Message from the Principal...

Dear Bell Families-

At the October Bell Accountability Team (BAT) and PTA meetings, it was my pleasure to announce that Bell Middle School is going to join the New Tech Network of Schools in 2019-2020. This journey and research started over 15 months ago after Susan Arntson, our current Project Based Learning (PBL) coach, and I nonchalantly attended a 2-hour New Tech Network workshop at a conference. Although I had only started as the principal at Bell a few days prior to this conference, I nevertheless knew that this network could take Bell into the future we envisioned for our students. Welcome to Bell MS: 3.0.

New Tech is a perfect fit for Bell’s mission and vision of applying rigorous standards based learning from the classroom to authentic real-world tasks. This also aligns with Jeffco’s new strategic plan with a laser focus on transforming student task.

But what does that mean to you and for our students? Jeffco Superintendent Dr. Jason Glass explains it well in the Jeffco Generations document when he says, “Content is important, but what is more important is what a student can do with that content in a changing world, and how they use both knowledge and skills in pursuit of their individual passion.”

Our model for implementing New Tech next year is to use our students’ 6th grade year to discover their passions and prepare lay the groundwork for one of two pathways: iSTEM or a humanities/civil service focused pathway (the title and details for this pathway are in committees, at this time). Regardless of the pathway, students will engage in the Project Based Learning instructional model as designed through the New Tech Network specifications and expectations. NTN never dictates the content of our learning; our Jeffco curriculum and the Colorado Academic Standards guides this. However, NTN provides us the tools and supports to build the learning through authentic projects, bringing students’ learning to a deeper level of understanding. Most importantly, it will provide equity in learning for all Bell students.

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Message from the Principal, continued...

This week I took six other staff members to the San Jose and Seaside, California areas to learn from two New Tech Network schools about implementation. It was an informative trip for all of us, and it has given us a great deal to consider as we begin planning our own implementation. I will continue to update you on this exciting new adventure in the coming months. If you want to learn more about New Tech Network, go to their website. I have also put together a simple overview handout that explains the core skills on which students focus and are evaluated, as well as the philosophical pillars from which NTN builds. At the bottom is a link to a student-made video from an NTN school about what it means to be a NTN school.

Next, I want to thank all of you for your flexibility as we tried out our new Office Hours Parent Conferences concept this month. A number of you filled-out our survey to provide feedback, and our Management Team is considering some adjustments for second semester based on the feedback. We have our second Office Hours on Nov. 14. Sign-ups will be available on Nov. 7. I also know that some of you cannot access the survey, and we are trying to problem-solve that with our IT department because it was set-up and shared correctly. It is possible that some people’s virus protection or malware is preventing access to the link. I apologize for the inconvenience for those of you not able to access the survey.

Finally, we have much to celebrate at Bell this month. Our engineering students have been hard at work developing ideas to cut carbon emissions down in Golden by the year 2025. In the last two weeks, they presented their ideas to City Council members, the mayor, business leaders, and other community members. I saw some of the presentations, and it is remarkable what a group of 13-year old kids can create! Additionally, we had a fantastic Bell’s Got Talent show last week. We saw everything from a Tae Kwon Do act, to musicians, to a student who solved the Rubic’s Cube in under three minutes! It was a fun evening for everyone! We also celebrated our school-wide effort to follow our Respectful, Optimistic, Accountable, Responsible (ROAR) expectations with our first ROAR assemblies! Our Student Council (StuCo) designed and ran the entire assembly, and the whole student body had fun while elevating these expectations for all students. Nearly every day we have students going on amazing field trips, meeting goals, or demonstrating their talent at Bell, so these are just a few of the highlights. Thank you for sharing your talented and curious kids with us!

Before I sign-off, I just want to remind everyone that there are some significant public school funding initiatives both at the state and the district levels on this November’s ballot, so please remember to vote! For more factual information about these initiatives, please visit this link on Jeffco’s website.

Truly,
Michele DeAndrea Austin, M.A.
Principal
Bell Middle School
REMINDER: Halloween Costume Guidelines

Halloween is a few days away, and we will once again have a costume contest for our students. As you put together possible prize-winning costumes, please keep the following in mind:

- **Students may not bring any weapons, including fake weapons**, to school. These include, but are not limited to: plastic swords, knives, guns, sickles, hammers, pick-axes, saws, etc. Weapons – and even the fake / plastic weapons – violate District policy (JICI, JKDA, JKEA).

- **Students are not allowed to wear masks during the school day as part of their costumes**. This is a District-wide practice. Although masks can make a costume cool, they pose a variety of safety risks (including, but not limited to, not being able to see well through the mask). We will be enforcing this rule carefully. Students can save these accessories for Halloween night!

- Please ensure that all **costumes still adhere to the school’s dress code**: nothing too short; tank tops straps at least two fingers wide; no sagging pants; no inappropriate language or images (this includes images of alcoholic beverages) on clothing; and otherwise, clean, covered, and respectful.

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**From the PTA**

Thanks for your participation in the one-and-only fundraiser for Bell MS. We raised $24,000!! The generosity of this community speaks volumes about our commitment to Bell MS leadership, teachers and students. Come join the PTA at [http://bellpta.org/members/](http://bellpta.org/members/) and come to our meeting on November 6th at 5:00 pm (BMS Library) to find out what’s next.

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**The Legend of Sleepy Hollow**

SEPTEMBER 22ND - OCTOBER 27TH, 2018

Saturdays at 1pm | Oct. 20th & 27th at 11am & 1pm

www.minersalley.com • 303.935.3044
Future Bobcat Night

Do you have a 5th grader or know of someone else who has a 5th grader and want to learn more about what Bell has to offer? Please join us on Nov. 28 for Future Bobcat Night! Doors will open at 5:30. Staff and students will be available to talk to, as well as a variety of other activities happening. Please watch the Bell Website in the coming weeks for more information.

Thanks and please pass the word along.

Please click on this link for more information:

Future Bobcat Night

Golden High School Information Night

Golden High School is hosting their Information Night for parents and prospective incoming 9th grade students. Please join them on Wednesday, November 7th from 4-6pm. Hear a principal presentation, tour the campus, learn about their programs, meet club and sports representatives, and learn about what GHS has to offer.

Please click on this link for more information:

Golden High School Info Night
Ms. Zimmerman's Robotics classes are currently on top of the leaderboard in the preliminary round of the Cyber Robotics Coding Competition. Students will have the opportunity to enter the Qualifiers on November 5 and the top two scorers will move on to the National tournament held in December! (date & location TBD) Keep up the great work!
My Future’s So Bright Week

“My Future’s So Bright Week” at Bell was a success! Students school wide reflected on their academic, postsecondary and career futures. Every student set two goals (personal and academic) for this year, reflected on their future postsecondary and career plans, and created/updated their Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP).

Everyone had fun celebrating “My Future’s So Bright Week” by wearing college gear, dressing up as their future career and wearing yellow with sunglasses (because their futures are so bright!).

Bobcat classes competed (each grade winners earned a donut party) for best door decoration that reflected the spirit of “My Future’s So Bright Week”.

This entire week was a lot of fun and students’ reflections helped guide them in thinking about their futures. Ask your student about their personal and academic goals they set for the year!
So proud of Bell’s Visual Art Students!!

These are some of the bowls that our students are donating to Jeffco Eats Faces of Hunger Empty Bowl Project. Jeffco Eats is a non profit whose mission is to strategically function as a year round weekend food program provider in partnership with Food Bank of Rockies and the Jefferson County Department of Education Title One department. We still have to glaze our bowls before we donate them but we’re confident that they’re going to be gorgeous and well received.
Library News

The Beginning of a Maker Space

Through a grant with the City of Golden, Bell is in the planning phase in the creation of a unique resource for our students. The Bell Maker Space is a huge classroom that has been set aside for checkout by any teacher for use project-based learning. Our Maker Space will eventually house many different kits for building and creating, including (but not limited to) 3D printing, robotics, shop tools / fabrication, video production, audio production, digital art and photography and more…

As we begin purchasing and organizing, any family who wishes to donate new or clean bins, plastic filing crates, or tubs of any size (Rubbermaid, Closetmaid, etc....), your help would be greatly appreciated.

Please email Julie Schlosser at julie.schlosser@jeffco.k12.co.us if you are able to help with a donation.

Stay tuned for details and for additional ways that you can help us make this space an amazing tool for all Bell classrooms.

Scholastic Book Fair

Bell will host a Scholastic Book Fair the week of November 12-16th. That week, students will be allowed to preview and purchase novels and non-fiction books before school, during Bobcat Time, during lunch or during Conference Office Hours on November 14 from 3:00-6:00 pm.

Please contact the librarian, Julie Schlosser, at julie.schlosser@jeffco.k12.co.us, if you are available to help with the Book Fair in any capacity. Thank you in advance for your support!

Bring Your Own Device

Students may bring laptops or Chromebooks to school for classroom use. Please look on the Bell website under “Family Resources” or follow this link for Jeffco Tech Tips steps for BYOD (Bring Your Own Device).
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!

Bell Taekwondo Club

The Bell Taekwondo Club is off to a strong start with over 20 students and teachers involved in the martial arts program. Mr. Brauch has led exciting workouts that emphasize respect and self-control. 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 the entire school year.

Bell Taekwondo Club members are participating in an exciting Halloween “Lock-in” at the end of the month. The overnight fun will include Taekwondo games, pizza, movies and other exciting Halloween themed excitement. This is just one of a number of exciting events that club members may participate in.

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

We Need Your Pictures!

We would love to have your help with yearbook photos. Yearbook is always looking for photos from any and all of Bell’s awesome events. If you have pictures of after school sports, the talent show, bike club, or any of the great things going on at Bell, please send them our way! Just attach your photo to this google doc and submit. Thank you so much for all you do!