



Principal's Page

MS. LEIGH HIESTER

- 10/2 . . First day of student count
- 10/4 . . Fun Run
- 10/13 . . PTA Meeting @ Cafecitos
- 10/13 . . MS Report Cards Go Home
- 10/19 . . No School (Teacher Work Day)
- 10/18 . . Field Day
- 10/20 . . No School (Fall Break)
- 10/23 . . Clothing Swap
- 10/27 . . Project Prepare's Pumpkin Decorating Contest
- 10/30 . . Vision/Hearing Screening
- 10/31 . . Costume Parade @ 2:30PM

Dear Foster Families,

I hope this message finds you well as we welcome the beautiful month of October in Colorado. Having not grown up in an area that experiences fall, it is extra exciting to see the leaves change and the cooler weather hit. We are off to an exciting school year already, with several community events under our belt and with many more to come. [Thank you to our incredible PTA for hosting the always fun Carnival! Moving this event to the fall was a big success and we will continue this tradition next school year.](#) All are welcome to join our [PTA](#) and we hope you will join us for our next [meeting on Friday, October 13th at 9:00 AM in the Cafeteria.](#)

Our state School Performance Framework (SPF) has been released and I am proud to share that we are a Performing school. (The highest rating on the SPF) This is largely due to the incredible growth that we were able to show in CMAS testing. We are showing above average growth in both Language Arts and Math which shows we are catching students up after pandemic learning loss. Our students, teachers, paras, and tutors have worked very hard to achieve this and we know parents have supported this growth as well through volunteering in classrooms and supporting teachers in other tasks so they are able to focus on differentiation for students. Our school is targeting Math this year as we adopt a new Math resource called Illustrative Math that will now be what we use for K-8.

Our annual fundraiser the [Foster Fun Run](#) will take place on [October 4th](#) and we need your help in supporting your child in gaining donations and also need help on the day of the event to help it run smoothly. We have the ability to raise enough money through this event to prevent us from having to have other fundraisers throughout the school year. Our goal is \$20,000, but we are always striving to make more. Our PTA works hard to make this a really fun event for students and adults and we are so grateful for their support. Funds raised will go directly to students to support field trips, purchases that they will use in classrooms, and bringing in amazing performers/speakers. See the flier for information on times that day and reach out to the PTA if you want to help.

We will be having our [field day](#) on [October 18th](#). This is a really fun community event and a great time for students to enjoy some fun together. It will take place in the back area of the school grounds and we welcome parents/families to join us. Grades 3-5 will have field day in the morning and grades PK-2 will have field day in the afternoon. Middle school does not participate in field day, but some students will be helping with the different stations as part of their elective. Mr. Casey will include more information about what to wear and specific times in this newsletter. Please join us for some fun in the sun!

Foster will be having some [Halloween fun](#) on [October 31st](#) starting with a school parade of K-5 students at [2:30PM](#) and then with parties for students. As a PK-8 school we ask for no scary masks, no weapons, and no "blood". Students who do not celebrate Halloween will have an activity in the Library for the end of the day. More information is included in this newsletter. Teachers will be sending out grade specific information as we get closer to the date through classroom dojo.

Wishing you a fantastic October filled with learning and joy!

Leigh Hiester
Principal



Principal's Page

MS. LEIGH HIESTER

FOSTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

Please join us for our next School Accountability Committee (SAC) meeting of the school year. The SAC meets several times a year to discuss our school Unified Improvement Plan, school performance framework, budget, staffing, and student achievement. Our next meeting will be on November 16th at 2:30 in the Cafeteria. Please join us!

HALLOWEEN 2023

We will be having Halloween events on the afternoon of Tuesday, October 31st at 2:30. It will be a normal school day until around 2:15 when students will change into their costumes, apply makeup, etc. At 2:30 we will have a parade for students K-5 that will go around the school and out on the back blacktop then back inside. Following the parade there will be grade level parties. Middle school will have a separate celebration.

Students who do not participate in Halloween will go to the library at 2:15 to have pizza and watch a movie not related to Halloween.

As students plan what to wear, please remember that this is an event for ages 4-14 and masks/costumes should be appropriate for this age group. We want to have fun and not be too scary!

Masks that are scary are not allowed. If you are not sure, please share the mask or a photo of it ahead of time with Leigh or Rebecca.

- No blood!
- No weapons of any kind!
- Adults in costumes need to also be appropriate (and not too scary!)
- All visitors will need to sign in and wear a visitor tag.

The parade route: We will begin in the hallway by 3rd and 2nd grade. We will proceed west, picking up the other grades as we go. We will exit by the music room, then go around the building to the Middle School. We will proceed down the middle school hall, then out to the black top located between the Middle school and the gym. We will wind around the blacktop and then come back inside the door by the gym. The edges of the blacktop will be the best place for parents to see the parade.



Rebecca & Kindergarten Students 9.28.23



Vice Principal

MS. REBECCA MEINE

Hello,

It has been a busy and exciting month getting to know the students and families at Foster. I still have many names to remember, but I am loving all of the hellos, smiles, and hugs I receive from students throughout the day. This community fills my bucket! I am no longer the 'new Ms. Shari', nor the 'soccer coach', but finally, Ms. Rebecca A.K.A 'the assistant principal, not the actual principal' as one student whispered to another! Oh and I have even felt like a rock star as some students have asked for my autograph 😄

Thank you for the warm welcome!

CMAS Reports:

Spring 2023 student state assessment reports have been released to schools and are available to families. Our school is sending CMAS assessment student reports to families with students in 4th-8th grades in Friday Folders. Please note that families can also access the 2023 CMAS and ACCESS for ELLs student assessment reports within Student Insights (<https://jedijeffco.k12.co.us/>). Student Insights can be accessed via the Parent Portal or via your Infinite Campus parent portal as well. Your username and password are the same as your Infinite Campus credentials. If you need support logging into this portal, please contact me.

REMINDERS

- Before School Expectations (8:20 a.m. - 8:40 a.m.)
- Students **DO NOT** arrive at school before 8:20 a.m.
- Keep hands, feet and objects to self.
- Follow adult directions (paraprofessionals have the final word as to what is safe).
- A pass must be used to go into the building.
- No food, drinks, or gum chewing on the playground.
- No bad language.
- No playing on the playground before school.
- Students will be expected to use appropriate problem solving skills to resolve disputes.

After School Expectations (3:40 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.)

- Students should not remain at school or on school grounds after 3:40 p.m. without a specific reason and permission from a parent or teacher
- Students are NOT allowed to play on the playground after school unless they are with a parent or adult guardian
- **THERE IS NO SUPERVISION AFTER 3:50PM**

Middle School Parents

Middle school students are not allowed to use cell phones during school hours except for lunch/recess. They may not call parents to pick them up early for an illness; students must first go to the clinic and staff will evaluate them. Then, clinic staff will make a phone call home if they determine that the student needs to be picked up. If you receive a phone call from your child to come to school to pick them up, please advise them to go to the clinic. Thank you for helping us follow the district protocol!



PRESCHOOL

MS. ANILU • MS. GISELA

IMPORTANT DATES

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Inquiry Study #2: What Is Different About Today?

This inquiry study will have a content learning focus in Science.

Students work together to understand that their natural environment goes through many changes over time. Inquiry will be focused on the properties of Earth materials, the differences between day and night, changing seasons and weather. We will also be learning about the Five Senses. Through these investigations, students will gain an understanding around what science is, the job of a scientist and different ways to approach learning with a science focus.

Key Vocabulary for Inquiry Study

science, scientist, job, tools, same, different, question, scientific process, research, predict, investigate, analyze, communicate

How can you help your child's learning at home?

- Read for at least 10 minutes every day.
- Ask questions as you read.
- Sing together
- Talk about the different community groups to which you belong (spots, church, etc).
- Practice ESTRELLITA chart with your chart

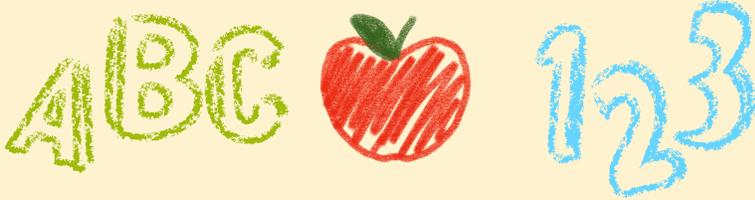
Key Vocabulary for Literacy

Literacy skills we'll be learning include: oral language, alphabet practice, and understanding print. We have started introducing our supplemental phonic's curriculum. Students will learn the name of our Estrellita Chart in Spanish.

Key Vocabulary for Math

Math skills we'll be learning include: number recognition, counting from 1-5, 1-10, simple patterns, measuring objects with different units like cubes, paperclips, and sticks.

Ms. Anilu and Ms. Gisela



KINDERGARTEN

MS. ALMA • MS. ANNIKA

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September has been a busy month! We completed our introduction to our Peace Promises. We launched our literacy rotations. We also enjoyed seeing you during our Parent/Teacher conferences.

We have started our second module of the year in literacy. "We are Special." The main take away of this module is that in some ways, we are all alike. In other ways, we are different. Things that make us different make us special! We are each special in our own way. Writing is in Spanish with Ms. Alma and reading in English with Ms. Annika. Do not forget to look at the parent Module letter; it has information on how to help your child at home.

Our second unit in math will be in Spanish. Students continue to develop counting concepts and skills, including comparing, while learning to write numbers. Here, students rely on familiar activity structures to build their counting skills and concepts. First, they count and compare the number of objects, and then do the same with groups of images. The images are given in different arrangements—in lines, arrays, number cube patterns, on 5-frames—to help students connect different representations to the same number.

Finally in Social Studies, we are working on our unit "History: Comparing My Story to Your Story" In this unit, students will examine their own history by identifying and describing events in their past (yesterday, a week ago...). Students will share information about themselves and put important events from their lives into sequential order. Students begin to see how they have changed over time. Once students understand their own stories, they gain an understanding of their past compared to the past of other children. Students will be creating their own timeline at home, and sharing them with others.

Thank you
Ms. Alma and Ms. Annika



GRADE 1

MS. BRIE • MS. ROSA

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Hello 1st grade grown ups!

First of all we want to thank all the volunteers who joined us on our adventure to Denver Art Museum learning more for our social studies unit about "History: Family Traditions, U.S. Traditions" students are learning about their family history, specifically cultural traditions, make connections to their lives today and talk about what makes different cultures special. Likewise, we have just started with our Into Reading Module 2 where the students read texts in English that are related to the question, what makes families and communities special? We are learning that we all have something special to contribute to our community and in writing students wrote descriptive essays in Spanish related to the topic, what makes your world wonderful? Stay tuned as we will send My Book I home where you will get the stories for Modules 1 and 2 for you and your child to review. In math, we are working on Unit 2, addition and subtraction story problems in Spanish.

We enjoy seeing the students work hands-on to solve math story problems. Both Unit 1 books were sent home and can stay at home.

Both Unit 2 books will be sent home at the end of the unit.

Thank you for attending the parent teacher conferences, your students are amazing!

Maestra Rosa y Ms. Brie



GRADE 2

MS. LAURA • MR. ABEL

Let's Fall into learning!

Thank you for attending Fall Parent/Teacher conferences. As always, it is a pleasure to take a moment and talk about your child!

Literacy:

We are currently in the middle of our second literacy module focusing on science, "Look Around and Explore!" Students are Reading in English and Writing in Spanish. In Writing, they have chosen a favorite place to visit and are writing an essay about it. Our focus has been on learning adjectives to describe a place they would like to visit. In English, the phonics focus is the silent e at the end of words. Ask your student what the "magic e" or silent e does to the vowel in the word.

Math:

Students have received Math in English and Spanish. They are currently receiving math in Spanish with Mr. Abel. We're working on adding and subtracting within 20 and moving towards 100 as the goal. Students are also practicing to count by 2's, 5's and 10's. Please work with them on learning doubles up to 20. It would be helpful if you could play card games or dominoes with them. This will help them see how much fun learning is and at the same time strengthen their skills to recognize and use numbers. There are some links in Google Classroom as an additional resource.

Science:

Students are learning that animals depend on their surroundings to get what they need, including food, water, shelter, and a favorable temperature. Animals depend on plants or other animals for food. This is a Project Based Learning unit and students will be making a diorama of a habitat to demonstrate their learning. To support this unit, we will be taking a field trip to the zoo towards the end of October. We'll send out information as soon as that is scheduled.

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ROADRUNNER EXPRESS

OCTOBER 2023



GRADE 3

MS. MARI • MS. PAOLA

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Hello Third Grade Dual families,

Happy Fall! How quickly time goes when you are having fun! Our first marble party was a success and students are already working towards their next party!

[Here is what we are learning in class with Ms. Paola:](#)

Writing: We are working on Modulo 2 from Arriba la lectura. our class will develop knowledge about how people use words to express themselves, with a focus on the genres of poetry and letters. We will read texts in which people express their thoughts, ideas and feelings. The students will also write a persuasive letter about the need to add a new "invented" word to the dictionary.

Math: In unit 2, students will learn about the concept of area and relate area to multiplication and addition.

SLD: The students are working on their oral fluency and learning how to use the vocabulary learned in Arriba la lectura.

[Here is what we are learning in class with Ms. Mari:](#)

In reading: We have been focusing on the importance of words and how they are used to express ideas, feelings and thoughts. The genres of text we are reading are letters and poetry. The reading comprehension skills we are working on in this module are identifying text and graphic features and their purpose, identifying point of view, identifying the literary elements of a text such as character, setting, problem and solution, and retelling a story that includes key events and details. We have begun working in our Literacy Workshop where students are learning the importance of independence, time management, and accountability for their work.

In science: We are currently working on Unit 1: Forces and Interactions. In this unit, students are learning about forces that act on an object in strength and direction which can or can not cause motion. This is all explored qualitatively NOT quantitatively. Students will make observations and discuss patterns about motion so they might predict future motion. (Example dropping a ball and predicting after the 4th bounce the height of the bounce). Following this, students will learn about magnetic or electrical forces and through causal thinking understand these forces better. The big understanding is that these objects do not need to touch. Finally, students are asked to define a problem that could be solved using magnets with constraints. Students can create models of possible solutions to these problems.

In English Language Development (ELD): We are building our listening, speaking and comprehension skills in English. Students will be able to use adjectives to describe nouns, use adjectives, comparative adjectives, and conjunctions to compare and contrast things and use verbs to make predictions about a text.

Reminders:

- Library checkouts are on Friday so please return books by Thursday.
- Students **MUST** come to school with their chromebooks fully charged each day. We have had several students come to school with Chromebooks not charged.
- Students need headphones at school daily.
- Please let us know if you would like to volunteer in our classroom.

Ms. Paola and Ms. Mari



GRADE 4

MS. VICKY • MS. STEPHANIE

Happy October!

The students are finally settling into 4th grade and working hard on our curriculum. We are excited to have them in our classrooms. Every 4 weeks they will change their language of instruction for all subjects.

In Reading: for 3 weeks we learned about our identity, different cultures, and read some great stories to help us feel more connected to each other in Spanish. We are in the middle of our English reading unit on the 5 senses. Our next Spanish reading unit is about how we meet and deal with challenges.

In Writing: We spent 3 weeks writing personal narrative in English and we are in the middle of researching and writing informational essays about animals in Spanish. Our next unit will be writing an opinion essay in English.

In Math: We started a new math program called Imagine Learning/Illustrative Mathematics. We just finished our multiplication unit on factors, multiples, and identifying Prime/Composite numbers in English. Please make sure your child is practicing their multiplication facts every week.. Math is taught in one language for 4 weeks, and then we switch languages. Students are right in the middle of their second unit about fractions in Spanish.

In Social Studies: We just finished our unit about the history of Colorado before it became Colorado in Spanish . We had a great time learning about the Native Americans/Indigenous people that live here long ago and making our Mesa Verde dioramas.

In Science: We are learning about the different rock formations and fossils in English. Just like math, we switch languages every 4 weeks but switch between science and social studies.

Please remember to visit our classroom Class Dojo frequently for up-to-date information about what's going on during the week and important updates. If you are unable to access Class Dojo, please let us know. Some students still don't have headphones, so please be sure to check with your child to see if they need a pair for school. Don't forget to have students charge their Chrome books every night.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR OCTOBER

- **October 4: Fun Run**
- **October 12th: Field Trip to Rocky Mountain National Park.** We will be leaving around 7:30 a.m. before schools starts and coming back at around 4 PM (depending on traffic). Please make arrangements for arrival and pick up since it's not during regular school hours.
- **October 18th: Field Day**
- **October 19-20: No school/Fall Break**
- **October 31: Halloween Celebration.**We will send more info as it approaches.



GRADE 5

MS. TRACEY • MS. SADITH

IMPORTANT DATES

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- 10/31... Costume Parade @ 2:30PM

Important Reminders:

Band and Orchestra

- Monday: 1:50-2:30 pm- Woodwinds only, Violins and Violas only
- Wednesday: 1:50-2:30 pm- Brass and Percussion only, Cellos and Bases only
- Thursday: 10:30-11:15- All Band/ All Orchestra

It is important that your student practices their instrument at home and returns it to school on Band and Orchestra days. Studies show that students who learn and practice playing an instrument see increased Reading and Math scores.

Fun Run

Fun Run will be Wednesday the 4th. Students brought home a donations folder for the Fun Run. Please try to have your student collect and raise money for our classroom and Foster.

Our Learning:

Reading: Natural Disasters with Narrative Nonfiction and Realistic Fiction texts (Spanish)

Students will be exposed to a variety of texts about natural disasters with opportunities to identify central ideas, summarize events, and ask and answer questions.

Writing: Argumentative & Persuasive Writing about Natural Disasters (English)

Students will be writing a persuasive essay choosing between: staying and rebuilding after a natural disaster OR moving and starting over after a natural disaster. Students will support their argument with research, facts, and details.

Math: Multiplying and Dividing Fractions (English)

Students will extend their multiplication and division of whole numbers to multiply fractions by fractions and divide a whole number by a unit fraction.

Social Studies: Colonization and Implications (Spanish)

Students will learn about the many perspectives, events, ideas, and issues in North America beginning with European colonization.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

MS. CARISSA

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Hello middle school families!!

Thank you to everyone who came to parent teacher conferences! It was great meeting a lot of new people and to talk about your amazing children!

Parental support plays an important part in helping students succeed in middle school. But as they grow more independent, it can be hard for parents to know when to get involved and when a more behind-the-scenes approach is the way to go.

Please take some time to read through this great article which discusses 10 ways to keep your child on track for academic success in middle school.

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/school-help-middle.html>

First quarter will end on Friday, October 13th. Grades for quarter one will be finalized by Thursday, October 19th. If your child is behind in a class or needs to raise their grade, please have them make a plan so they are not stressing and cramming to get late work or retake tests at the last minute. Please reach out to individual teachers if you have any specific questions about their class.

Quarter two will begin on Monday, October 16th. Students will begin their new end of day electives on that day. They can see what elective they have for quarter two (and the rest of the year) in [Infinite Campus](#).

Please continue to look out for our biweekly Middle School Newflash with up-to-date information about middle school. We use this as our main mode of communication with families just like elementary school uses ClassDojo. Thanks for your continued support!

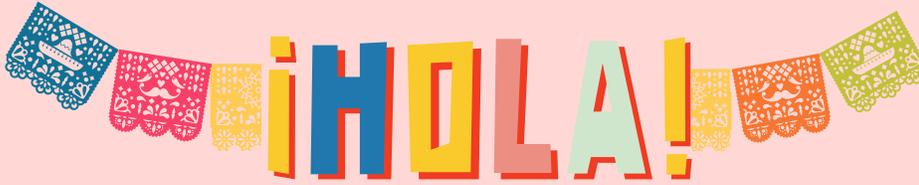
English Language Arts:

We have just finished our first reading unit on the elements and themes in fiction and are now moving into our second unit of the year, fictional writing. Students will use what they learned in the first unit and apply this to their own writing of fictional texts. They will create narratives using precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to write a story that has tension, resolution, realistic characters, and a theme.

We will continue working on expanding our knowledge around morphology, with a focus on prefixes, suffixes, Latin and Greek bases.

Students should be reading throughout the week at home.

carissa.sotorodriguez@jeffco.k12.co.us



SPANISH LANGUAGE ARTS
MS. GABY

IMPORTANT DATES

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6th grade:

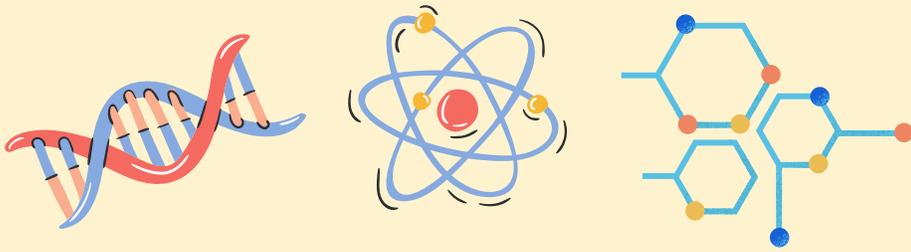
We continue unit I, I Am Bilingual, analyzing the different elements of being bilingual. Students have analyzed several informative articles on the importance of bilingualism and the various advantages of bilingualism. Over the next month, we will analyze the stories, memories, or anecdotes of historical bilingual Hispanic people to capture essential events from the text.

7th grade:

In unit I, Discovering my identity, students began an analysis of the different elements that make up one's identity such as one's own name, culture, traditions, family customs, and the culture of each family. Students will continue with a study of a person of Hispanic heritage. The importance of culture, customs and traditions, and human values for the formation of personal identity.

8th Grade:

In Unit I, Myths and Legends, students will explore myths and legends from cultures around the world, examining the natural and cultural phenomena explained in each myth and what cultural values are revealed in the story. Students are continuing the study of mythology with a study of Greek mythology, formulating predictions, forming questions about the reading, using vocabulary relevant to the texts, answering comprehension questions about the texts, and finally writing summaries of each Greek mythology text. In essence, students are analyzing the relationship of each type of mythology and the relationship to culture.



SCIENCE

MS. NIDYA

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6th Grade:

After learning everything related to the atom, we will continue learning about the states of matter and its changes, doing experiments in the class to demonstrate scientific theories.

7th grade:

We will continue learning about the basic unit of living beings, the cell, with the function of each of the parts within the cell, to learn tissue, organs, systems, and organisms.

8th grade:

After having learned everything about DNA we will learn Mendel's laws and the possible genetic combinations, which give it genetic traits and characteristics in each organism.



SOCIAL STUDIES

MR. JOAQUIN

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6th Grade: Perspectives

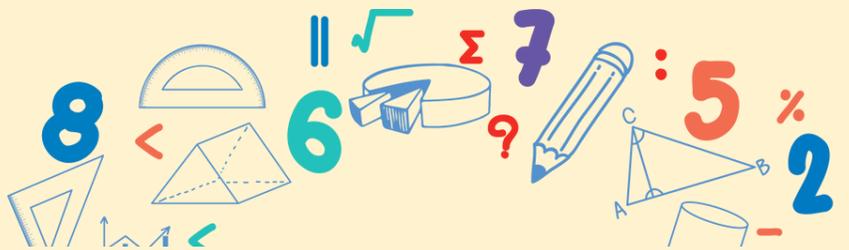
We will be learning how our geography affects our culture, values and beliefs. We will analyze how these factors help build our perspectives on things and explore different world perspectives. We will be working on students formulating and voicing their own perspectives on various world issues, both in writing and verbally.

7th Grade: Ancient Egypt, Indus River and Chinese Civilizations

We will continue with our GRAPES (ask your student what this stands for!) framework to analyze how these ancient civilizations advanced human society and how their accomplishments influence us still today. Students will work on connecting their own experiences and world to those of the humans who lived thousands of years ago.

8th Grade: The American Revolution

We are starting to get into the early days of the American Revolution and what events led to the tensions between the British and the Colonies. We will analyze the various factors that pushed the colonies towards Revolution and draw connections to our experience as Americans today.



MATHEMATICS

MR. ALEX

IMPORTANT DATES

- 10/2 . . First day of student count
- 10/4 . . Fun Run
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- 10/18 . . Field Day
- 10/20 . . No School (Fall Break)
- 10/23 . . Clothing Swap
- 10/27 . . Project Prepare's Pumpkin Decorating Contest
- 10/30 . . Vision/Hearing Screening
- 10/31 . . Costume Parade @ 2:30PM

Dear Families,

I want to thank you for supporting your learners at home. I also want to thank you for taking the time to speak to us during our conferences. Please find below updated information regarding instruction in math class.

6th Grade

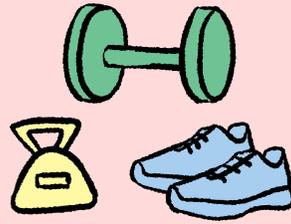
Unit Rates and Percentages. In this unit, students learn to understand and use the terms “unit rate,” “speed,” “pace,” “percent,” and “percentage,” and recognize that equivalent ratios have equal unit rates. Also, students learn to apply and use the terms “ratio,” “rate,” “equivalent ratios,” “per,” “at this rate,” “constant speed,” and “constant rate,” and to recognize when two ratios are or are not equivalent.

7th Grade

Proportional Relationships. In this unit, students learn to understand and use the terms “proportional,” “constant of proportionality,” and “proportional relationship,” and recognize when a relationship is or is not proportional. Also, students use ratios, scale factors, unit rates (also called constants of proportionality), and proportional relationships to solve multi-step, real-world problems that involve fractions and percentages.

8th Grade

Linear Relationships. In this unit, students learn to understand and use the terms “rate of change,” “linear relationship,” and “vertical intercept.” They deepen their understanding of slope, and they learn to recognize connections among rate of change, slope, and constant of proportionality, and between linear and proportional relationships. They learn to understand that lines with the same slope are translations of each other. They represent linear relationships with tables, equations, and graphs that include lines with negative slopes or vertical intercepts, and horizontal and vertical lines. They learn to use the term “solution of an equation” when working with one or two linear equations in two variables, and learn to understand the graph of a linear equation as the set of its solutions.



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MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

MS. CARLA • COACH CASEY • MR. JESSE • MS. KATIE

Computer Science with Ms. Carla

Our class is focused on addressing ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) standards related to students continuing to grow in their use of digital tools to be effective communicators.

ISTE Creative Communicator: Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the platforms, tools, styles, formats and digital media appropriate to their goals.

The desired essential skills include selecting appropriate platforms and tools to create, share and communicate their ideas and learning effectively. As a part of this skill development, students create products using digital tools and media in various ways, self-evaluate their work using rubrics and checklists, edit and improve their work to create quality pieces. Families are encouraged to view student creations and provide encouragement and feedback.

Individual/Dual Sports with Coach Casey.

Individual/Dual Sports class is focusing on net sports and leading the K-5 field day. Students will work in pairs and trios to teach and lead games with the elementary students. In addition to sports skills and leadership, we are working on collaborative life skills and taking on roles of agency (referee/teacher assistant) during class.

Drawing with Mr. Jesse

Drawing is beginning to explore a wide variety of different drawing methods. They will be creating different drawings including, self portraits, metaphor drawings, and wire drawings.



VISUAL ARTS

MR. JESSE

The month of October continues to bring new art projects and new lessons. This is an exciting time of year for our Foster artists.

Kinder

Has been learning how to use a variety of different sized shapes to create artwork to capture their imagination.

1st Grade

is learning how to tell a story using visual language, they have been focusing on the different communities they are a part of. .

2nd Grade

is continuing to learn how to use different materials and how those materials interact with one another to create paintings. .

3rd Grade

has begun to learn about color schemes and how they can change the “feeling” of their artwork.

4th Grade

has been learning how to give personal meaning to a variety of images and then using the images to tell a little about themselves.

5th grade

is continuing to work on how to create the illusion of space by learning 1 point perspective and how to “see it” in real life.



MS. KATIE'S MUSIC NOTES

Katie Oaks – General Music, K–8
katie.oaks@jeffco.k12.co.us

Hello Foster families! Happy Hispanic Heritage Month!

September 15 to October 15 is National Hispanic American Heritage Month, and honors the cultures and contributions of both Hispanic and Latino Americans whose heritage is rooted in all Latin American countries. Music classes this month have a focus on Latin American music, musicians, instruments, dances, and rhythms.

Kindergarteners are “down on the farm” – singing, moving, and playing instruments to Los Pollitos Dicen, a traditional kids song found in many Latin American countries. Students used this song to explore animal sounds and demonstrate a steady beat.

The 1st grade classes explored the concept of beat or no beat while creating rainstorms and singing Que Llueva. We sang about South American animals hiding from the rain and listened to a Mayan story of how music came to the world.

Our 2nd graders learned ternary, or 3-part, form through the son jarocho folk song La Guacamaya. Students were able to identify sections in the music, sing along, and play instruments with the chord changes. We even danced a traditional folklórico dance with three different basic steps!

In 3rd grade, students were introduced to the concept of time signatures in music. We specifically focused on the 3-4 time signature and used our new knowledge to play the informal anthem of Chiapas, Mexico, Las Chiapanecas, as an Orff ensemble.

Students in 4th grade are playing recorders again! We reviewed notes and rhythms learned last year, and introduced a few new notes to be able to play Dale, Dale, Dale. We also learned about birthday traditions from Latin American countries and sang Las Mañanitas.

Students in 5th grade started playing ukuleles this rotation. Classes focused on instrument part identification, basic strumming skills, and our first few chords. We were playing La Cucaracha, a student favorite, by the end of the week!

Middle school music classes will continue the celebration of Latin American music with a study of popular musicians and genres. Our middle school music elective, World Percussion, has been working hard to prepare for an in school “informance” – an informative performance – on Thursday, Oct. 12th. It will be a boisterous event and all families are welcome to attend!



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

COACH CASEY

IMPORTANT DATES

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Foster's annual Field Day Festival will be on Wednesday, October 18th This year's field day is shaping up as another action packed, sun soaked (fingers crossed), fun-filled day full of action and adventure!

The fun starts with a rally in the gym at 9:15 for students in grades 3, 4, & 5. A rally in the gym beginning at 12:30 will kick off the afternoon session for students in grades K, 1, & 2.

Parents wishing to take their students off school grounds are kindly reminded to sign them out at the main office. All guests visiting school grounds are required to sign in at the check-in table by the playground in the back.

After signing in, please wear your visitors badge anytime you're on school grounds.

Finally, just a few friendly reminders to help make this year's Field Day a fun, safe and memorable experience for all students...

- water bottles are encouraged (no glass)
- dress appropriately
- sun block is strongly advised
- encourage sportsmanship at all times
- bring your best attitude & energy

We will cancel field day in the case of inclement weather, hoping to reschedule in the spring.

ROADRUNNER EXPRESS

OCTOBER 2023



BAND/ORCHESTRA

MR. READING & MS. BRELLS

Middle School Orchestra:

In orchestra we have been starting to prepare for our concert in December. Both groups are working on learning two pieces right now. The main focuses we have been working on are bow control, rhythmic accuracy and note reading. Practice logs this year are optional but they are extra credit points each week towards their growth and participation grade. This is a great way for students to be earning more points to help their grade and improving on their instruments. Practicing at home helps students work on their individual skills and will help them learn even faster. Students should be taking their instruments home everyday in order to practice.

The concert dates are: December 5th, February 29th and May 14th. All of these concerts will be at Arvada High School.

5th Grade Orchestra:

It has been great starting to have classes with the 5th graders! We have been working on basic techniques such as how to hold their instruments, left hand technique, and how to start using their left hand to create notes. The start of learning an instrument can be hard so it is very important that students are practicing at home so they can start getting used to all the new techniques. Students should be taking their instruments home each day and practicing.

All of the concerts will be at Arvada High School in the gym. The dates are: November 16th, February 29th and May 2nd.

Middle School Band:

The start of the year has been a great start to the year! We have been learning our first pieces while practicing our note and rhythm reading skills. We will be continuing moving forwards with our music as we begin to learn harder pieces! Some skills that Advanced Band will be working on this month include: expanding range on instruments, new styles of articulation, and complex rhythm reading. Some skills that Intermediate Band will be working on include: articulation, part independence, and balance/blend in ensemble. Please support your young musician by helping to remind them to practice their instruments as we begin to challenge them even more!

Concert Dates this year are: December 5th, February 29th, and May 14th at the Arvada High School Auditorium.
More details to come later!

5th Grade Band:

Getting started this year has been amazing so far! We have so many students in band this year and they have been so eager to learn! We have been working on putting together our instruments, learning to properly hold them, and how to play our first notes! In this upcoming month we will be learning our first 5 notes, how to learn/read music, and will begin moving forwards with learning how to play many songs! Please support your young musician by helping to remind them to practice their instrument as often as possible. Even 10 minutes a day will make a massive difference in their growth!

Concert dates are: November 16th, February 29th, and May 2nd at Arvada High School. More details will come soon regarding the concerts.



LIBRARY

MS. CARLA

Library Checkout:

All students are invited to visit the school library to check out and enjoy books of their choice. Our collection includes books in Spanish and English to support reading skills in both languages. We are also beginning to curate a collection of titles for Middle School students. Parents are welcome too!

A Word about Devices:

Jeffco has secured funds and grants to continue our 1:1 device initiative to all students in grades 1-8. This means every student has a device for instructional use! Our Tech 4 Education program includes providing new Chromebooks to students in first and fifth grades each year with the intention that they will continue to use this device until the end of eighth grade as long as they remain in a Jeffco school (except Charter schools). In addition, kindergarten students will be issued a school iPad in a few weeks. Jeffco does have filters in place; however, it is important to understand that no filter ensures your child's browsing safety. Student use is monitored at school and they are encouraged to reach out to a trusted adult at home and at school when/if they are not comfortable with content that comes up. To learn more about Jeffco's Tech for Ed program and filtering, please visit [Jeffco's webpage: Tech for Ed](#). Classroom teachers have provided lessons related to device care and use. Families also accepted the Technology Use Agreement when enrolling students. Please support students as they learn to care for devices by encouraging these behaviors:

- Keep food and drink away from device
- Use clean hands on the device
- NEVER remove the protective case
- Do NOT place stickers on the device
- When transporting device, make sure case is fully closed or iPad cover over glass
- Report damage or other issues to teachers as soon as possible
- Only original Lenovo Chromebook charger is used with the device as other chargers can and do cause damage. Lost/damaged chargers can be purchased in the office.

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HEALTH ROOM

MS. CHALEY



Welcome Foster Families!

Those of you that do not know me; my name is Chaley and I am the Foster Health Aide! A Denver native and a momma of three that also attend Foster! I will be taking care of your littles (or Bigs) when they are hurt or not feeling well.

If your student(s) is on medications for conditions such as: Asthma, Allergy, Seizures etc. and you have not yet provided the school with medications, please do so as soon as possible. This includes proper documentation and forms signed and dated by both physician and parent. Parents must provide a **MEDICATION AGREEMENT** form for students taking any over the counter medication that will be kept in the health room (you can pick up this form in the health room) per district policy.

Being back in school means many germs! Please keep your children home if they have a fever or are vomiting. --Children are to stay home for 24 hours fever or vomit **FREE** without medication.

PARENTS: Please be on the lookout in your Student(s) Friday folder for some time sensitive forms!

- School Wide Dental Screening Consent Forms (Sept. 11 & 14th)-this is optional! Extra copies are in the office.
- Immunization Compliance Letters--you will **ONLY** receive this if your student is missing immunizations required to attend school, per district guidelines.

We are going to have a great and healthy year! Please reach out if you have any questions!

Kind regards,
Chaley Garcia

INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES

MS. VANESSA • MS. VALENTINA

Hello families and Happy Fall (almost)!

I hope that this update finds you all well!

I am Vanessa Gonzalez, I am the Instructional Coach. "What Is an Instructional Coach? An instructional coach works with teachers to improve the quality of their lessons and the quality of students' education. They serve as mentors and role models, helping teachers stay fresh and use the latest techniques and technologies in their classrooms. (WU)". I have been at Foster as a parent and a teacher. All 3 of my kiddos came to Foster. Daniel is almost 22, Devon is almost 20 and Derek is almost 16. I have been here at Foster as a Teacher since 2009. I have taught both in Dual English and English Only classrooms. I have taught from 2nd grade to 8th grade. I taught 3rd grade in JSEL for a few summers too! My husband is Peter Gonzalez and you will see him around sometimes, he used to be here more often when I needed help in my classroom. 😊

At the beginning of the school year, there are several things we do to prepare for a successful school year. The classroom teachers spend so much time norming the students on the new grade level expectations, routines and procedures. We also spend some time collecting data.

This year, our assessment plan includes [Dibels 8](#) and [lectura K-3](#). Both programs will help us to determine where the students might need some support in reading. We use the data to determine if a READ plan is necessary and we will use the data to determine when a student is ready to exit their plan. Please keep in mind that a READ plan does not label any of our students, it is simply a plan to catch students up in reading. When the classroom teachers make their data based decision, you should hear from them. If your student is being placed on a READ plan for the first time, you will be asked to acknowledge in Student Insights. The username and password should be the same from registration. We also collected data about our students who have a home language other than English. We will do the standardized assessments for that some time after Winter Break. We will still use the assessment MAP- 3 times per year. That is a requirement for k-8 in Math and 1-8 in reading English/Spanish. These assessments help us to see growth in those areas for our students from Beginning of the school year to the end of the school year.

I know that it seems like a lot of assessments, however one of my responsibilities is to maximize instructional time and to make the assessments run as smoothly as possible, so I always do my best! Plus, when I am assessing it gives me a chance to work with the kiddos!

Please reach out if you have any specific questions about the assessments. However, please reach out to the classroom teachers if you have any questions about the data from our recent assessments.

Have a great transition into fall! I will see you around!

Vanessa Gonzalez
Instructional Coach



1ST, 2ND & 3RD READING/WRITING TUTORS

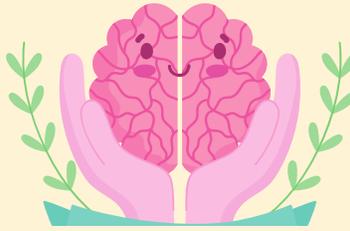
MR. SETH • MR. OCTAVIO

We have been seeing students for a couple of weeks now and have been getting to know each one of them. We are identifying their strengths as well as the areas where they will need assistance in reading.

Kindergarten is currently working on comparing and contrasting different pictures and words. We are looking for words that rhyme and learning how different words and pictures can be placed into different categories. This helps the students find patterns in new and unfamiliar words.

First grade is currently working on understanding the English alphabet and the fact that it is made up of consonants and vowels. We are learning how to identify them, as well as what sounds they make. This helps the students understand the importance of reading with accuracy.

Second and third grade are both focusing on decoding words. We are breaking down words phonetically and learning how to blend them back together. We are learning what phonemes, digraphs, and closed syllables are. Understanding what these are helps support their base knowledge in literacy.



[Links for Elementary Unit I](#)

- [Kinder](#)
- [First](#)
- [Second](#)
- [Third](#)
- [Fourth](#)
- [Fifth](#)

MENTAL HEALTH & SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

At Foster, we utilize Second Step as our SEL Curriculum. We would like to keep families informed and have you support student learning in the home. In the month of October, students will be finishing the first part of Second Step, growth mindset & goal setting. Our next unit will be all about Bullying Prevention. Please click on the link for your student's class for more information about what will be presented in the coming weeks.

[MIDDLE SCHOOL:](#)

Dear Families of Foster PK-8,

Over the next several weeks, your child will be discussing bullying as part of Second Step® Middle School. Bullying is at its peak in middle school, and research indicates that taking proactive steps to address bullying will help reduce occurrences of it in our school.

Second Step Middle School is designed to support your child in developing the knowledge and skills to help stop bullying. Students will learn how to recognize bullying in various contexts, how to use strategies to stand up safely to bullying, and how to seek help if they or someone they know is being bullied.

[Here are some key definitions your child will be learning:](#)

- Bullying: intentional physical, verbal, or social aggression. It's often repeated over time and occurs when there's a real or perceived power imbalance.
- **Bystander:** anyone who's aware that bullying is happening
- Online bullying: the use of technology to harass, threaten, or intimidate another person
- **Physical bullying:** hurting someone's body or possessions
- Relational bullying: hurting someone's reputation or relationships, such as by excluding them
- **Upstander:** someone who stands up for a person being bullied
- Verbal bullying: saying or writing mean things about someone

We encourage students to report any instances of bullying they witness or experience to you and to trusted adults at our school. Please contact Ms. Hiester or Ms. Meine if you need support in reporting or dealing with bullying. Additionally, if you have any questions about Second Step Middle School, please don't hesitate to contact me for more information. Thank you for your support as we work together to build a bullying-free community.

Sincerely,

Matthew Schroer, LCSW
Social Emotional Learning Specialist
Foster Dual Language PK-8



PROJECT PREPARE

in October

It is your last chance to apply for Free and Reduced status to receive scholarships for Project Prepare's clubs and programs. Click here to apply: <https://www.schoolcafe.com/JeffcoSD>

Ceramic Bowl Throwing Club

Learn how to create ceramic bowls on a wheel. (5th-8th grade)

Registration opens on Sept 29th and are due on Oct 3. Flyers will be found on the Middle School Bulletin board. Registration can also be found on the Foster Website.

Mariachi JeffCo Club Registration begins:

Flyer will be sent home soon. Registration will also be opened on the Foster Website.

Mariachi JeffCo Introduction

This club provides a low-risk commitment for those students who are curious and want to learn more about Mariachi music. Instruments will be supplied if needed.

Current dates. Oct 23, 30 & Nov 6

Mariachi JeffCo Beginning

This club is for student who have just begun to play an instrument or may need to gain more confidence in their abilities. If you are not sure where your student fits, sign up for beginning and we can evaluate them to place them in beginning or advanced. The last month of practice we merge with advanced.

Current dates: Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, Apr. 8, 15, 22, 26-Performance, 29-party

Mariachi JeffCo Advanced

You must have been in Jeffco Mariachi last year or have prior musical experience and be evaluated. Leadership opportunities are available with the beginners from Jan 22 to Feb 12th. **Current dates: Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, 14-Performance (Break) Feb 26, Mar. 4, 11, Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22, 26-Performance, 29-party**

Middle School Volleyball Club Finale: October 24th

Fall Chess Club Finale Tournament: October 27th

Foster Pumpkin Decoration Contest

Theme: What makes you happy? October 27th

