

WEST WORLD MONTHLY

September 2018

West Campus Vision

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

MESSAGE FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL....

WELCOME TO THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR!



Our theme this year is “Together We Will Move Mountains” and we have great things planned!

At West Elementary we thrive on working with parents as partners in education. Parents are always welcome on our campus. We provide many opportunities for parents to be involved in their child’s education. We have an outstanding PTA and we invite you to join and help support or school. The first PTA meeting will be Sept. 11, 2018 in the Media Center at 5:00pm.

Every child at West Elementary will receive high quality, standards-based instruction from highly qualified and caring teachers. Every child will be taught to set goals and monitor their own learning. Our teachers will be focused on ensuring that each student masters the standards needed by the end of the year. We will also be implementing a new social-emotional learning curriculum called “Random Acts of Kindness” and each student will have the opportunity to complete a kindness project.

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**



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MESSAGE FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL, CONTINUED...

We will continue using technology programs to enhance learning such as Accelerated Reader, ST Math and Smarty Ants. We will also work to create a growth mindset where every child believes they can achieve and be college ready using AVID strategies. We will be continuing to hold academic assemblies quarterly.

Safety is very important to West Elementary. We have school wide rules that all students need to follow. We implement the District Safety Program. We practice safety drills quarterly and fire drills monthly. Our campus is closed and requires all visitors to check in through the office and wear a visitor badge. We have made great progress with our Kiss and Go lane as well as drop-off and pick-up procedures.

Our PBIS program recognizes positive behavior and all teachers are using the ClassDojo system to reward behavior. Our new counselor will be working with students in small groups to develop competencies in responsible decision making, self-management, relationship skills, social awareness and self-awareness.

We are looking forward to a successful school year for your student. Student success depends on a strong partnership between parents and the school. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me through the office at 328-4900.

Sincerely,
Karen Newton, Principal
West Elementary

HELLO FROM THE ELEMENTARY DEAN...

Welcome Parents! My name is Rebecca Gallegos and this year I am the Dean at West Elementary School. I am originally from the San Luis Valley but I have lived in Colorado Springs and on the Westside for 31 years. I started my career as a Spanish teacher at West Junior High (now known as West Middle and Elementary Schools). Later I completed my Master's degree in Counseling and have worked as a Middle School Counselor at various D11 schools. My passion is helping children learn how to make appropriate choices and understand that they are in control of themselves. I will be working closely with staff, parents and students on behavior and attendance.



I am available from 7:50am -3:40 pm daily and can be reached at 328-4906.

MESSAGE FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL....

Dear West Families,

Last year, due to the intentional and persistent work of our staff and students, West Middle School experienced unprecedented levels of achievement and growth on the Colorado Measures for Academic Success. We also experienced significant improvement in our office discipline referral rate, and our athletic teams and competitive clubs earned many accolades. We are so proud of what we have accomplished together! With a solid plan in place, we are confident that our upward trend will continue this year.



In order to maximize student success, we need your help in one particular area. Students cannot reach their full potential if they do not attend school on a regular basis. Colorado law requires that students miss no more than four school days in one month or a total of 10 days in an academic year for any reason. Our rate of students who missed more days than allowed by law was 46% last year. You can support your students' success and our school's success by ensuring that your student attends school and arrives on time every day except when sick. In order to support families with any factors that may impact a student's ability to get to school, administrators and counselors will perform home visits for students at risk of chronic truancy in order to partner with families in developing plans that maximize student attendance before absences become chronic.

If you are already aware of any challenges your family may face in this regard, please contact us now, so that we can support you and your student in getting to school. We look forward to working with all of you as we continue to achieve new heights at West Middle School during the 2018-2019 school year.

With Warmest Regards,

Shalah P. Sims, Principal

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!

Click centurylink.com/schoolnews/
 Services and offer may not be available in your area. Restrictions apply.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!



Did you know...

- Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.
- Over 7 million (1 in 7) U.S. students miss nearly a month of school each year.
- Absenteeism and its ill effects start early. One in 10 kindergarten and first grade students are chronically absent.
- Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of third grade or be held back.
- By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
- Research shows that missing 10 percent of the school, or about 18 days in most school districts, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absence.
- The academic impact of missing that much school is the same whether the absences are excused or unexcused. Suspensions also add to lost time in the classroom.
- Students who live in communities with high levels of poverty are four times more likely to be chronically absent than others often for reasons beyond their control, such as unstable housing, unreliable transportation and a lack of access to health care.
- When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating.
- Attendance improves when schools engage students and parents in positive ways and when schools provide mentors for chronically absent students.
- Most school districts and states don't look at all the right data to improve school attendance. They track how many students show up every day and how many are skipping school without an excuse, but not how many are missing so many days in excused and unexcused absence that they are headed off track academically.

attendancematters.org

COUNSELING CORNER

Hello and welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! West has a few new faces in the counseling department. I am **Sandra Seaney**, the **Counseling Coordinator**. I come to West with 14 years counseling experience from Harrison Middle School in Canon City and Russell Middle School here in Colorado Springs. I grew up in the Colorado Springs area along with my husband of 30 years. I have two adult children, both of whom are educators and we all spend as much time outdoors as possible! I believe education is key to opening up possibilities now and in the future for all students and am excited to work with your children. My primary responsibilities will be the **8th grade class** and supervision of the Counseling Department.



Sarah Clapham, **6 & 7th grade counselor** joins the West crew from Russell Middle School. She is a Colorado Springs native, and has been a school counselor for 10 years. She loves road trips, summer barbeques, and time with her family. She chose to come to West Middle School to support students with their academics and help to develop awareness about their college and career options.

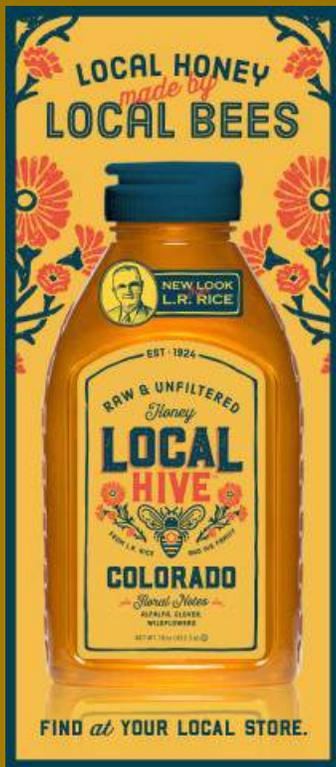
Returning to middle school is **Nick Liles**, **Social Worker**, who works primarily with students with special needs. He was born and raised a proper Southern gentleman in North Carolina and studied at Methodist University and Newman University. An avid people-person by nature, Nick loves to help, especially kids. Nick also loves frogs! In his spare time, he coaches football and spends time with his wife and two children.

At West Elementary, **Steven Webb** joins the counseling department. A Colorado native and a true Westsider, he attended Howbert Elementary, Holmes Middle and Coronado High. He has been a school counselor for 13 years, with 11 of those years in middle school. He enjoys the outdoors with activities such as hiking, camping and fishing. Mr. Webb is a big Chicago Bears fan and enjoys watching football. He likes the Broncos as well.

Juliann Walker is West Elementary's **Social Worker**. This will be her 10-year anniversary with us! She loves this campus because she can watch students develop from K – 8th grade! Juli is a Colorado Native and a Broncos fan, enjoys walking her dogs, crochet, reading, camping and spending time with her family and friends.

West Campus is dedicated to helping our students and staff **move mountains** by enabling students to maximize their achievement through cooperative and supportive relationships between students, parents and staff. We look forward to a wonderful year!

Continued...



COUNSELING CORNER, CONTINUED...

Tips for beginning the new school year



As the New Year gets underway here are some tips to help your student overcome the transition from summer to the classroom.

Stick to routines: establish timelines for getting up and getting ready for school, and arriving on time! Attendance is essential for success, in school and life. A regular homework routine after dinner, is a good way to ensure they stay caught up in their classes.

Expect the best: Encourage your children to do their best on every task they undertake in school and at home. Giving your best effort saves repeating assignments or having to come in to complete them. There is a great deal of satisfaction and personal worth derived from a job well done.

Watch your progress: Middle school is a good time for students to begin monitoring their own progress in classes and establishing a personal stake in their own education. Parents can help with this by using the portal to monitor progress and establish a routine of great awareness.

TUTORING



West MS offers free tutoring for any student needing support with homework. We also schedule students on a weekly basis for tutoring if they are receiving an F in one or more classes based on the report pulled every Wednesday. Tutoring is in the Media Center Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday morning from 7:30-8:30am as well as Monday through Thursday afternoon from 3:45 – 4:45pm. Feel free to contact any of your student’s teachers about tutoring if you have any questions or would like to schedule your student.

ATHLETICS



Ronald McDonald Bus will be on campus on September 10th if your child needs a physical.

Girl's Track is in full swing! Good luck on a strong finish to your great season!

Wrestling: The season begins September 17th. West has won the District Championship the last 3 years in a row, and we plan to be the first to win 4 in a row! If your student wants to be a part of this legacy, they must have a physical, a completed blue card, and the yellow form completed and turned in to the front office prior to being able to practice. For questions, email Mrs. Stewart at anna.stewart@d11.org

Girl's Basketball: The season begins October 16th. In order for students to try out, they must have a completed physical, a completed blue card, and a completed yellow form turned into the office. Email Mrs. Stewart at anna.stewart@d11.org for any questions.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 9/3 Labor Day- No School
- 9/4 Data Collaboration Day- No School for Students
- 9/11 Elementary Student Accountability Committee Meeting 4:30-5:00
- 9/11 PTA Meeting 5:00-5:45
- 9/11 Middle School Student Accountability Committee Meeting 5:45-6:30
- 9/24 Professional Development Day- No students



**PLEASE SUPPORT THE WEST CAMPUS PTA BY LIKING US
ON FACEBOOK!**

<https://www.facebook.com/West-Campus-PTA-484779395043982/>

From Your West Campus Parent-Teacher Association
JOIN Your West Campus PTA Today for Just \$10
Small Amount, Big Impact

Dear West Campus Parent,

Studies show that parent involvement is a better predictor of student success than test scores are. And one of the easiest—yet most impactful—ways you can get involved is to become a member of the West Campus PTA today.

Our goal is 100% family participation. **It's just \$10 for the year**, and by being a member you not only show your child that you care, but you have an immediate, positive effect on his or her experience. Small amount, big impact—your PTA membership gives you a lot of bang for your buck. It'll be the best \$10 you spend this year!



And please don't worry—by joining, you will not be sucked into a volunteer hell! We're a low-key, high-impact group. If you can help with a project, great. If not—no pressure. If you choose to volunteer, you decide your time commitment.

We hope you can make our **meetings every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 5:00** in the Media Center—it's a great way to meet fellow parents. But if you can't make the meetings, don't worry—we get it! We'll reach out if we need a few bodies to help with our elementary school kids' night out or the middle school color run, for instance—and if you have time to do it, super. If not, we totally understand!

What does the West Campus PTA do? We've funded a hydration station for water-bottle refills in the hallway, Cool Science Day for every child in the elementary school, prizes for kids who show positive behavior, supply and entry-fee funds for the Science Olympiad team, jerseys for the elementary school basketball team, goodies to celebrate Dr. Seuss Day, teacher classroom grants, class field trips, kids' night out, teacher-appreciation gifts, and more...

Here are three ways you can join for \$10 today—

1. Fill out the form below now and include \$10 cash or check.
2. Go to our West Campus PTA Facebook Page (friend us there), and hit the blue "Donate" button.
3. Use the QR code here to the right to join directly through PayPal.



The West Campus PTA (Fall 2018 Membership Drive—Sep. 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.