

# WEST WORLD MONTHLY

October 2018

## West Campus Vision

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

### **MESSAGE FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL....**

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

Parent/Teacher Conferences are coming! We will be going on Conference Schedule from October 24-26. There is no school for students on Thursday and Friday. Conferences will be scheduled for Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 3 pm to 7 pm, Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 7 pm.

Parent/Guardian/Teacher Conferences are extremely important for everyone. Please contact your child's teacher or the office to schedule your conference time. These conferences are very important because they allow the school and family to work together to develop the student's academic and social goals for the year. During these conferences, the teacher will show you examples of your child's work and discuss your child's progress with you. Your child's teacher will address where your child is in relation to attaining the Standards at his/her grade level. Hopefully, this will give you a clearer picture of your child's progress and some hints on how to help your child be more successful.

Conferences are one of the most important activities at school each year. Please make every effort to attend the conference and to take an active role in your student's education. Because our teachers need to maintain their conference schedule to be fair to everyone, please make every effort to arrive for your conference a few minutes early so that conferences may begin at their scheduled time. Thank you, in advance, for your promptness!

In addition to attending your student's conference we will have some opportunities for you to meet with additional staff members to learn how you can support your child at home in their learning. If you meet with 3 of our learning stations, you will be given a ticket for \$5 to spend at the Book Fair. The book fair will be in our Media Center and will be open from Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> through Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>.

*Continued...*

*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**



### **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.

**Click** [centurylink.com/teachersandtechnology](http://centurylink.com/teachersandtechnology)

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## ***MESSAGE FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL, CONTINUED....***

Families are also invited to join us for our Veteran's Day Assembly on Nov. 9, 2018 at 9 am. We are looking forward to honoring our Veterans. We will again be joined by American Legion Centennial Post 209.

Please look for a letter coming home from our Dean, Rebecca Gallegos explaining our new attendance incentive program in the next week. Regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success—both in school and in life. When students are absent for fewer days, their grades and reading skills often improve!

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

Karen Newton, Principal West Elementary

## ***MESSAGE FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL***

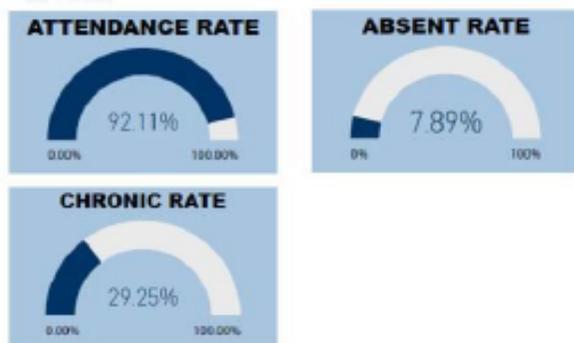
Dear West Families,

### **Attendance Matters!**

Did you know that about 1 in every 7 students misses 15 or more days of school per year? Chronic absenteeism is when a student misses 10% or more days per year (excused or unexcused). For District 11, that is 18 days per year. Statistics show that absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half of the students who miss 2-4 days of school in September go on to miss nearly a month of school. By 6<sup>th</sup> grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school. When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating.

Last year, West Middle School ended with a 46% chronic absenteeism rate. That means that almost half of our student body missed more than 10% of the school year. This far exceeds the state average of 18%.

Our current attendance rates since the beginning of this year are:



While we have shown some improvement over last year, we still have a lot of work to do. Please support your student in being at school on time each and every day, unless they are sick. If your student is vomiting or has a fever, please communicate with the school to excuse the absence. You have 24 hours to excuse an absence. Thank you for your cooperation and the value you are putting on education by getting our kiddos to school to learn what they need to be successful.

Your Partner in Education,

*Shalah P. Sims*

Shalah P. Sims, Principal  
West Middle School

## COUNSELING CORNER

Welcome to West Counseling Corner! At West Elementary we are currently implementing the curriculum of Random Acts of Kindness. This curriculum is a social emotional learning program that supports classroom teachers and counselors in creating a culture of kindness in the classrooms, schools and communities. The Random Acts of Kindness curriculum not only helps improve school culture but also educator morale and a students social-emotional skills and attitudes.

The free K-12 RAK lessons develop social and emotional competencies and increase empathy and kindness. The lessons meet the needs of diverse learners, and align with common core, 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, health and wellness standards, and social emotional core competencies.

In Middle School each student will be introduced to four units. Within each unit four lessons will be covered that support the theme of the unit. A total 16 RAK Lessons will be covered throughout the year in 8<sup>th</sup> period classes.

6<sup>th</sup> grade students just completed Unit 1 "Becoming an Upstander." In this unit Students learned about the consequences of violent and bullying behaviors and how to respond as an upstander.

In Unit 2 called "Being Kind to Ourselves," students will learn to be aware of their emotions how to be kind to themselves.

In Unit 3 titled 'Resolving Conflicts Peacefully,' students will learn to resolve conflicts in respectful and kind ways.

Unit 4 is called "Responding with Kindness." Students will learn to effectively use mental and emotional processes to help them succeed in kind ways.

7<sup>th</sup> grade students completed the unit 1 "Active Listening." In this unit students learned to consciously listen to check assumptions, change attitudes and show respect for others.

In Unit 2 called "Communicating Effectively," students will learn to express personal needs in

effective ways while showing empathy to build positive, healthy relationships.

In Unit 3 "Coping with Stress," students will learn how stress affects them and effective methods for coping with stress. Unit 4 is called "Understanding Each Other." Students will learn how to show compassion & understanding for others' challenges.

8<sup>th</sup> grade students completed the unit 1 "Choosing Kindness." in this unit, students learned how to recognize bullying and understand what they can do about.

In Unit 2 called, "I Am," students will learn about identity and how their perceptions of self are influenced.

In Unit 3 "Peer Pressure," students will learn how to identify negative peer pressure ways to safely avoid it.

Unit 4 is titled "Self-Esteem, Learn to Love Yourself." In this unit students will analyze internal factors that contribute to mental and emotional health.

### COUNSELING CONTACTS

**Steve Webb- Elementary Counselor**

[Steven.webb@d11.org](mailto:Steven.webb@d11.org)

**Julie Walker- Elementary Social Worker**

[Juliann.walker@d11.org](mailto:Juliann.walker@d11.org)

**Sarah Clapham- 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor**

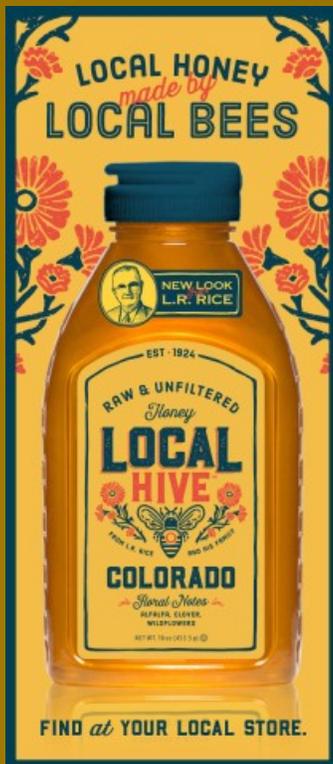
[Sarah.clapham@d11.org](mailto:Sarah.clapham@d11.org)

**Sandra Seaney-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor**

[Sandra.seaney@d11.org](mailto:Sandra.seaney@d11.org)

**Nick Liles- Social Worker**

[Nicholas.liles@d11.org](mailto:Nicholas.liles@d11.org)



### ATHLETICS:

Wrestling is in full swing. Good luck to our athletes as we work on bringing home our 4<sup>th</sup> district championship and set district records once again!



Girls' Basketball tryouts begin on Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. Athletes must have a current physical from the last calendar year, a complete participation form, and a blue card on file in the front office. If you need any of these forms, please stop by the front office or Ms. Sharp's office. Tryouts count as practices, so athletes must have a current physical to try out. There are no exceptions to this rule.

### TUTORING:

Students may drop in to tutoring any day Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday morning from 7:30am-8:30am or Monday through Thursday afternoon from 3:45pm-4:45pm. We are now offering **free snacks** to students that attend after school tutoring

### CONFERENCES:

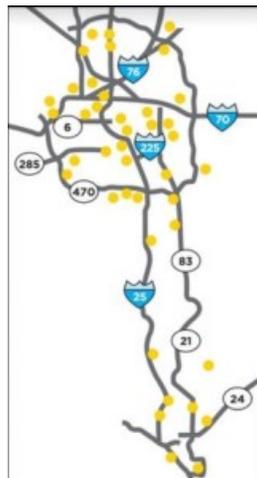
Parent/Guardian/Teacher Conferences will be held October 24-25. Please expect a phone call from your students teacher to schedule a time that works for you.



## IMPORTANT DATES



- 10/2                    PICTURE DAY RETAKES
- 10/2                    MS ORCHESTRA CONCERT 7:00-8:00
- 10/6                    CORONADO HOMECOMING PARADE 8:00AM ON  
COLORADO AVENUE
- 10/9                    ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE  
MEETING 3:15
- 10/9                    PTA MEETING 5:00-5:45
- 10/9                    MIDDLE SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING  
5:45- 6:30
- 10/15                  TEACHER WORK DAY- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
- 10/22-10/26        BOOK FAIR
- 10/24-10/25        MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES
- 10/26                  NO SCHOOL



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# From Your West Campus Parent-Teacher Association

## PTA News and Notes for October 2018

Dear West Campus Parent,

If you missed the first PTA meeting of the year, you can [read the minutes](#), which are archived on the West Campus website under the “Parents” tab.



We have some cool stuff in the works for this school year, like—

- A fun **Kids’ Night Out**, which we’re tentatively planning for December 14—watch your email for details. We’ll give you a chance to drop off your elementary-school kid(s) to be entertained at school while you go out on the town for the evening!
- We’re considering a **carnival** for elementary school kids. However, this is a volunteer-intensive activity, which means we’d need to have enough parents willing to help before we can commit to putting this on. If you’re interested in being involved, email [westcampuspta@gmail.com](mailto:westcampuspta@gmail.com) and we’ll put your name on the list. Or watch your email/child’s backpack for details about a carnival-planning committee meeting.
- **King Soopers cash cards**—charge your groceries on your card and 5% of what you spend automatically goes to West Campus PTA. This is a no-brainer fundraiser as it doesn’t require you to spend anything you wouldn’t be spending anyway. It’s like “free money” for the school. If you’d like to get a King Soopers card, email [westcampuspta@gmail.com](mailto:westcampuspta@gmail.com).



What we raise goes to **child-centered activities**, which means we fund things like teacher classroom grants, special activities, guest speakers, field trips, etc.

### JOIN TODAY—The West Campus PTA Is a Low-Key, High-Impact Group

If you’ve yet to send in your **\$10 PTA membership dues**—PLEASE DO! It’s a modest amount, but it can have such a big positive impact on your child’s school experience. We’d welcome your membership—and we promise: You won’t be sucked into volunteer hell. Honestly. Just drop a Hamilton into an envelope (or **write a check to West Campus PTA**) and send it into school with your child or drop it at the office with this form:

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### The West Campus PTA (Fall 2018 Membership Drive—Oct. 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.