

WEST WORLD MONTHLY

April 2019

Home of the
Wolves & the
Warriors

“Two Schools, One
Family – Linked
together by our
heart for kids”

**Elementary
Office**
719-328-4900

**Middle School
Office**
719-328-3900

**Elementary
School Principal
Karen Newton**

**Middle School
Principal
Shalah Sims**

West Campus Vision

Building on the unique Westside tradition to foster creators of the future.

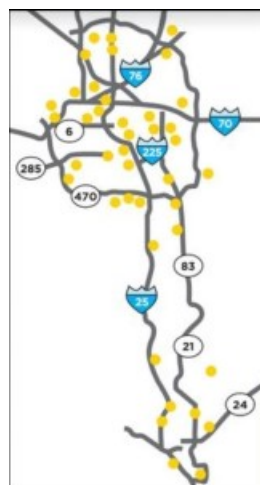
MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL ...

NEWS FLASH!

WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AS A 2019 COLORADO TRAILBLAZER SCHOOL TO WATCH!

The Colorado Trailblazer Schools to Watch initiative has been a part of the Colorado Association of Middle Level Education (CAMLE) for the last 10 years. CAMLE works with Colorado Trailblazer Schools to Watch to showcase their evidence-based strategies at statewide and regional conferences, workshops, and school site visits. All of the Colorado Schools to Watch open their doors to visitors who are interested in learning replicable practices that can be implemented in any school system.

Continued...



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL, CONTINUED ...

The Colorado Trailblazer Schools to Watch program is part of a national force in middle grades education. The National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform identifies high-performing middle grades schools that are academically excellent, responsive to the developmental challenges of young adolescents, and socially equitable holding high expectations for all students. Designated schools are then charged with the responsibility to work with other schools around their state to raise the level of student achievement for all middle level grade students.

West Middle School will be officially recognized as a 2019 Colorado Trailblazer School to Watch at the National Schools to Watch Conference in Washington DC in June.

In Celebration,

Shalah P. Sims

Shalah P. Sims, Principal
West Middle School



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back to your school!



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SCHOOL!**

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

April 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians, and Members of the West Community,

Welcome Back from Spring Break!! I sincerely hope you and your family enjoyed a marvelous Spring Break – I certainly did! In addition, here's hoping you and your student managed to rest, relax and rejuvenate!

I want to make you aware of a few events that are happening this month.


We will begin administering the CMAS assessment to 3rd through 5th grade students beginning the week of April 8th. The testing window will run through April 26th. Don't worry, it's not all testing and not all students test every day. Yet, it is very important that your children be at school to participate in this testing. Past experience has shown that students who take the assessments with their class perform at a higher level than those who take a make-up assessment at a different time. If you need to schedule a medical appointment for your child in the next month, please check with your child's teacher to find out what days to avoid when scheduling the appointment.

April 24th is a day set aside to recognize office professionals. We are fortunate to have three very competent, efficient, and pleasant individuals that run our school office. Debby Brunette is the Administrative Assistant and Tina Reeves is our Staff Assistant. Ms. Jennifer Vaillancourt is our Health Aide. They all do a magnificent job monitoring phones, assisting patrons and students at the counter, tracking attendance, helping with injured students, assisting with emergency drills, and a host of other responsibilities that come with running a very busy school office. If you have not had a chance to stop in and meet the office staff, I would invite you to do so this month. They are great people to know and can answer almost any question you might have about school!

April 26th is our Elementary School Carnival! We are looking forward to an awesome evening of fun and family! Please plan to attend. Further details will be provided by our PTA.

I have begun receiving questions about teacher placement for next school year. I understand that some parents need to advocate for their children as far as teacher placement is concerned. I also understand that West Elementary teachers spend an extremely large amount of time, thought, and energy to create class lists. A few of the areas they must consider are:

Continued...




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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL, CONTINUED ...

- Male/female ratios
- Heterogeneous range of reading, writing and math skills
- Students on Individualized Education Plans
- Students on Advanced Learning Plans
- Social dynamics of students
- Specialized Reading Needs

I would like you to feel comfortable in advocating for a specific type of teacher and/or learning environment in which you believe your child would learn best. For example, your child may need a more nurturing teacher, or maybe a super flexible one. Perhaps your child needs structure and a stronger personality to motivate them. Specifically requesting a teacher or requesting not to have a teacher cannot be guaranteed based on the factors listed above. While I know that most families and students can work with any of our amazing teachers, I would like to offer parents the opportunity to submit in writing the characteristics of a teacher that your child needs ONLY if you have a specific concern. I will need to receive your letter by Friday April 19th.

One more thought. Please do not engage with teachers and support staff regarding your requests. It puts the staff in an awkward place to hear about their fellow peers. The final decision will be mine if there are problems. A teacher or support staff cannot place your child. Thank you for your support and for helping me maintain a healthy culture and climate at West Elementary!

Thank you for partnering with us in your child's education,

Karen Newton

Principal, West Elementary

Katie Grodsky
Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultant



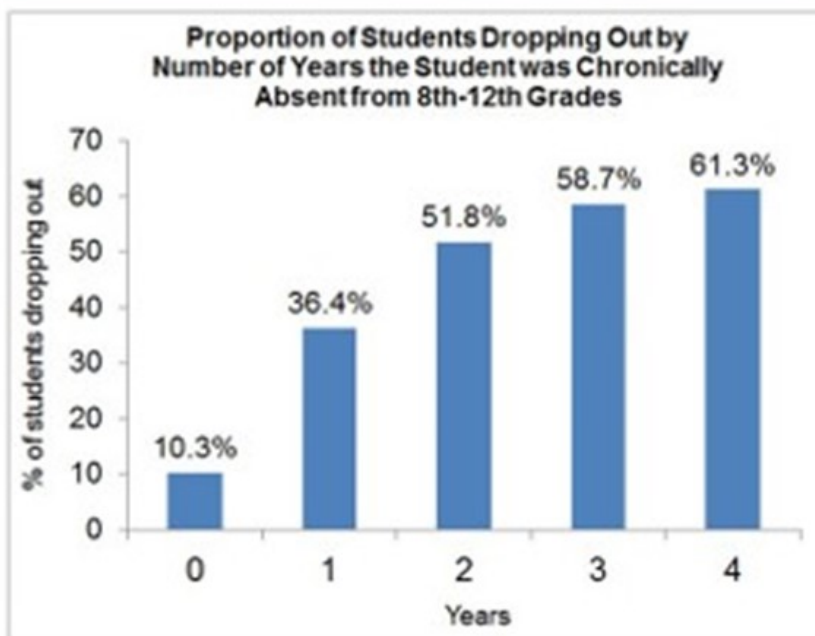
www.marykay.com/kbarglowski
kbarglowski@marykay.com



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

MIDDLE SCHOOL CMAS TESTING WILL BE ON APRIL 9, 10, 11, 16 AND 17. IT IS CRITICAL THAT STUDENTS ATTEND THESE DAYS, ARRIVE ON TIME, AND EAT A HEALTHY BREAKFAST. PLEASE HELP YOUR CHILD PRIORITIZE ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY ON THESE DAYS. ENCOURAGE THEM TO GET PLENTY OF SLEEP THE NIGHT BEFORE.

The Effects of Chronic Absence on Dropout Rates are Cumulative



With every year of chronic absenteeism, a higher percentage of students dropped out of school.



COUNSELING CORNER**Springtime is a great time to be your BEST at WEST!**

Be respectful, Everyone matters, Safety first, Take responsibility at WEST

A good way to finish strong in the fourth quarter of the school year is to follow the 6-P's.

Prompt

Be on time to class, in assigned seat and meet all assignment due dates.

Prepared

Be ready to learn both mentally and physically. Bring the tools of a good student every day. This includes appropriate materials and supplies to class daily. Have homework assignments ready to go over at the beginning of each lesson.

Polite

Be courteous. Use proper language and behavior for the classroom. Put cell phones and devices away where they cannot be seen or heard. Be respectful to everyone—including yourself! Attitude is everything! Put on your game face and be ready to work even if you don't feel like it.

P.M.A. (Positive Mental Attitude)

Believe that you can do anything, you are responsible for everything in your life and never be helpless or hopeless

Participate

Follow school rules. We are a team. All voices and opinions are valuable, share yours!

Good participants know when to talk and when to listen---only one speaker at a time.

ASK QUESTIONS! Seek first to understand then to be understood.

Productive

Take the initiative---this is YOUR education. Ask questions if you do not understand what is being taught. Teachers need to know you need help! Be responsible for work you missed.

Make sure you make up all missed assignments. Allow no distractions to learning. Take care of business!

COUNSELING CONTACTS

Steve Webb- Elementary Counselor

Steven.webb@d11.org

Julie Walker- Elementary Social Worker

Juliann.walker@d11.org

Sarah Clapham- 6th and 7th Grade Counselor

Sarah.clapham@d11.org

Sandra Seaney-8th Grade Counselor

Sandra.seaney@d11.org

Nick Liles- Social Worker

Nicholas.liles@d11.org

ATHLETICS**Boys' Track:**

Please join us for the following track meets at Gary Berry Stadium to support our West Warriors:

April 10 @4:45

April 17@ 4:45

April 25@ 4:45

April 27@ 4:45

May 2 @ 4:45

District Classic 5/6-5/7

**Girls' Volleyball:**

Come support our West Lady Warriors for home volleyball games:

April 11 @ 4:30

April 16 @ 4:30

April 25 @ 4:30

Boys' Volleyball:

Please join us in supporting our newest athletic program:

(sites to be determined)

4/6 @ 9:00

4/13 @ 9:00

4/27 @ 9:00

5/4 @ 9:00

**Soccer and Softball:**

Good luck to our players. Remember, athletes can participate in soccer or softball in addition to volleyball or track. See Coach Edens (kevin.edens@d11.org) or Mrs. Stewart (anna.stewart@d11.org) for any questions.





IMPORTANT DATES

- 4/9 Elementary/Middle School Band feeder concert 4:00-5:00
- 4/9 Elementary School Accountability Committee Meeting 3:15
- 4/9 PTA Meeting 5:00-5:45
- 4/9 Middle School Accountability Committee Meeting 5:45-6:30
- 4/24 Volunteer Appreciation Banquet 3-4:30
- 4/24 NJHS Induction 6:00-7:00
- 4/26 Elementary PTA Carnival 5:00-8:00
- 4/29 Kindergarten Registration
- 4/30 Family Learning Institute 5:30-8:00

REMINDER OF WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL EXCUSED VS. UNEXCUSED ABSENCE POLICY:

Absences are excused for any student who:	Absences will not be excused for the following types of reasons:
Is temporarily ill.	"My student's grandparents are coming to town, and we want to take a family trip to the top of Pike's Peak."
Has an absence approved by a school administrator.	"My student overslept because we had a late night."
Is enrolled in an independent or parochial school.	"My student had to watch his younger brothers or sisters."
Absent for an extended period due to a mental, physical, or emotional disability.	"My student needed to finish a project, so please excuse him from class while he studies in the Media Center."
Was removed from school for a disciplinary action.	"My kids need a day with me to spend time together."
Is in the custody of law enforcement.	"We are going on a vacation to _____."
Is being home-schooled in an approved home-school program.	"My student has a tournament for their club basketball team."
Any other reason set forth in school policies or provided by law.	

PTA

From Your West Campus Parent-Teacher Association

PTA News and Notes for April 2019

Dear West Campus Parent,

Where has the school year gone? We're heading toward the end, but we're packing in some fun activities between now and then. Here's the news...

1. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MARQUEE

Last month we let you know we had a total of \$500 raised to put toward a second hydration station for the building. But it turns out we can't install it where we'd hoped to, and thus it's going to cost way more than we expected.

So...we're tentatively going to put those funds toward a new marquee outside near the elementary front doors. This will help the school keep parents better informed about what's going on. We'll keep you posted as this project progresses!

2. ELEMENTARY CARNIVAL NEWS

- **EVENT DATE:** Friday, April 26 5:00-8:00 pm
- **NEXT PLANNING MEETING:** Tue. April 9, at 5:00 pm in the Media Center

So far, this is shaping up to be a great family outing on the evening of April 26th. If you're an elementary parent, please plan on coming to enjoy a fun night out with your kids! We have lots of activities for the children to enjoy, like a cake walk, an obstacle course, minute-to-win-it games, ring toss, ducks in a pond, and more...

We're asking the Middle School NJHS kids to come donate their time in exchange for the volunteer hours they need. So if you have an NJHS kiddo—please ask him or her about this and encourage participation. Thank you!

And if you're willing to donate your time, your culinary skills (cake walk), or prizes, we'd love your help, too! Message us at the [West Campus PTA Facebook Page](#) or email: westcampuspta@gmail.com.

The next PTA meeting is Tuesday, April 9 at 5:00 PM in the Media Center—we'll be focused on the carnival and we'd love to see you there. (Kids are welcome.)

Jacilyn Evans, Shauna Prince, & Jen Stevens
West Campus PTA Officers

Mark Your Calendar! West Elementary Carnival

Friday, April 26, 5-8 PM

Games, Food, Face Painting,
Obstacle Course, Cake Walk,
and More!

