Message from the Principal...

Dear Bell Families,

Wow! It’s been a very busy start to our year, and arguably, the best start we’ve had! To start, I am so proud to announce that, once again, Bell students won the Jeffco Public Library Summer Reading Challenge for all Jeffco middle schools! This is (at least) the third year in a row that Bell won this challenge! So proud of our students and all the reading they did this summer – and thank you, parents, for supporting their summer learning!

Additionally, as the school year has started I have been walking the halls, supervising lunch and recess, and checking on classrooms. In these moments, I consistently observe kids laughing, smiling, and engaging with friends and teachers. Teachers are also taking time to get to know their kids through community circles and other activities, as well as getting into the heart of the content and standards. In short, it’s been a great start!

Safety and Security Measures

Thanks to some financial support from the Golden Schools Foundation, we were able to bring Rachel’s Challenge to help kick-off our school year. Rachel Scott was the first killed at Columbine 20 years ago, and some key lessons by which she lived her life are those of compassion, empathy, inclusion, and kindness. Many parents also joined us that evening for the parent portion of the program. It was an emotional day, without question, but an impactful one based on a student survey we took. With over 600 students responding, nearly all responses showed a positive response to the day’s activities. Additionally, the program included training a group of students to be leaders in Rachel’s Challenge in order to keep these integral messages at the forefront of our student body throughout the year.

continued...
Both physical and emotional safety is always a priority in Jeffco, and bringing Rachel’s Challenge to Bell this year is part of our ongoing focus on student safety. Additionally, I am so excited to announce that this year Bell is one of a handful of middle schools in Jeffco who was given the gift of a full-time campus supervisor from our Department of Safety and Security. The District is planning a 3-year roll out to get campus supervisors at every middle school, and we were lucky enough to be in the first year! Mr. Steve Tate started at Bell on Aug. 14, and he has already made a tremendous impact. As a former firefighter and campus supervisor at several Jeffco high schools, Mr. Tate brings a plethora of experience. His primary focus is on safety, and as such, he’s already made some changes that helps increase the safety of our students and staff. I cannot express my gratitude at having Mr. Tate as a part of our staff this year.

Free and Reduced Lunch Application due by 9/25

If you think you might qualify for the Federal Free & Reduced Lunch program, you are encouraged to apply as soon as possible by clicking here. We know that millions of kids in the United States go without adequate nutrition needed for healthy growth and brain activity every day. This program is designed to make sure our kids are getting their basic needs fulfilled while at school so they can focus on learning. Applications are due by September 25, at the latest.

If you have not yet taken note, here is the list of our Important Dates for this year. Please know that these dates are subject to change, so make sure to check the website for the most updated information.

PTA - Get Involved!

A huge thank you to Bell’s PTA for serving food and welcoming our families to our Curriculum Night this week! If you were unable to make it to the cafeteria, please take a minute to join PTA this year. It’s easy to do online (Click Here) and shouldn’t take but a few minutes to join.

Additionally, after much deliberation and getting some feedback from families, the PTA decided to change its fundraising efforts from doing Magazine Sales to trying a direct giving campaign. Unlike with the magazine sales of years’ past where nearly half of the money raised did not come to Bell, 100% of the proceeds will come to Bell’s PTA with this campaign, and therefore directly to helping Bell programs. You will be receiving more information in a few weeks about PTA’s campaign, but you can donate any time online by going to the PTA Website and clicking on “Donate.”

Communicating with Your Child during School

Bell has a “No Cell Phone” policy and our students are expected to lock their cell phones in their lockers during the school day. This policy went into effect in 2017-2018, but it was a collaborative decision made with parent input and approval during the previous school year. We recognize that this makes it a little more difficult to communicate with your children. So, if you need to leave a message for your child or talk with your child during the day, please feel free to call the office. We will make sure your child gets the message. Bell’s main number is 303-982-4280. We appreciate your support of this policy.

Some of you may know that I moved my son to college this year, and it has provided me an opportunity to do some serious reflection. Without going into all the boring details, suffice it simply to say that I recognize now more than ever that these years are fleeting. So, thank you for the privilege of allowing us to partner with you in giving our students the tools they need to lead successful lives; we don’t take it lightly. Have a wonderful and safe Labor Day Weekend!

Truly,
Michele DeAndrea Austin
Principal
Bell Middle School
**Library Newsletter**

**Jeffco Goes 1:1**

Jeffco is launching an innovative 1:1 Chromebook program across the district. Bell is launching alongside the district with a 1:1 Chromebook initiative. Our 6th graders will purchase or bring a laptop or Chromebook in September to access the many amazing tools now available to all Jeffco students.

Please look on the Bell website under “Family Resources” or follow this link for Jeffco Tech Tips steps for BYOD (Bring Your Own Device).

**Book Checkout**

Middle school students can check out four books at a time for two weeks at a time. Please visit the library before school, after school, during class with a pass, and during Bobcat time with a pass.

Visit the [Bell Catalogue](#) through the Bell Website to look up available titles.

**1 to 1 Device Information**

We have been receiving quite a few questions in regards to Chromebooks for 6\textsuperscript{th} graders. Please see this [CHROMEBOOK FAQ link](#) for more information. If you have any additional questions, contact Joanne Dynes at 303-382-4285.
Counselors are available to students for social/emotional, career, & academic support.

Students can request to see their grade level Counselor by filling out a quick form in the main office. Counselors are also available for parent/guardian consultation. Appointments can be made by contacting your student's Counselor.

Who are the School Counselors?

Hello my name is Linda Jelinek and I am the 6th grade counselor. This is my 18th year in Jeffco as a counselor. I am excited to work at Bell with amazing students and staff. I live in Golden with my husband and three children. I speak Spanish and Czech. In my free time I love to spend time with my family, hike, read and travel. My goal as counselor is to serve and advocate for all students at Bell and to empower, inspire and encourage students to achieve their full potential. Please feel free to contact me at: linda.jelinek@jeffco.k12.co.us or 303-982-8116.

Hello my name is Lindsey Leigh and I am the 7th grade counselor. This is my 13th year in JeffCo schools and I love working in the Golden Community. I grew up in Arvada and am a proud Jeffco product. Before becoming a counselor, I was a teacher in the district. I love spending quality time with my family (Husband, son, and daughter) and friends, cooking, reading, hiking, and spending time outside. I am looking forward to working with all of my students and having a fantastic year! Please feel free to contact me at: lindsey.leigh@jeffco.k12.co.us or 303-982-6307.

Hello my name is Erin Ballweg and I am one of two Counselors for the 8th grade. I’m a Colorado native and grew up near Golden. I love this community and all it has to offer! This is my 6th year as a Counselor in Jefferson County and I’m thankful I’ve had the opportunity to work in such a strong, committed school district. I enjoy spending time with family and friends, being outdoors, and taking advantage of the four seasons in our beautiful state. Please feel free to contact me at: erin.ballweg@jeffco.k12.co.us OR 303-982-1396. I will be at Bell every Monday and Tuesday, and every other Wednesday.

Hello my name is Dylan Irwin and this is my first year as a School Counselor at Bell. I was the Social Emotional Learning Specialist at Bell for the last two years. I have ten years of counseling experience in Missouri. I live in Lone Tree with my wife. I enjoy travelling, going to concerts, and spending time with family and friends. I look forward to working with 8th Grade students and their families. I will be at Bell every other Wednesday, and every Thursday and Friday. Please feel free to contact me at: dylan.irwin@jeffco.k12.co.us.
From the Attendance Office

If you know your student has an appointment or will need to be picked up early during the school day, please send a note with your student and have them bring it to the main office when they get to school. Please include student’s first and last name, time that you will be picking them up, your name and contact information. This process helps us to ensure that your student is in the office waiting for you when you arrive. Thank you!

Very Important

Fall Assessment News

All Bell students are in the process of taking the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) Assessment. This benchmark assessment is given to all students, three times a year, in the areas of mathematics and reading (additionally 8th graders will take a science assessment). Teachers use the data from the MAP assessment to set academic goals with their students, group students with similar strengths and challenges, and chart content area progress throughout the year. If you would like a copy of your student’s Fall MAP report, please contact your student’s ELA, math, or science teachers after the testing window closes on September 13th. Additionally, you may request report copies from Bell’s Instructional Coach, Allison Johnson (allison.johnson@jeffco.k12.co.us).

MOUNTAIN BIKE CLUB

If you were unable to attend the Mountain Bike Club meeting that was held on 8/29, it’s not too late to join! Please visit this link for more information, to sign up, or to print out a waiver.

Mtn Bike Club info

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.
Computer Applications and 21st Century Computer Skills

We started the year off with studying, discussing, observing, and practicing proper keyboarding form. Keyboarding is probably the most important 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!

Students are creating class introductions using the Moovely application. Moovely is a cloud-based platform for making animated videos. It allows users to develop both narrative videos, in which characters speak with lip-sync and move around, and video presentations, in which a voice-over narrator speaks over images and props, which may also move around.

In the coming weeks, Computer Application students will be learning about technology vocabulary using Prezi, learning about the stock market, and creating games using game coding. 21st Century Computer skills students will be learning about the google drive, 3D paint, and creating characters for video games using Piskel.

---

**Summer of 2020 Trip**

Are you or your family interested in traveling to London, Paris, and Rome this summer of 2020? Here is your chance! Join Mrs. Tietjen and Mrs. Martinez on a trip of a lifetime visiting sites that include Big Ben, the Eiffel Tower, the Roman Colosseum and Pompeii.

To find out more, you can:

1. Visit our trip's website at [www.explorica.com/Tietjen-20](http://www.explorica.com/Tietjen-20)
2. Contact Heidi Tietjen at heidi.tietjen@jeffco.k12.co.us or Jeanette Martinez at jeanette.martinez@jeffco.k12.co.us
3. Come visit our table at Curriculum Night on August 27 and 28.

We will be holding a parent information meeting at 6:00pm on Thursday, September 5 in the Bell library.

---

**Minecraft Club**

**Minecraft Club** will be starting on Friday, August 23rd after school in room 209 (Ms. Zimmerman's Robotics / Interactive Media classroom). Serious Crafters only, gun-related mods.

**Minecraft Club**
Fridays 2:15 pm - 3:15 pm
Room 209
**Women Who Lead**

Women Who Lead is a club designed for girls grades 6-8. Its mission is to inspire and empower young women through literature, fun projects, and the discussions of real world issues. The club was organized by two IB students from Lakewood High School, Kaylyn Buchanan and Elizabeth Crim. They piloted the club at Rooney Ranch elementary last school year with great success and are expanding to three more elementary schools and one middle school this school year.

Club dates: September 10, September 24, October 8, October 22, November 5, November 19, December 10

Time: 2:15 – 3:30

Contact information:

Teacher sponsor: Elena Crim (ecrim@jeffco.k12.co.us)

Club Leaders: Elizabeth and Kaylyn: (womenwholeadco@gmail.com)

---

**Taekwondo Club**

Schedule: Starts **Tuesday September 10th**
Every Tuesday 2:20 - 3:00 pm during the entire school year
Students accepted at any time during the year.

Location: Wood Gym

Information: Mr Sautel
7th Degree Black Belt
jsautel@jeffco.k12.co.us
303-979-2621

Website: [Colorado Taekwondo Institute](#)

There are many benefits provided to a student who is enrolled in a strong taekwondo program. Respect, self-control, discipline, fitness and practical self-defense are part of this program. All levels and abilities are encouraged to participate in this exciting program. Classes are taught in a fun, structured environment and the curriculum serves to make each student stronger. Please contact Mr. Sautel if you have any questions about the program.

The only cost to Bell students and faculty is $20 for a required uniform. Classes are free.
GETAWAY TO YMCA OF THE ROCKIES
Estes Park Center

School is in full swing, but the magic of the mountains remains!

FALL-THEMED FAMILY ACTIVITIES
WILDLIFE AND ASPEN TREES STRUTTING THEIR STUFF
LESS THAN 2 HOURS FROM THE FRONT RANGE

ymcarockies.org | 888-613-9622

SAVE $15 per night on lodging
ANYTIME in October & November
Minimum night stays may apply.

Use promo code FALL2019

---

REGISTER FOR FALL CLASSES
MON - THURS 4:30 - 5:30 (AGES 6 - 12)
MON - FRI 5:30 - 6:30 AND 6:30 - 7:30 (AGES 13+)

Kickboxing, Jiu Jitsu, and Kali

TENİGU HOUSE
MARTIAL ARTS

INFO@TENİGUHOUSE.COM WWW.TENİGUHOUSE.COM