUPPORT FLYER & PARENT HOTLINE INFO](#)

Hey Bobcats! We need your photos and videos. Send us pictures of your school life during online learning! We'd also love a short (5-10 second) video of you saying hello, goodbye, a shout out to your friends, teachers, favorite staff members, or a general goodbye to Bell Middle School. If you would like to share either or both of these please, upload your picture or video to Google Docs and then share them with Mrs. Swift at this email:

jessica.swift@jeffcoschool.us



Here's the latest episode of Bobcat News. For those of you that aren't aware, Bobcat News is a production of Ms. Zimmerman's Interactive Media Classes. Great job, Bobcats, in continuing with the news during remote learning.

[Bobcat News WeVideo Link](#)

[Bobcat News Google Drive Link \(downloadable\)](#)



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Sponsorship space in this newsletter is extremely affordable! Reach parents in your local community & a significant portion of your investment goes back to the school! Want to sponsor this school?

Please contact Rob Mangelson at
Rob@tscacolorado.com

or
(720) 878-4107.

Library and Technology Newsletter



April's Tech Focus: Digital Footprint

Students in Jeffco are learning about and discussing media balance this month and how our access to technology changes how we might view the world .

[Click here for details about this month's focus.](#)

Need Help with Your Technology?

[Please access our technology page under Online Learning on the Bell Website for help with devices, internet and learning apps.](#)

[Here's a support document for school Chromebooks.](#)

Device Care

Please speak to your students, especially those in 6th grade and those carrying devices, about caring for their Chromebooks and laptops. First of all, students are to bring devices to school with a charge each day or they will have to complete the classwork on paper or as homework. Also, we have MANY lost, stolen and broken Chromebooks this year so far, and all these issues can easily be avoided. Chromebooks are to be charged every night, and left in lockers during lunch. Students are NOT to carry Chromebooks by their screens. Students are not to engage in horseplay with devices that belong to them or to another student.

Damages incurred to district devices are as follows:

Chromebook Repair Costs			
Part	<u>Touch Device</u>	<u>Non-Touch Device</u>	<u>Labor Charge</u>
Lower case	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$30.00
LCD cover with antenna	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$15.00
Hinge Set	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$15.00
Upper case with keyboard	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$30.00
Motherboard Replacement	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$30.00
Screen Replacement	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$15.00
Audio/Power sub-board	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$15.00
LCD Bezel	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$15.00
Battery Replacement	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$15.00

6th Grade Purchased Devices Offered Lenovo Damage Protection through 8/2020:

Students with district Chromebooks who would like to purchase an accidental damage protection can do so by following this link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-6LmDu3zDoD6AYTnDAoIW0W8Vp9VnEmLDuxxmsI2EfI/edit>



The Child Mind Institute has put out a series of resources this week focused on help for parents who are feeling overwhelmed by the impossible demands on their time and patience. Here are some great resources to share:

[Managing Anger and Frustration: Tips for staying calm with your kids.](#)

[Supporting vs Enabling: How to tell what's helping and what's not when a child has challenges.](#)

[When Siblings Won't Stop Fighting: How parents can help kids learn to resolve conflicts.](#)

[Preventing Parent Burnout: Meeting the emotional challenges of caring for children with mental health issues](#)

