

BC DISPATCH

DECEMBER 2022

BEAR CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

9800 West Dartmouth Place
Lakewood, CO 80236

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is difficult to believe that it is December already. The fall semester always seems to go by quickly and this year was no exception. I want to thank our community for their willingness to try out some new ideas and interventions this year. I continue to believe that Bear Creek is so special because of our prioritization of relationships, the most important relationship is that between our teachers and students. One of my priorities this year has been to create a deeper sense of belonging through holding students to high expectations, fostering respect, and increasing accountability. Although we are not perfect, we have seen a number of successes— most notably in: a reduction of failing grades at the 12 week point, increased attendance, and decreased disciplinary events. Much of this can be attributed to new interventions such as BC Prep, a new system for identifying habitually late students, and prioritizing an overall culture of belonging. I appreciate all the hard work our teachers, students, and parents have done to support these changes.

Beyond the hard work in the classrooms, our students and staff have been dedicating countless hours in extracurricular activities. We have amazing Bears showcasing their talents in athletics, theater, marching band, and e-sports— just to name a few. We hope that you can come to one of the many wonderful events this winter season to enjoy all our community has to offer. I am always proud to be in the stands or audience as a Bear fan.

We are now only a couple weeks from the end of the semester. This is a key point in time for students and parents to once again check their progress in each of their courses through Parent Portal. We are quickly approaching final exams, and diligent work leading up to the end of the semester will lead to higher levels of success. The BCHS staff stands ready to support your student's progress through Connections, BC Prep, tutor rooms, individual teacher support, and counselors. Please encourage your students to take advantage of these many supports.

Although our seniors have heard this message repeatedly, it is particularly important to note that to participate in our graduation ceremony this coming spring they must have completed all 23 required credits and demonstrate proficiency in reading and math. There will be no exceptions to this school board policy. If you, or your student, are concerned that they might be at risk of not walking, it is important to contact your counselor as soon as possible regarding the credit recovery process.

Lastly, I hope this season is spent with family and friends and that everyone has a moment to recharge and enjoy everything that the holidays can bring. My heart is filled with gratitude as I reflect on this past semester and the opportunity to be a part of this community. Have a happy and safe holiday season.

Sincerely,

Alison Shanor
Interim Principal
Bear Creek High School

inclement weather options



2-HOUR DELAY



**DISTRICT-WIDE
REMOTE DAY**



SNOW DAY

DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

We live in an area where snow is typical in the winter and unless the storm is *extreme*, school **will not** be canceled or delayed.

Many factors are taken into consideration when deciding to close schools or implement a delayed start, but the safety of students and staff is number one. Many parties work through the night and early morning to determine the best course of action and to clear the roads and our school sites.

Questions that help determine our decision on these days:

- Can our school bus and snow removal teams do their jobs?
- Will we be able to provide meals?
- What is the forecast for later in the day?

More than anything, we consider the impact on families who are counting on us to be open because they do not have access to other childcare and cannot afford to take a day off at a moment's notice. We also provide meals for hundreds of families who count on the food we provide for breakfast and lunch every day.

Ultimately we ask, does the current situation justify disrupting 84,000 students' families and their often basic human needs and 14,000 employee schedules, plus the expense to the school district? Most often, the answer is no. Because of all these reasons, **we will always do whatever we can to have schools open every day.**

HOW TO FIND OUT - SCHOOLMESSENGER (DISTRICT MESSAGING SYSTEM)

SchoolMessenger distributes messages via email, text message, and phone. Be sure to keep your information in [JeffcoConnect](#) up-to-date at all times to ensure you receive these notifications. We encourage families to allow for email, text message, and phone, which can be selected in Notification Preferences in JeffcoConnect.

HOW TO FIND OUT - DISTRICT AND SCHOOL SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

Follow the district's [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#) pages in order to receive the fastest information. Turn on notifications for our channels once you have "followed" them.

LENGTH OF A WEATHER-RELATED SCHOOL CLOSURE

Unless otherwise announced, weather-related closures are for **one day only**. If there is NO further announcement after one day, then schools will operate as usual.

MAKE-UP DAYS

District policy mandates a specific number of days each year teachers must work directly with students. When a school falls below this level, make-up days, which will be announced, may need to be scheduled.

DISTRICT-WIDE REMOTE DAY

Jeffco Public Schools is announcing an option of a 100% remote learning day for all students should conditions require closure of district facilities due to weather, poor travel conditions, or other urgent issues. When the situation arises, the district will announce one of the following days:

- **NEW!** District-wide Remote Day
- 2-Hour Delay
- Snow Day (no remote learning)

About District-wide Remote Days:

- Schools will prepare students and staff by asking them to bring home Chromebooks and materials the day before a storm is expected.
- Families and staff will be notified the night before or at approximately 5:30 a.m. the day of the storm.
- Remote-only learners will continue their learning as usual.

To prepare for a potential district-wide remote day:

- District school leaders/principals will be notified the day before the anticipated storm arrives in order to plan for a "district-wide remote day."
- The final decision for a "district-wide remote day" will not be made until late that night or in the early morning the day of the expected storm, which follows our current weather-related decision-making process.
- Staff and families will be notified as soon as possible about the final decision. Messages will be sent to the community and the media will be notified the night before or approximately 5:30 a.m. - 6:00 a.m. the day of the storm (same as our current notification process).
- On a "district-wide remote day", students who have been attending in-person classes will have a remote learning day.
- Teachers will work with students who are attending school in person to take home devices (Chromebooks, iPads, laptops) and materials to learn from home. Teachers will plan their lessons for a remote day and work to accommodate the needs of their students.
- All remote-only learners will continue their learning as usual.
- Students who do not have access to a device and/or internet access from home can have their attendance excused according to the normal absence notification protocol for their school.

HIGH SCHOOL - WHAT TO EXPECT WITH A 2-HOUR DELAY

- Class schedule will be communicated by each school
- Two-hour delay will only be used during extreme circumstances of inclement weather
- Families will be notified by 5:30 a.m.
- School starts 2 hours later than the regular start time
- School ends at the normal time
- Buses run 2 hours later than normal in the morning
- Tardies/absences will be excused if school is notified by family
- Limited staff will be available at school for working families who cannot make alternate arrangements
- Missed school work should be provided and accepted under the same policy as applies to regular absences
- No morning classes at Warren Tech
- No morning athletic practices
- No regular breakfast served

BEAR CREEK HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR 2022-2023

12/03/22	BCHS IMP Craft Fair	01/03/23	Teachers return
12/08/22	8 th Grade Parent Night-Activities-Athletic Showcase/6:00 p.m.	01/05/23	Classes Resume
12/19/22	Semester Exams/Periods 1, 3, 5, 7	01/16/23	Martin Luther King Holiday/No School
12/20/22	Semester Exams/Periods 2, 4, 6/ Modified Schedule - See Website	01/31/23	Winter Sports Assembly
12/21/22	Winter Break	02/17/23	Teacher Professional Develop/No School
		02/20/23	President's Day/No School
		02/24/23	End of Fourth Six Weeks

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Being at school every day and on time is just one of the good habits we're trying to cultivate in students to prepare them for a successful world beyond Bear Creek High School. The importance of regular attendance can't be overemphasized, yet we know that from time to time students will be absent from classes. When this happens, we ask that a parent call our 24-hour attendance line at (303) 982-8813 to report an absence to give the following information:

- Your student's first and last name and grade level.
- Day and periods of absence. For example, periods one through three or the time, from 9-10 a.m.
- Your name, first and last, and a daytime telephone number where you can be reached.
- Reason for absence which might be any district approved reason such as doctor/dentist appointment, illness, legal responsibility, family emergency, religious holiday or a prearranged, school-approved absence (form available in the front office).
- All absences need to be called in within 24 hours of the absence(s). After 24 hours, the absence(s) can only be excused with administrative approval. After 15 days of the absence(s), the parent, student and administrator will have to meet in order to discuss and excuse the absence.

NOS IMPORTA LA ATENDENCIA

Asistencia regular y a tiempo es solo una de las costumbres buenas queremos cultivar en alumnos para prepararles para una vida exitosa fuera del ambiente de la Escuela Preparatoria Bear Creek. No se puede enfatizar bastante la importancia de asistencia regular, sin embargo sabemos que de vez en cuando alumno van a estar ausentes. Cuando ocurre, pedimos que los padres llamen a nuestra línea de asistencia de 24 horas a (303) 982-8813 para reportar una ausencia dejando la siguiente información:

- Nombre y apellido y nivel de su alumno.
- Día y período de ausencia. Por ejemplo, períodos uno a tres, o de las 9-10 a.m.
- Nombre y apellido del padre, y un número de teléfono del día con que podemos alcanzarle.
- Razon de ausencia la cual puede ser cualquier razon aprobada por el distrito como cita con un médico/dentista, enfermedad, responsabilidad legal, emergencia familiar, festival religiosa, o una ausencia pre-arreglada por un administrador (forma disponible en la oficina principal).
- Todas las ausencias deberán ser justificadas dentro de un periodo de 24 horas. Después de 24 horas, la o las ausencias, solo podrán ser justificadas con la aprobación de un administrador. Después de 15 días de la o las ausencias, el padre o madre, el estudiante, y el administrador tendrán que reunirse para hablar y justificar dichas ausencias.



every day counts

ATTEND TODAY -
ACHIEVE TOMORROW!

NEWS AND EVENTS

2022-2023 HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

The 28th Annual Bear Creek High School Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair presented by the Bear Creek High School Instrumental Music Boosters is Saturday, December 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars now so you don't miss out on a wonderful holiday shopping experience from over 130 vendors with unique handcrafted items.

Plan to spend the day shopping and enjoying food from one of our food trucks.

Parking is free. The event is open to the public and the \$3.00 entry fee includes a chance to win a door prize. Children under 5 are free.

www.BCHSIMP.org/craft-fair.html

SEMESTER FINAL EXAMS (ON MONDAY 12/19/22)

****Wednesday Block Day Bell Schedule
Periods 1, 3, 5, 7**

Period 1	7:15-8:45
Period 3	8:52-10:25
BCTN	10:25-10:32 (in period 3)
Period 5	Lunch A 10:39-11:17 Class A 11:22-12:52 Class B 10:39-12:09 Lunch B 12:14-12:52
Period 7	1:00-2:30

SEMESTER FINAL EXAMS (ON TUESDAY 12/20/22)

****Thursday Revised Block Day
Bell Schedule
Periods 2, 4, 6**

Period 2	7:15-8:45
Period 4	8:52-10:22
Period 6	10:29-11:59

EARLY RELEASE

**Buses will run at their
normal pick up time.**

Grab and Go Lunch

PARENT REMINDER

It can be very disruptive to both teachers and students when the class needs to be interrupted to get a message to a student. We realize that family emergencies and unexpected appointments occur. However, it would be greatly appreciated if you could communicate with your student the night before or in the morning about any appointments or schedule changes that may have occurred. Thank you.

In addition, students and parents both need to be aware that effectively immediately, items that are not SCHOOL RELATED, such as balloons, flowers, and foods such as cakes and cupcakes WILL NOT be delivered to classrooms. If these items are delivered to the school, they will be left in the Main Office and students or parents can pick them up after school.



THE COUNSELOR CORNER

The mission of the BCHS school counseling program is to educate, empower, and encourage everyone every day.



Kristen Kofoed	A-E	303-982-8721
Gretchen Slaughter	F-L	303-982-0109
Joy Pearson	M-Ri	303-982-5283
Melanie Ryer	Rj-Z	303-982-8777
Allison Erwin (Intervention Counselor)		303-982-4529

Emails were sent home before Thanksgiving break providing notice of failing grades. Remember that parents can access student's attendance and grade information via Infinite Campus Portal:

https://campus.jeffco.k12.co.us/campus/portal/Jeffco_IC.jsp If you need help signing on to the portal, please contact Tami Danks, registrar, at 303-982-8728 or tami.danks@jeffco.k12.co.us.

SENIORS AND THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

- Ideally, by December 1st, submit your application(s) and supplemental information. In order to submit transcripts, letters of recommendation (if needed), etc, you need to complete a transcript request form that can be found in the senior counseling google classroom under "classwork" and then under the "college" tab on the left. You must complete the online google form and add each college to "colleges I am applying to" list in Naviance. If applying via common app you must also match your common app and Naviance accounts. You must complete a separate transcript request on the google doc for **EACH** college or program you are applying for. If you are having teachers or counselors write letters of recommendation please make sure you are giving them enough time to complete the letter (at least two weeks). See your counselor with questions on how to complete that form.
- To log into Naviance, log in through Clever and use the username and password like you would use to sign on to any Jeffco system. Use Naviance to sign up for visits with college reps.
- Between Thanksgiving and Winter Break, focus on studying and doing well on your finals.
- The FAFSA opened on October 1. Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible at <https://studentaid.gov/> The student and guardian need to apply for a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) and use 2020 taxes to complete the FAFSA. See your counselor if you have questions. Students who are not eligible to complete the FAFSA due to immigration status may want to consider completing the CASFA: Colorado Application for State Financial Aid - <https://cdhe.colorado.gov/colorado-application-for-state-financial-aid>

Start applying or continue applying for scholarships.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mUqq6p1roBYXNPhIsNONlaASPIYYJbDFqe6okQkSLiE/pubhtml>

Also check the colleges' financial aid pages for available scholarships. Some of those deadlines could be approaching soon.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death in teens and young adults ages 15 to 24. If a teen says something like "I'd just be better off dead" or "I won't be around much anymore," it is critical to take the comment seriously. Seek professional help immediately. Safe 2 Tell and Colorado Crisis Services are two recommended resources. See our BCHS homepage for more information/resources: http://bearcreekhs.jeffcopublicschools.org/counseling/crisis_support



OUTDOOR LAB OPPORTUNITY

Are your 10th-12th grade students interested in being an Outdoor Lab leader? Contact Ms. Ryer at Melanie.ryer@jeffco.k12.co.us for additional information.

NAVIANCE/ICAP

Bear Creek Students prepare for their futures through the Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP). ICAP is a multi-year process that intentionally guides students and families in the exploration of career, academic and post-secondary opportunities. With the support of adults, students develop the awareness, knowledge, attitudes, and skills to create their own meaningful and powerful pathways to be career and college ready.

-Tasks are framed around the questions: Who am I? What are my options?, and What do I need to do now?

-There is a different focus at each grade level: **Freshman**: Who am I? Personality traits/career matching; **Sophomores**: Career exploration and research; **Juniors**: Post-secondary training options based on career interest; **Seniors**: Making the post-secondary goal a reality (applications and financial aid).