Dear Parents and Guardians,

What an unusual and stressful 1st semester we have all experienced! As we begin December, this school year offers new challenges on top of the regular pressure students and families face. The holiday season is exciting for many, but incredibly stressful for some students and families. The pressure that students face at this time of year can be significant. Please know that we have many adults available to support students through this difficult time of year. If you recognize that your student is in need of some additional assistance, please reach out to your student’s counselor.

As you are already aware, we will finish 1st semester in remote-only learning. Most of your questions can be answered by reviewing the BCHS 100% Remote Learning Plan. Our detailed plan can be found here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MKkdhphV-ruVLDsObbug5VE4H6l23wgI6e8kKu95rFw/edit?usp=sharing

The Family-School Partnership Survey is now available. Please consider completing this survey to give us valuable feedback. We have worked hard over the last year to improve communications and gather feedback. The more responses we receive, the more valuable the data becomes. We review this each year and make communication plans, based partially on this feedback. If we are doing great, please let us know. If we have some growth areas, please let us know that too. The link to complete the survey can be found here: https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/5968764/FSP-2020-21.

We are now only three 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 the end of the semester and continuing to monitor your student’s work will lead to higher levels of success. The BCHS staff stands ready to support your student’s progress through Connections, Access, individual teacher support (office hours), 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. There will be no exceptions to this school board policy. If you, or your student, are concerned that they may be at risk of not walking it is important to contact your counselor as soon as possible regarding the credit recovery process.

As the state of Colorado and Jeffco Public Schools work to develop conditions for students to return to in-person learning, we will share this information with you. You should expect to receive communication throughout the month of December related to learning plans for the start of 2nd semester. I would like to personally wish you and your family and a restful and safe holiday season!

Sincerely,

Lynn Torr
Principal
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/02/20</td>
<td>Bear Creek Showcase and Virtual 8th Grade Parent Night</td>
<td>01/04/21</td>
<td>Teachers return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/09/20</td>
<td>Live Zoom Q and A for families regarding Showcase and Enrollment Process</td>
<td>01/06/21</td>
<td>Students return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/21/20</td>
<td>All students at home synchronously for Periods 1 through 6</td>
<td>01/18/21</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Holiday/No school</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/22/20</td>
<td>No classes; individual meetings with teachers if needed</td>
<td>02/15/21</td>
<td>President’s Day/ No School</td>
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<td></td>
<td>03/29/21-</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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**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.
NEWS AND EVENTS

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.

ENROLL JEFFCO INFORMATION COMING SOON
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 (Perea) Ryer  Rj-Z  303-982-8777  
Sam Feeney (Intervention Counselor)  303-982-8647

Letters 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. Then you can pay the $3.00 fee on your Jeffco Connect account or contact Ms. Shellhorn (financial secretary) at 303-982-8860. 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.

- If you have questions about the SAT this year for seniors, please contact Gretchen Slaughter at gretchen.slaughter@jeffco.k12.co.us.

- The FAFSA opened on October 1. Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible at http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/. The student and guardian need to apply for a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) and use 2019 taxes to complete the FAFSA. See your counselor if you have questions.

- **Start applying or continue applying for scholarships.**
  https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mUqg6p1roBYXNPhlsNONLaASPIYYJbDFqe6okQkSLiE/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. (Perea) Ryer at Melanie.perea@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)

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**Jeffco Drug Intervention Services**

**NEWSLETTER - December 2020**

**Bear Creek High School**

**Resources for Parents**

The University of Colorado and Children's Hospital: is currently offering a couple of wonderful opportunities for parents to participate in virtual workshops:

**Substance Use and the Adolescent Brain, noon Wednesday Dec.16th**

Dr. Thurstone, Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado, will provide facts about how substance use can affect the developing brain. Dr. Thurstone is one of about four dozen physicians in the United States who are board-certified in general, child and adolescent addictions psychiatry. **Register here**

**Did you know...** Jefferson County Public Health offers a Parenting Workshop called Navigating Substance Experimentation in Teens (NSET). This free, interactive, online workshop provides strategies, information and resources for parents or guardians whose teen has begun experimenting with, or using vape, tobacco, alcohol, marijuana and/or other drugs. The workshop is led by Jeffco School nurses who specialize in teen substance use prevention.

The class is free, but requires registration: **Register here**.

**NEW! Explorando la Experimentación de Sustancias en Adolescentes (NSET)**

**Register here.**

**Did you know...** that your Drug Intervention Services (DIS) High School Nurse can refer your child to community programs for the prevention or intervention of substance use? These services fall under the Health Services umbrella.

The DIS Nurse can discuss referrals to programming with Denver Family Therapy Center, including:

- **Y-DAP Youth Drug and Alcohol Prevention** program. Y-DAP is an evidence based program provided virtually for youth and their families to educate them on the effects of Marijuana and Alcohol, on the body and brain. This program is geared to provoke critical thinking around substance use limits, and increase family communication.

- **ASAP Adolescent Substance Abuse Program**, an intensive outpatient program licensed through the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) to provide support to adolescents and their families struggling with substance abuse and dependency. Services include Substance use Evaluation, Individual and Family Therapy, Multi Family Groups, Peer Groups and Urine Analysis.

The (DIS)High School Nurse can also refer your son or daughter to a 6-week group called:

- **Substance Use Disorders (SUD)** This **FREE** virtual program is provided through The Jefferson Center of Mental Health. Students work with a licensed certified addiction counselor (CAC III), in a small group setting. The focus is on identifying and changing patterns in the individual, developing refusal skills and goal setting.

- **For December enrollment**, please contact JCMH Clinician Cris Gill directly at: ChristineGi@jcmh.org or 720-462-9224

I am happy to assist you in navigating the Health Services available for all Jeffco Students. Bear Creek High School Nurse: Kristen Stoll RN, BSN, CEN  303-982-4370, kristen.stoll@jeffco.k12.co.us
Dear Parent or Guardian,

Jefferson Center and Jeffco Public Schools have partnered for over 25 years to provide support to children and families in the district. The School-based Therapist Program is an innovative collaboration with the primary goal of increasing access to mental health services for students and their families.

Yvonne Rodman, LPC and Laura Shapiro, LCSW are the School Based therapists at your child’s school. Yvonne Rodman and Laura Shapiro will work in partnership with the Bear Creek High School staff to support the mental health needs of students. Students may work with Yvonne Rodman or Laura Shapiro in therapy for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to, anxiety, depression, anger, behavior issues at school or home, trauma, grief/loss, or issues adjusting to a big change. Yvonne Rodman and Laura Shapiro may also teach lessons to students on topics including how their brain works, stopping and thinking, emotional regulation, and effective communication.

In order to teach these lessons for free, we collect the names and birthdates of students in the classes that we teach to check for Medicaid eligibility, which is our funding source. If you would like to talk more about individual, family, and group therapy options for your student, please contact Yvonne Rodman at 720-602-0529 or Laura Shapiro at 720-660-4520.

Jefferson Center is so excited about continuing our presence in the Bear Creek High School community! We have heard and witnessed BCHS’s dedication to giving families and students all of the resources they need to succeed in school, and in life, and we feel lucky to be a part of that vision.

Sincerely,

Your School Based Team

Estimados Padre o Guardián,

El Centro Jefferson y las Escuelas Públicas de Jeffco se ha asociado durante más de 25 años para brindar apoyo a los niños y familias en el distrito. El programa de terapeuta escolar es una innovativa colaboración con objetivo de aumentar el acceso de servicios de salud mental para los estudiantes y sus familias.

Yvonne Rodman, LPC y Laura Shapiro, LCSW, son las terapeutas en sitio de la escuela a la que asiste sus hijos. Yvonne Rodman y Laura Shapiro trabajaron en colaboración con el personal designado de Bear Creek High School para apoyar en las necesidades de salud mental de los estudiantes. Los estudiantes pueden trabajar con Yvonne Rodman o Laura Shapiro en terapia por una variedad de razones que incluyen, pero no se limitan a: ansiedad, depresión y problemas de comportamiento en la escuela o en el hogar, trauma, dolor /pérdida, o problemas para adaptarse a un gran cambio. Yvonne Rodman y Laura Shapiro también pueden enseñar lecciones a los estudiantes sobre temas que incluyen cómo funciona su cerebro, detenerse y pensar, las regulaciones emocionales y la comunicación efectiva.

Para poder brindar este servicio de forma gratuita a los alumnos recopilamos los nombres y fechas de nacimiento de los alumnos de las clases que impartimos para poder así consultar la elegibilidad para Medicaid, que es nuestra principal fuente de financiación.

Jefferson Center está muy emocionado con continuar nuestra presencia en la comunidad de Bear Creek High School. Hemos escuchado y hemos sido testigos de la dedicación de BCHS para brindar a las familias y estudiantes todos los recursos que necesitan en la escuela y para su vida, nos sentimos afortunados de ser parte de esa visión.

Sinceramente,

El equipo base de su escuela
JOIN US FOR A CHANCE TO LEARN, SHARE, AND CONNECT!

- Thursday, August 13th, 2020
- Thursday, October 22nd, 2020
- Thursday, December 3rd, 2020
- Thursday, February 25th, 2021
- Thursday, May 13th, 2021

All event details can be found on the website listed below. Families can RSVP there, as well as request additional accommodations (e.g., sign interpretation, closed captioning, etc.). Spanish interpretation will be provided.

jeffcopublicschools.org/programs/special_education

PRESENTED BY:
Jeffco Public Schools Special Education Department

FACILITATORS:
Matt Palaoro - Executive Director
Dawn Loge - Director
Liza Meier - Director
EDUCACIÓN ESPECIAL VIRTUALES

ACOMPÁÑENOS PARA TENER LA OPORTUNIDAD DE APRENDER, CONVER SAR Y CONECTARSE

- Jueves, 13 de agosto de 2020
- Jueves, 22 de octubre de 2020
- Jueves, 3 de diciembre de 2020
- Jueves, 25 de febrero de 2021
- Jueves, 13 de mayo de 2021

Todos los detalles del evento se pueden ver en el sitio web que aparece a continuación. Las familias pueden confirmar su asistencia allí, así como solicitar acomodaciones adicionales (por ejemplo, interpretación de lenguaje de señas, subtitulado oculto, etc.). Se proporcionará interpretación en español.

jeffcopublicschools.org/programs/special_education

PRESENTADO POR:
Departamento de Educación Especial de las Escuelas Públicas de Jeffco

FACILITADORES:
Matt Palaoro - Director Ejecutivo
Dawn Loge - Directora
Liza Meier - Directora