

Bell Middle School

1001 Ulysses St, Golden CO 80401

Office: 303-982-4280 | Fax: 303-982-4281 | Attendance: 303-982-4340



November 2018

[School Website](#)

[Menu](#)

[Lunch & Bell
Schedule](#)

Message from the Principal...

Dear Bell Families-

On behalf of our entire community, **I want to thank our voters for the early holiday gifts that came with the passage of 5A and 5B!** While the specifics of how these much-needed funds will affect Bell directly are yet unknown, the added funds ***will have a significant and positive impact on all of our Golden area schools.*** With 5B, we know we will be undergoing another construction project; however, the timing for that is not known. Admittedly, I welcome a few months without thinking about construction, but we will rise to the occasion whenever the time comes. In addition to information shared in *Chalktalk* from Jeffco, I will continue to keep you updated on specific ways the additional funding will impact Bell as information becomes available.

Information about the 2019-2020 School Year (already)

- **ACTION ITEM: Read Carefully – Changes to Student Enrollment Process for 2019-2020** - ***A very BIG change is coming to the student enrollment process in Jeffco.*** Probably the most significant change is that ***even if your student is staying at the same school, you still need to enroll him/her through the Enroll Jeffco system.*** In other words, ***every student must be enrolled through Enroll Jeffco every year from here on out.***

- ◇ **Why is Jeffco changing its enrollment system?** There are many reasons. First, a new tool called *School Finder* gives parents and students better information about every school in Jeffco in an easier to access format than ever before. So, it provides families opportunities at their fingertips to learn more about the schools in which they're interested. Second, it helps our school system, as well. By having a more accurate account of who is going to be at what schools earlier than was possible ever before, we will be much better able to:

continued...

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Message from the Principal, continued...

- 1) Gauge our school budgets and plan for staffing in a timely fashion;
- 2) Create master schedules and work out problems earlier;
- 3) Ensure students are getting the classes they both want and need;
- 4) Problem-solve schedule problems for students sooner;
- 5) Manage choice enrollment centrally and therefore more efficiently than before.

As we prepare for the roll out of ***Enroll Jeffco (this includes choice enrollment applications)***, the enrollment dates have changed to **January 22 - February 8**. To learn more and to **access the enrollment system**, please go to www.enrolljeffco.org.

- **The Pathways at Bell** - We will begin a **two-year rollout of a new pathway at Bell starting with 7th grade in 2019-2020**. Next year's 7th graders (currently 6th graders) will have the choice of going into ***iSTEM or Arts & Humanities***, which will replace the Traditional pathway of the past. **Little will change with our programming in iSTEM**. We are, however, taking the great things that we know work for iSTEM to develop the Arts & Humanities pathway. One common thread between the two pathways will be the Project Based Learning (PBL) instructional model that iSTEM has used for years. In addition, as we join the ***New Tech Network (NTN)*** starting next year, teachers will have more tools, training, and collaboration opportunities to develop high quality learning experiences for ***all*** our students, regardless of their pathway. More information about how 6th graders will be choosing their pathway will be coming in January. For more information about both iSTEM and the Arts & Humanities pathways, [click here](#).

Ways to Help Bell and our Students during the Holidays

- **Giving Tree** - We will again have our ***Giving Tree*** set-up in the coming days to help selected students in our community whom our staff have identified as being appropriate recipients. Items requested may include basic needs such as food and clothing, or community based activities. Student names are kept confidential. Please come into our office and take a tag – or more - off the tree. ***We ask that your items are purchased, wrapped, tagged, and delivered back to Bell by Dec. 17.*** Our students will be grateful to have received something this holiday season!
- **COLORADO GIVES DAY** – Need a tax break for this year? ***Did you know that you can donate directly to Bell MS PTA at Coloradogives.org?*** You can schedule your donation **now** by going to Colorado Gives to Bell Joining New Tech Network is going to be very beneficial to our students and teachers, but it does come with a cost. Your contribution will help us pay for the cost of travel and training for our teachers. ***Colorado Gives Day is Dec. 4.***

continued...

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Message from the Principal, continued...

- **AP Mags Fundraising** – As a part of our fall magazine sale, supporters have probably already received 1 - 2 emails offering nuts and chocolates in addition to magazines to give as gifts or to just have around during the holidays. All purchases continue to support our school! All products purchased are delivered directly to the buyers. The email address associated with APMags.com will also receive an email reminder about this program. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school!

Information for the Good of the Whole

- **Changing Weather – Keep Your Students Warm and Safe** – Please ensure that your students are appropriately dressed for the weather conditions. As a parent of two teenagers, I know that this is easier said than done because, clearly, we adults don't know what we're talking about. Nevertheless, please know that students will be going outside for lunch recess as long as the temperature is 20 degrees or above and the conditions are otherwise safe. So, layers are recommended (including hats, gloves, and coats). That is also true for our **morning routine before school starts**. Unless we have a **blue flag hanging from the hand railing in front of school**, students will be waiting outside until 7:15am to enter the building. If the blue flag is out, however, we will hold students in the lobby until it is time to go to class.
 - ◇ *If you are in need of warm winter clothes*, we can help! You can simply call the office and ask for Mr. Olsen for help.
- **In Cases of an Emergency after School Hours** – If there is ever an emergency that requires you to contact school personnel after school hours, please contact District security at 303-982-2445. Again, this is only if it's an emergency that cannot wait until the next business day (for example: a child is missing, a family tragedy that needs some immediate attention from school personnel, etc.). Security will then be able to contact school administration and the necessary District leadership.
- **ACTION ITEM: Family & School Partnership Survey – now open** – This is a friendly reminder to take a few minutes (10-15) to take the *Family & School Partnership Survey* and let us know how we are doing (link's below). We take our survey data seriously, as we make decisions about our future; so, your participation is both needed and appreciated. The survey **closes on Friday, Dec. 14**. Thank you for taking the time to give us feedback! If the link below does not work, highlight the link using your cursor. Then copy and paste the link into your browser address window and hit the "Enter" or "Return" key on your keyboard.
 - ◇ Survey Link: www.tinyurl.com/JeffcoFamilySurvey2018.

As always, remember to regularly check the [Bell Website](#) and Calendar to stay current, as that has the most updated information on it. Finally, I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and I wish all of you a happy and healthy upcoming holiday season!

Truly,

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



From the Library

Our new library system just came online for family notifications. So, students with overdue books are finally getting family reminders. Thank you for your patience, and please gently remind students to return overdue books as soon as possible.

Student Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

- Our students' and staff's safety is of the utmost importance at Bell. For this reason, it is *imperative* that parents and other friends or family members who are dropping-off or picking-up students are **following the parking lot expectations** (*please make sure to share this information with anyone who might be driving your student to or from school*). Following the expectations also leads to a more efficient process, which helps get everyone through the line more efficiently and quickly. There are four simple, but vital expectations:
 1. Please **do NOT stop in the painted crosswalks** to drop your student off.
 2. Please **form ONLY TWO LANES**. The right lane (adjacent to the sidewalk) is used for stopping and dropping students off; the left lane is as a drive-through.
 3. Please **PULL all the way FORWARD** until you are directly behind another car along the drop-off sidewalk. This may mean you're dropping your student off on the west side of the parking lot.
 4. Please **DO NOT park on the left (outside) lane to drop-students off**. This is *dangerous* and *inefficient*. This should be a non-stop lane in order to allow cars to drive-through the lot once their students' have been dropped-off. **Thank you!**



PreK - 12 Colorado Teachers!

Apply for a Teachers and Technology Grant for the 2018 - 19 school year for your school

Bell Middle School

Grants range from \$500 to \$5000 and are available to full-time classroom teachers in public or private school. The CenturyLink Clarke M. Williams Foundation's Teachers and Technology grants are designed to help fund projects that advance student success through the innovative use of technology in the classroom.

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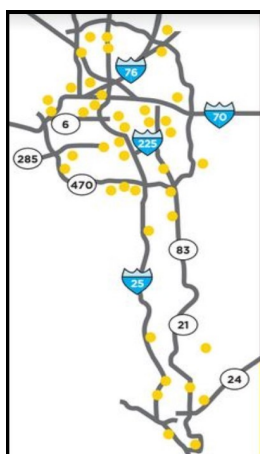


From the Counseling Department

This month, 8th grade TEAM leaders presented a lesson to our 6th and 7th graders about “Gratitude”. They led their students in creating Thank you cards for a special teacher in their life. Giving thanks and gratitude is known to have many health benefits such as, improves physical health, improves psychological health and self-esteem, enhances empathy and reduces aggression, better sleep and giving gratitude, increases mental strength. So, practice giving a little thanks this month and reap the benefits.

Interact Club

Interact Club would like to thank everyone who participated in Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF and the food drive for Joy's kitchen. As a Bell community, we collected over **\$3,500 for UNICEF** to help children all around the world. With that total, our Golden area has contributed around \$40,000 over the years to UNICEF. I know that money is put to great use as I have seen first hand how UNICEF impacts vulnerable children. The food drive also showed how our Bell community cares for those around us as well. Lots of great food was contributed and our beneficiaries are very thankful. Coming in December will be a chance to help families around Golden have toys and other gifts to give their children over the holiday season. Look in the weekly email blast for more ways to help our community coming up with future Interact club projects. Students are always welcome to join our service leadership club - just come on Tuesdays after school to Ms. Paricio's room.



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From the Attendance Office



As we enter this very busy time of year, that also includes flu season, I want to remind parents of our attendance policies. We ask that you **keep your children home if they are sick**, particularly if they have a fever, are vomiting, and/or have diarrhea, so as to prevent the spread of illness. While we clearly understand that students sometimes need to miss school for a variety of reasons, please remember that it is **very important to your student's success that they have good attendance at school**. Unfortunately, frequent absences can have a negative effect on students' progress and can result in further actions taken by the District truancy office. Please handle absences in the following manner:

For **full day absences**, you need to call the absence in to our Attendance line. That phone number is 303-982-4340. It is on the front page of the Bell website if you misplace the number.

For **partial day absences**, send a note with your student to the main office in the morning with early check out information including student full name and time you will pick them up. You will then sign your student out and back in for this absence to be excused at the attendance window on your left when you first walk in to Bell. Please remember to sign students in if they are late to school.

For **pre-arranged absences**: If your student will be missing 3 or more days of school, they will need to pick up a pre-arranged absence form from the office. Students will take them to their teachers in order to gather homework information and get the absence excused.

Please visit the Attendance policy on the Bell website for more information.

[Bell MS Attendance and Reporting policy](#)



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Computer Applications Projects

In computer applications, students completed their City of the World PowerPoint Presentations. Students scheduled flights and hotels, planned itineraries, studied currency, examined the history of their Country and planned exciting activities during their vacation. Students next used the Pivot Stickfigure Animator. Students used their imaginations to invent a storyline to create an animation based on a story they wrote. Paint and other images backgrounds were added to the animation. Students then imported the Pivot project into Movie Maker so they could add sounds, narration, transitions, and music. The class then previewed these exciting videos and peer graded them.

Students have “invested” in five of their favorite stocks to learn about the Stock Market. We check the stocks weekly and record the results in an Excel spreadsheet. Most student stocks showed a gain the last few week. I encourage each parent/guardian to have a discussion with their child about how finances work. Students have studied the stock market for the last three months and now have some actual history to go by. Students wrote excellent reflections in schoology describing their thoughts and emotions of owning stock.



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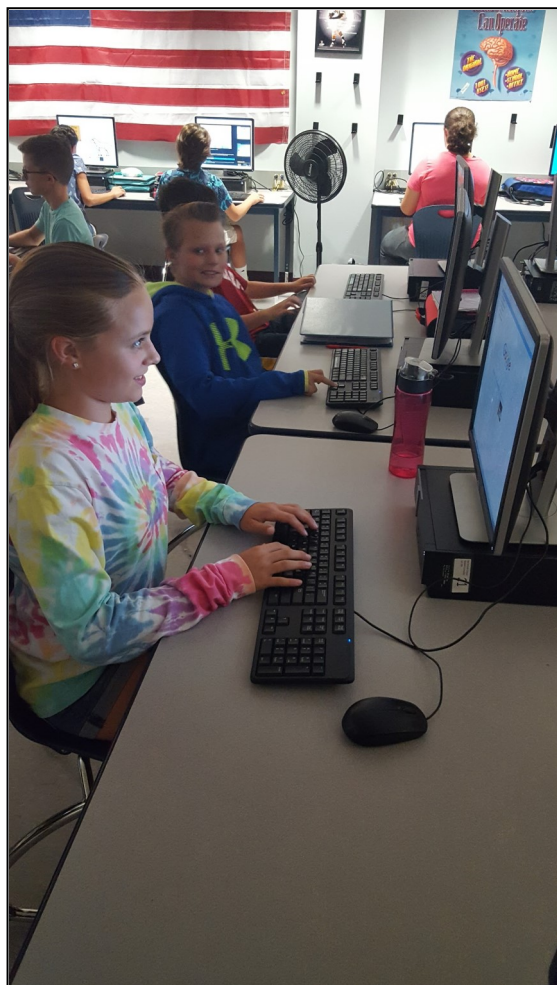
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21st Century Computer Skills

These students started this computer class four weeks ago as part of the “Wheel” curriculum 6th graders enjoy. We started the quarter studying, discussing, observing, and practicing proper keyboarding form. Keyboarding is the most important physical skill we teach in computer classes. Students will be typing for many years and proper form, accuracy, and speed is important to their success. Students type ten minutes to start class each day using the program Typing.com. Anyone can use this free program anywhere and anytime. Students need to reach at least 40 words per minute (WPM) to get their picture on the classroom WPM Hall of fame!

The 21st Century Skills class created wonderful artistic “masterpieces” using Microsoft Paint and Paint 3D. They then used this program to make backgrounds in their Pivot Stick Figure animations. These animations tell the student’s story, which they invented. The class also learned how to navigate the Google Drive and earned their “Taekwondo Google Drive Black Belt”.



Sponsorship space in this newsletter is extremely affordable! Reach parents in your local community & support schools!

Businesses that want to sponsor this school, please contact TSCA at info@tscaschools.com or 970-239-1641.

Bell Taekwondo Club

The **Bell Taekwondo Club** is rolling along with over 15 students and teachers involved in this exciting martial arts program. The students and teachers increase their respect and self-control by consistently doing the taekwondo workout and improving their fitness. Not only do they feel physically stronger, but they feel emotionally better.

Members of the Bell Taekwondo Club members recently participated in an exciting Halloween “Lock-in”. The overnight fun included Taekwondo games, pizza, movies and other exciting Halloween themed excitement.

Bell taekwondo students look forward to competing in the upcoming 20th Lee H.Park Championships in December with over 300 competitors from the Colorado Taekwondo Institute (CTI) organization. Several Middle Schools will have students competing. This tournament includes exciting team competitions in form, self-defense, 1-steps, staff sparring and breaking.

Students of the club helped raise money for the annual CTI food drive, which raised over 4,000 items and 120 turkeys for the Jeffco Action Center and other organizations. The annual CTI Christmas Party is December 21st and will include entertainment from the Black Belt Band, food, activities, and special guests. All family and friends of the Bell Taekwondo Club are invited to come join the fun. Entry fee is a can of food for the food bank.

Bell students and staff are welcome to join the Bell Taekwondo club **for free** at anytime during the school year. We meet after school on Tuesday from 2:15 - 3:15 pm in the wood gym and will continue the workouts during the entire school year.

For additional information about the Bell Taekwondo Club, please send an email to jsautel@jeffco.k12.co.us or come by Mr. Sautel's room #308. Come join the fun! Please click the link for further information about this taekwondo regarding benefits, instructor qualifications and lots more. [ColoradoTaekwondo](#)



FACS/Engineering

Can a tiny house feel like a home? This is the question we are currently exploring through a shared PBL in 7th grade Engineering and Family and Consumer Sciences classes. Hybrid groups are working together to design a tiny house for a client using Sketchup skills and budgeting and materials considerations (Engineering) and principles of interior design (FACS). The top designs will present their work to professionals in the field.

From the Visual Arts Department

Here are some of the finished bowls that the Visual Arts students made for JeffCo Eats Empty Bowl Project. Bell donated 20 bowls to to JeffCo Eats to help fill community food banks.



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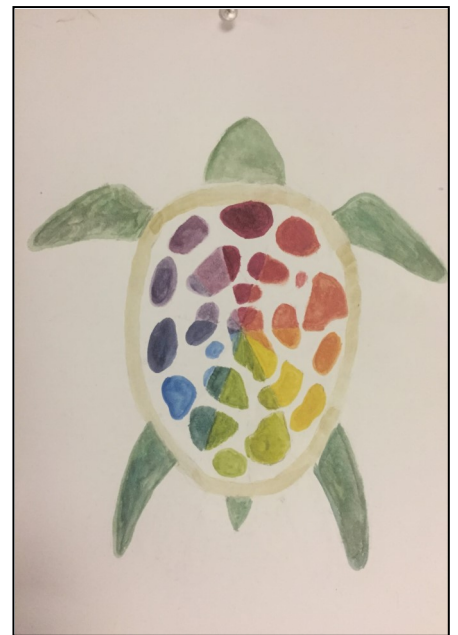
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From the Visual Arts Department, *continued...*

We've also been working on color theory and these are the creative colors that the students made.



Summer Travel Opportunities

The trip for next year's 8th graders is also up and running. We will be heading to Argentina for a cultural immersion trip from June 4-June 11, 2020. We will explore the culture and history of Argentina with stops in Buenos Aires, Colonia del Sacramento (with a side trip to Uruguay), and a trip to the resort town of El Tigre. The trip is led by Ms. Ranney. Please check the Bell Middle School web page in the Student Travel section for more details. Parents, you are also welcome to join us! **There is a \$200 voucher that will be applied to any travelers who sign up before November 30th.**

There are still spots open on the 8th grade summer trip to Belize. Join us for some snorkeling, zip-lining, hiking to ancient ruins, and learning about a new culture. We leave June 4th and return on June 10, 2019. The trip is led by Ms. Ranney. Please check the Bell Middle School web page in the Student Travel section for more details. Parents, you are also welcome to join us!



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8th Grade STEM

8th Grade STEM students presented to the Golden Sustainability Board on October 25th. This was the culminating event for their Fall PBL: Golden 2025. Students worked in Science, Engineering, and Language Arts to develop their presentations that showcased their vision of how Golden can meet The Paris Climate Agreement goals through energy reduction goals by 2025. Students wowed their audience in the City Council chambers and made their teachers and peers proud.



Milk Caps for Moola



This year we will again be collecting bottle lids from products that come from the Longmont Dairy! Over the past five years we have been able to collect over 32,000 bottle lids (and save them from the landfills!) and in turn raise over \$1600 for Bell Middle School! Longmont Dairy recycles the lids (a win for them!) and pays us 5-cents for every lid we turn in to them (a win for us!). So, please save and bring in any Longmont Dairy lids (includes milk, lemonade, creamer, half-and-half, tea, and/or eggnog lids that you have throughout the year). The recycle box is located in the front office of the school.

For questions please contact Gwen Stroup at gwenstroup@yahoo.com. Thanks for your support!

Outdoor Lab

Do you have a 6th grader who is headed to Outdoor Lab? Have you been using the King Soopers card to earn money towards their tuition? If you have and keep using the card the funds you earn go towards the Outdoor Lab Foundation. You can keep doing this or you can get a new card that donates the profits to Bell for students needing scholarships and other Outdoor Lab needs.



Amazon Smile

While you are doing your shopping this holiday season if you use Amazon don't forget to shop through Amazon Smile. Same prices but when you buy part of your money goes towards the charity of your choice. By the way did you know that Bell PTA is one of the charities you can choose?

