

WEST WORLD MONTHLY

January 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 ...

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

Welcome back. I trust you all had a happy and peaceful break.

The Christmas break has been a busy one for our building team who worked to maintain our building and clean and prepare for the return of students. I'd want to publicly thank them for all they do to maintain our building in a clean, safe condition.



This semester we will continue to have a focus on kindness with our Random Acts of Kindness curriculum. Our goal is to ensure that all students feel as though they belong here at West Elementary. Please keep in touch with us should you need to. We are a listening school and we want to work together with you to ensure the environment of the school (physical, social, emotional, and behavioral) is always safe, welcoming, and conducive to learning.

Some important reminders:

- If your child is sick, you need to call the office and let us know your child will be absent.
- Students may not self-administer any medications at school. (This includes cough drops!).
- It is very important that your children arrive at school on time (8:30 A.M.) and they are ready to learn every day!
- Please dress your children in the mornings appropriately according to the weather (with gloves, hats, coats, and scarves). Please remember that students do go out for recess in temperatures above 16.

As the possibility of frequent inclement weather approaches, please be aware of school closings. Information on school closings can be found on the D11 website at <https://www.d11.org>, local news channels, or the radio. You can also receive information via text messages if you download the D11 app located on Google play and the App Store. The Mobile app will notify you of weather related emergencies and closings via text message on your cellular phone.

We wish all the West Community a successful and positive start to the new year. Thank you for partnering with us in your child's education.

Karen Newton

Principal, West Elementary



WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL – HOME OF THE WARRIORS

Colorado Springs School District 11

WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL BELIEVES IN THE POWER OF HIGH EXPECTATIONS. OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY IS RELENTLESS IN ENSURING THAT ALL CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES AND CHALLENGING ACADEMIC CONTENT.

FAMILY INFORMATION NIGHT

January 9, 2019

5:00-6:30 p.m. in the Gym



In August 2018, the Colorado Department of Education listed West Middle School as the top performing traditional secondary school in D11.

AVID

Advancement Via Individual Determination is a program specifically directed towards students who will be the first in their family to proceed to higher education classes. Not only is this a high school/college prep program, it also works to instill work habits to ensure student success in the long term. (Enrollment is through an application process.)

Gifted Magnet Program (GMP)

West is one of two District 11 middle schools to feature this program. Certified GMP teachers foster the unique academic and emotional needs of gifted students. Project based learning provides rigorous, engaging, interdisciplinary and thematic instruction specific to the needs of gifted students. This is a full immersion program tailored specifically for the gifted child. (Enrollment is through an application process. Please contact Beth Graber at elizabeth.graber@d11.org.)

Athletics, Clubs, Intramurals, Arts

West offers a wide variety of sports, including a 3-time champion wrestling team, girls/boys basketball, boys/girls track, and girls' volleyball. Football, softball and soccer are offered through Intramurals. Our afterschool clubs provide extracurricular studies for varied interests and students can earn a spot on our Principal's Advisory Council. Our curriculum includes applied engineering & technology, visual arts, band, orchestra, and physical education featuring activities such as archery and rock climbing, to all students.

Special Education

West Middle School hosts a strong Special Education department with a variety of programs and interventions allowing us to meet the wide spectrum of educational needs of our students.

Please contact Amidon Schar at amidon.schar@d11.org for further information.

Random Acts of Kindness

This school-wide initiative focuses on teaching children to understand the consequences of bullying and learn how to manage their emotions. Students learn to effectively use mental and emotional processes to respond with kindness.

In addition to our programs, West employs a full time **Community Liaison** who provides much needed support to our families. By obtaining information on programs and services available to students and families, our Community Liaison fosters an ongoing partnership between the home, school and community partners.

WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL OFFERS A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION FOR YOUR CHILD

For shadowing opportunities, please contact 719-328-3900 to schedule an appointment.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Chronic absenteeism is widely defined as missing 10 percent or more of school days in a school year for any reason, including excused and unexcused absences. This can translate into missing **15 or more** days per year or 3 days per month.

Students who are chronically absent in preschool, kindergarten, and first grade are much less likely to read at grade level by third grade—which would make them **4 times** more likely to drop out of high school than proficient readers.

It starts early. More than **10 percent** of kindergartners and first graders are chronically absent.

A student who is chronically absent any year between grades 8 and 12 is more than **7 times** more likely to drop out.

On average, a college graduate is likely to live about **9 years** longer than someone who has not completed high school.

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!



PreK - 12 Colorado Teachers!
 Apply for a Teachers and Technology Grant for the 2018 - 19 school year for your school
West Campus
 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.

COUNSELING CORNER

As we start in on second semester, a good idea is to help your student establish New Year's resolutions. The following are a short list of resolutions that you can help your child make and maintain.

⇒ **Get Yourself Organized**

Keeping a calendar or planner is a very useful skill for middle schoolers, it carries over into high school and adult life. It allows you to see what you need to do and set priorities about what needs to happen each day. Be sure to jot down any deadlines for each month as far in advance as you can so you can plan ahead and stay on top of things. Your computer or mobile device has the capability of providing a personal calendar to help schedule and meet deadlines in your personal and scholastic planning, however, a paper calendar works just as well.

⇒ **You can't do everything at once**

Multitasking seems like a good idea, but in reality, you are better off focusing on the task that are highest priority, one at a time, so you avoid becoming overwhelmed. In addition, staying focused on one idea allows you to do better work.

⇒ **Don't say I'll Do it Later**

Procrastination is common for middle school students but putting off work that needs to be done often adds to your stress and leads to you doing less than your best work.

⇒ **Get involved and try new things**

It's important to expose yourself to new ideas and activities as much as possible in the middle school years. Sports, music, activities and clubs provide a variety of opportunities to make new friends and learn new things.

⇒ **Think about your Future**

Remember middle school is an opportunity to create the habits that will help you be successful in high school and in life. Your future is all about the decisions you make, so think every day about what choices will help you be successful in school.

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' BASKETBALL

- Tryouts are January 7th-11th. Boys must have a completed D11 Participation form, a completed and signed blue card, and a signed physical from the last calendar year before they are able to step on the court to try out. Good luck!

Home Games – please support our athletes. Concessions will be available for purchase.

January 23rd Vs Mann

February 4th Vs Holmes

February 6th Vs Jenkins

February 11th Vs North



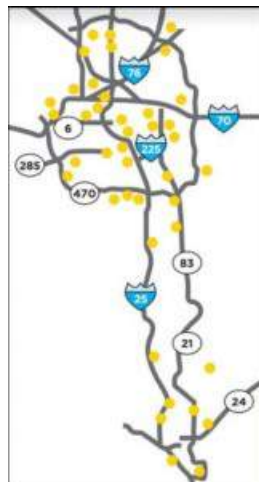
INTRAMURALS

- Morning intramurals are offered on a regular basis – no tryout required to participate. Please listen to announcements or check our school website for more information.

IMPORTANT DATES



- 1/7 Students Return
- 1/9 Middle School Community Open House 5:00-6:30
- 1/10 Elementary Bug Assembly 8:45
- 1/15 GMP Information Night 6:00-7:00
- 1/21 Martin Luther King Day- No School
- 1/29 Elementary Health Screening



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PTA News and Notes for January 2019

Dear West Campus Parent,

Happy New Year! A few quick notes...

- **POSTPONED**—Kids' Night Out, originally planned for mid-December, will be rescheduled for some time this spring. Seems folks weren't too interested during the holiday season, so we'll see if there's an appetite for this later in the school year—hope so! Watch your child's backpack for details.
- **THANK YOU**—to the many folks who helped out by donating funds to help our school families with food aid over the holidays.
- **COME TO A PTA MEETING**—We're a laidback crew and we'd love to have input about what you'd like the PTA to sponsor this year. We meet the second Tuesday of each month in the media center at 5:00 for 45 minutes. Bring your kids—we certainly don't mind—there are plenty of books to keep them entertained.

Next PTA Meeting
January 8 at 5:00
pm in the Media
Center

Inquiring minds: **PTA meeting minutes** are archived on the West Campus website under the "Parents" tab.

And, if you've yet to "like" and "follow" the **West Campus PTA on Facebook**, please do. That's a great way to stay tuned in to what's coming up.

Have a great January!

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

The West Campus PTA (Spring 2019 Membership Drive—Jan. Newsletter)

YES! I'd like to join and donate to the West Campus PTA today. It's just \$10 to join—any additional donation beyond that goes toward our PTA-sponsored projects. **Cash accepted or make checks out to West Campus PTA.**



Please circle one: \$10 \$ 20 \$ 50 \$ 100 \$ _____ (other)

Name _____

Child(ren) and Grade/Class _____

Email _____ Phone number _____

[] Yes! Please let me know if you need help with any projects, and I'll let you know if I'm available.