



Hello, Cougar families~

We hope you are having a lovely, rejuvenating summer break! As we prepare for the 2016-2017 school year, we want to keep you informed on upcoming events and activities that involve your students and your families. As you plan for the next month, please consider the following:

**CHECK-IN, SUPPLIES & TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS** ~ All parents will be required to complete the online check-in process prior to the **check-in day at Cottonwood Creek on Tuesday, August 9 from 12:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.** Our amazing PTO coordinates this effort, so please watch for communication from them.

Students must have completed forms to attend class on the first day of school. The online check-in forms are available at <https://my.cherrycreekschools.org/>. Please contact the Cottonwood Creek front office at 720.554.3200 if you have any questions regarding the online check-in process. Computers will be available during check-in day for parents needing assistance.

Teacher assignments (Grades 1-5) will be available during **check-in day at Cottonwood Creek on August 9 from 12:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.** Teacher assignments for the 2016-2017 school year will be provided to families after the check-in process is complete. Kindergarten teacher assignments will be posted after the Kindie screenings are done. Assignments for Kindergarteners will be posted outside the Kindergarten doors on the morning of August 15.

Families who have ordered school supplies through the Cottonwood Creek PTO will need to sign-off on their purchases at check-in on August 9 between 12:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. For your convenience, student supplies will be delivered directly to your student's classroom. A huge thank you to PTO for coordinating school supplies for our families, keeping the purchase of supplies simple, and raising funds that benefit our Cougar school community in the process!

During check-in, a number of other services and representatives will be available to Cougar families. These opportunities include: food service (see below), extra-curricular club information, immunizations and medical needs, orders for Cougar spirit wear, PTO volunteer opportunities, and *The Cottonwood Caller* directory. The Cottonwood Creek kitchen staff will be available during check-in to take checks for lunch accounts and to set up accounts for new students. The nurse will also be available to collect medication and medical forms. Addressing these essential aspects of your student's school experience at check-in will make the first day of school more enjoyable for your Cougar.

**COUGAR SOCIAL** ~ On **Wednesday, August 10**, we invite you to join us at Cottonwood Creek Elementary School for an afternoon of togetherness and fun! The Cottonwood Creek Staff and PTO will be hosting a **social from 2:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.** This is a fantastic opportunity for Cougar families to meet staff, see friends, and get back in the groove for school. Students will enjoy popsicles among grade-level friends by their new grade-level doors. We look forward to seeing you here!

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL** ~ As you prepare for the first day of school and the 2015-2016 school year, please consider the following:

- **The first day of school is August 11 for Grades 1-5.**
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- **Kindergarten students will have their first day on Monday, August 15**, due to Kindergarten screenings on August 11 and 12.
- The school day at Cottonwood Creek starts at 9:00 A.M. and ends at 3:30 P.M.
- Kindergarten hours are 9:00 A.M. – 11:50 A.M. or 12:40 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.
- The first bell of the school day rings at 8:55 A.M. At this time, teachers bring students into the school through their grade-level doors. Please have students who arrive after 8:55 A.M. enter through the front door of the school.
- The second bell of the school day rings at 9:00 A.M.; this is a signal that instruction begins.
- Children may arrive on school grounds between 8:45 A.M. – 8:55 A.M.
- Since our school day ends at 3:30 P.M., students are encouraged to leave by 3:45 P.M. Prior to 8:45 A.M. and after 3:45 P.M., there is no outside supervision. To ensure your student's safety, please support our efforts to have them on school grounds when supervision is available.

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT** ~ Cottonwood Creek will host Back-to-School Night (Grades 1-5) on Thursday, August 18 from 5:30 P.M. - 7:40 P.M. You have the option to attend one of two identical sessions. For your convenience, you may choose the **BLUE SESSION (5:30 – 6:30 P.M.)** or the **GREEN SESSION (6:40 -7:40 P.M.)**. If you are a parent of numerous students, please feel free to attend both. This night is designed for adults and is your opportunity as parents to hear about the upcoming year. See you there!

Kindergarten Back-to-School Night will take place on Tuesday, August 9 at 6:00 P.M. in the Cottonwood Creek gymnasium. Please join us for a discussion about the joy that comes with Kindergarten!

**SCHOOL PICTURES** ~ Individual school pictures for students of all grade levels will be taken on Tuesday, September 6 during the school day. Picture information and prices from Dorian Studios will be sent home at the beginning of the school year in your student's weekly folder. Student photos will be taken of all Cougars as we utilize them for the student I.D. cards, Power School, and the Cottonwood Creek yearbook.

**FITNESS FESTIVAL** ~ Please join members of our Cottonwood Creek Elementary School community on Saturday, September 10, 2016 for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Cherry Creek Schools Fitness Festival! Festivities of the event will kick off at 7:00 A.M. at the Stutler Bowl on the Cherry Creek High School Campus. You may choose from the 5K Run/Walk or the 1K Family Fun Run. The Fitness Festival will also offer activities including: silent auction, food tasting, entertainment, giveaways, and awards. Come join the wellness!



**ARRIVAL and DEPARTURE** ~ Arrival and departure at Cottonwood Creek are very active times. Please talk with your student and model safety during these busy periods. We have individuals at the three crosswalks between 8:45-9:00 A.M. and 3:30-3:45 P.M. to assist families who walk, ride scooters, and ride bikes with safe passage onto school campus. A bike/scooter corral is available to the west of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade door for student convenience.

If you choose to drive your student to school, please use the right pull-through lane to pull **all the way forward** before having your student exit the vehicle through the passenger doors. The left lane is used for parents who have dropped off their student(s) and are leaving the drop-off area. Families should use the crosswalks in the parking lot as well to ensure safety.

**ATTENDANCE** ~ Regular attendance for the entire school day is essential for success at elementary school. We appreciate your support in scheduling appointments outside school hours whenever possible. Excessive absences are detrimental to a child's education and will be addressed according to a school, district, and legal expectations.

**Please report your child's attendance before 9:00 A.M.** Timeliness with your call helps us ensure the safety and welfare of our Cougar students. If it is necessary for your child to be absent or late for school, you can report the information by calling either:

**Cottonwood Attendance Line (available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week): 720-554-3295**

**or**

**Cottonwood Main Office (available Monday-Friday from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.): 720-554-3200**

**MAKE-UP WORK** ~ In the event of an extended student absence (3+ days), a parent may request and pick up homework assignments. Requests may be made following the third day of absence and must be submitted prior to 10:00 A.M. on the day of pick-up. Assignments will be compiled by Cottonwood Creek staff and will be left in the main office by 3:30 P.M. for parent pick up.

**VISTING COTTONWOOD** ~ All visitors to Cottonwood Creek Elementary School or our Cougar playground must check in at the main office, provide a picture id, and wear a visitor sticker. To ensure student safety, all visitors to Cottonwood Creek are required to follow this process each visit. While the front office may know who you are, other people in the building may not. It is important that you sign in, provide complete information regarding what area of the building you are visiting, and sign out. This information is used in the event of an emergency to account for people. If you are interested in visiting your student's classroom, please contact the respective classroom teacher to make arrangements for your planned visit.

**CAFETERIA INFORMATION** ~ Students may buy a lunch at Cottonwood Creek Elementary School or bring a sack lunch from home. The menu can be viewed on our website at [ccsdcafe.org](http://ccsdcafe.org). The Cougar cafeteria also serves breakfast each day at 8:30 A.M. A full student lunch (including milk) costs \$3.00, and a student breakfast costs \$1.85. Snack items are also available for an additional charge. Adult family members are welcome to join their Cougar students for lunch. An adult lunch (without beverage) costs \$4.05. Lunch credits may be purchased from the Cougar cafeteria. Our kitchen manager will be available during student check-in on Tuesday, August 9 to accept checks and set up accounts for new students.

**DELAYED START** ~ Elementary school starting times on Storm (Delayed Start) Schedule days will be **1 hour** later than the normal time or **10:00 A.M. for Cottonwood Creek. On these Delayed Start days, children may arrive at Cottonwood Creek beginning at 9:45 A.M.** All before- and after-school



programs and activities (except Kids' Club) will be canceled on those days. Radio and television news stations are your best source of information on these days. You may also check the Cherry Creek School District website at <http://www.cherrycreekschools.org> or call the snow delay and closure line at **720-554-4701**.

Enjoy the last week of summer with family and friends. We will see you next Thursday to begin a fabulous school year with our Cottonwood Creek school family!

Take care,

*Julie Jaeger*

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