Dear Parents and Guardians:

We have had a great start to the 2021-22 school year. It has been wonderful to have our students back full time this school year. Our students, families, and staff all deserve credit for strong efforts to make the start of the year successful. We genuinely appreciate each of you that were able to attend Back to School Night and Parent/Teacher Conferences. If you have not been able to connect with your student’s teachers yet, I encourage you to reach out. Open, ongoing communication helps to ensure that your student is getting the supports they need at school and at home.

My position as a high school principal brings plenty of rewards. Chief among these rewards, is getting to see our students compete and perform. Competition and performance plays out on athletic fields and courts as well as musical competitions and theater performances to name a few. Our students’ talents never cease to amaze me. Information on how to join these groups is routinely broadcast through our Bear Creek Television Network (BCTN). You can check out all of our scheduled events through http://jeffcok12events.org. Click on Bear Creek High School on the right hand side to see all of our weekly activities, events, and athletic competitions.

In an effort to provide additional social and emotional supports for our students, Bear Creek High School has partnered with the Jefferson Center for Mental Health (JCMH). We currently employ two full time JCMH therapists that can provide mental health services to our students. If you would like to find out more regarding services for your student, please reach out to his/her school counselor. We are grateful for our community partners that help us meet the needs of our students.

While the start of the year has been largely successful, we have seen an increase in negative student behaviors as compared to pre-pandemic levels. This is a trend across all schools nationwide. As we continue to work with students to norm behavior, we ask parents/guardians to continue reinforcing positive and healthy decision-making at home as well. As many of you are aware, TikTok trends have created property damage and disruptions to the school environment. Please discourage your student(s) from engaging in behaviors that disrupt the learning environment. Students that choose to engage in these behaviors will face suspension, payment for damages, and possible criminal charges.

Sincerely,

Mr. Lynn Torr
Principal/JCAA President
Bear Creek High School
303-982-8727
HOMECOMING DANCE
The Homecoming Dance is Saturday, October 16th from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. in the main gym. Masks are required. Students may dress semi-formal; costumes are optional but must be within dress code.

REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS FOR SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN
Please refer to the BCHS website at (bearcreekh.s.jeffcopublicschools.org) and click on the Family Tab.

Look under the Health Information – then Immunizations FAQ, to review all required and recommended shots.

Please note the CDC requires ALL students to have 2 shots for Varicella (chickenpox vaccination). If your student has received a second shot for Varicella, please send a copy of their shot record to the Health Room, to be entered into our records.

WORK PERMITS
According to the “Colorado Youth Employment Opportunity Act of 1971” a “Work Permit” is actually called a “School Release Permit.” This permit allows a minor fourteen or fifteen years of age to work on school days during school hours.

Bear Creek High School does not give School release Permits because we believe that during school days and school hours, students age fourteen and fifteen should be in school, as provided by the Colorado School Compulsory Attendance Law.

Students who desire to work during non-school hours on school days or on weekends do not need a School Release Permit. Our school hours are from 7:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. A student’s schedule varies from semester to semester.

A birth certificate can be used to provide evidence of age.

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MILITARY RECRUITERS, POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS
AND PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS RECRUITING

Provisions of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) requires educational institutions to provide military recruiters, institutions of higher education and prospective employers, access to secondary school students’ names, addresses, and telephone listings. Colorado law states that school districts have 90 days to comply with any military recruiter’s request for this information.

NCLB also states that a secondary school student or the parent of the student may request that the student’s name, address and telephone listing not be released without prior written consent, and the educational institution will notify parents of this option.

District policy KLMA was created to provide high school students with an appropriate way to obtain accurate information regarding potential careers, employers (including the military), and postsecondary educational opportunities, and to provide students convenient access to recruiters representing organizations which provide these kinds of opportunities.

Parents need to log on to Jeffco Connect, click on Agreements on the left-hand side, read the policies and agree to the terms by selecting a designated link.

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Simple precautions can help limit the spread of illness and infectious disease:

- Wash hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and running water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching hands to eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow if you do not have a tissue. Otherwise, cover your nose and mouth with a tissue, throw the used tissue into the wastebasket and thoroughly wash your hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid close contact with individuals who are sick.
- Avoid sharing of water bottles, mouth guards or instrument mouth pieces.
- Avoid sharing of eating utensils, drinking glasses or personal items such as towels, razors or makeup.
- Talk with your health care provider about age appropriate immunizations including an annual influenza vaccine.
- Stay healthy with nutrient rich foods, plenty of water, exercise every day and plenty of rest each night.
Attendance FAQs

Regular daily attendance is a major contributor to success in school and a critical component to lifelong learning and career preparation. Students are expected to be punctual and in the classroom prepared to work when the tardy bell rings. Student attendance is the responsibility of the student, the parent, and the school --- in that order. Please review the helpful FAQs in this newsletter to help facilitate the best attendance follow-up possible for your student.

How will I know if my student missed a class or was tardy to a class?
You can set up notifications through Infinite Campus or each afternoon the automation system will begin making calls in regard to missed classes or tardies. If you have questions about these absences or tardies, first talk with your student, then contact the teacher. To ensure you receive calls, please make sure your information is up to date in Jeffco Connect.

What are my responsibilities as a parent or guardian in regard to absences?
1. To maintain communication with your children regarding attendance
2. To recognize that any absence, regardless of cause, has a possible detrimental influence on student achievement
3. To contact the school in a timely fashion based on the school’s reporting procedures regarding absences and in the case of extended home confinement, request makeup assignments
4. To monitor the makeup work of the student who has missed class
5. To attend and participate in school attendance conferences when requested
6. To recognize that student attendance at school is a collaborative effort between the home and school.

What if my student would rather study in the library or the cafeteria than attend a class, can a parent or guardian excuse that?
If a student is on campus and has a scheduled class, they are expected to attend their class. These absences will not be excused.

Who do I call to excuse an absence?
Please utilize the attendance line to report all excused absences or tardies. That number is 303-982-8813. In order to excuse a tardy or absence, there must be a reason provided and the reason must be an approved excuse according to the district expectations. You can find these outlined in the code of conduct.

Why does the school ask the parent to provide the reason for the absence?
The reason for the absence allows the school to appropriately code each absence and follow up when necessary.

What does the district/school consider an excused absence?
1. A student who is temporarily ill or injured or whose absence is approved by the school administration on a prearranged basis. Prearranged absences shall be approved for appointments or circumstances of a serious nature only which cannot be taken care of outside of school hours.
2. A student who is absent for an extended period due to physical, mental or emotional disability.
3. Excused absences include funerals, illness, injury, legal obligations, medical procedures and religious observations, and extenuating circumstances determined by the principal.
4. A student who is attending any school-sponsored activity or who is receiving Jeffco educational services shall not be considered absent for attendance reporting purposes.
5. A student who is visiting a parent or guardian who is an active duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting shall not be considered absent for attendance reporting purposes.

What happens if the teacher makes a mistake with attendance?
Mistakes will occur, but they are easily corrected. Please have your student work directly with the teacher first. Then, if needed, we can involve a building level administrator.

How many tardies are too many?
Everyone is late from time to time, that is why all students are provided a cushion of 3 ‘freebies’ for each class during each 6 week period. Depending on how many classes your student is enrolled in, that could amount to 21 ‘freebies’ in one 6 week period. Once they reach the 4th tardy in a class, they will be assigned consequences.

How many absences are too many?
We would like students to be in attendance to all of their classes every day. The reality is that things do occur that prevent that, such as illness and family situations.

What are the consequences for tardies and absences?
The consequences could include any one of the following: parent contact, parent meeting, 1 hour detention, 2 hour detention, full day of In School Suspension, truancy letters/court.

What is a home visit?
If attendance continues to be an issue with a student, the district may conduct a home visit or someone from Bear Creek may stop by. The goal is for students to be in attendance and understand the importance of being at school.

Does poor attendance affect my student’s grades and performance?
Yes, attendance can affect your student’s academic performance. Some classes’ grades are calculated based on attendance. Missing instruction and not following up will always have a negative effect on academic performance.

What is the truancy law?
Every child who has attained the age of 6 years on or before August 1 and is under the age of 17 years is required to attend public school, with such exceptions as provided by law. This does not require a child who begins attending preschool or kindergarten at 5 or 6 years of age to advance to 1st grade in the following school year.
Every parent of a child who has attained the age of 6 years on or before August 1 and in under the age of 17 years shall ensure that the child attends public school unless the child is enrolled in an independent or parochial school or a non-public home-based educational program.
LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-33-101 to 205 (school attendance law)

Is truancy a criminal offense and will it appear on my student’s permanent record?
Truancy is not a criminal offense. The records we keep connected to attendance are used in the court system and can be requested by law enforcement or the courts.

How can I get support to help me with my student that refuses to attend school?
If you are struggling with your student, please contact you students’ administrator. You can also contact Drop-Out Prevention at (303) 982-6559.
How do I get my student out of class?
Parent/Guardian can call the Main Office at (303-982-8855) the day of the early release and request their student be in the main office at a specific time. Please give as much advance notice as possible. If the parent/guardian comes into the school and signs out the student, the student will be excused. If the parent/guardian does not come into the Main Office, then the parent/guardian needs to call the attendance line (303-982-8813) to excuse the student’s absence. Please try to be attentive to student/school schedules when making appointments for your students. There are times when students are in activities and we are not able to locate them.

Students always need to sign in and out of the Main Office if they are leaving or coming in late during the day.

9th grade students need to be signed out by a parent/guardian in the Main Office anytime they leave school. 9th grade students are not allowed off campus during lunch.

10th, 11th, or 12th grade students are allowed to leave the school without permission during their lunch period.

Lynn Torr (303) 982-8806 Principal
Jose Martinez (303) 982-8776 Discipline/Attendance 10th-12th (F-L)
October Minnette (303) 982-8821 Discipline/Attendance 10th-12th (M-Ri)
Zach Morris (303) 982-8822 Discipline/Attendance 10th-12th (A-E)
Tia Nemitz (303) 982-8817 Discipline/Attendance (ALL 9th)
Alison Shanor (303) 982-8735 Discipline/Attendance 10th-12th (Rj-Z)

BEAR CREEK HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY
ATTENDANCE LINE (303) 982-8813

In order for a parent/guardian to excuse a student’s absence, a call to the Attendance Line or in-person contact in the Main Office must be made by 3:00 p.m. the day after the absence (24 hours). In order to NOT receive the automated attendance call, you must excuse your student prior to 3:00 p.m. THE DAY OF THE ABSENCE. For the full policy, please refer to the Code of Conduct available to families on the district’s website.

When leaving a message on the attendance line, please be as specific as possible. State the date of the absence. Use the student’s legal name (not a nickname) and spell the last name if it is difficult or unusual. State the student’s grade level. Give a reason for the absence. Give your name and relationship to the student and a phone number where you can be reached during the day. A reason MUST BE GIVEN for the absence in order for it to be excused.

The importance of regular, daily attendance as a basis for academic achievement cannot be overemphasized. Please make every effort to support your student’s attendance at school.

FOR ANY OTHER ATTENDANCE QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT LORI JOHNS AT (303) 982-8691
TIDBITS

Written notes WILL NOT be accepted to excuse a student. Parents must call the attendance line or sign them out of school in the Main Office for an absence to be excused.

Students arriving late or leaving early need to check in/out of the Main Office.

A good script for a message: Today, October 24th, my 10th grade student, John A. Smith needs to be excused from periods 1, 2 & 3 for a doctor’s appointment. He will sign in the office on his return. This is Pat, his mom. You can reach me during the day at 303-000-0000.

Teachers mark the students absent or tardy at the classroom level. If a student is marked absent, and they were present in the class, please have the student talk with that teacher.

IMPORTANT

If you choose NOT to have phone calls sent to your home, please understand, if we have an emergency situation at the school, the phone dialer is our way of communicating with you. It is imperative that you fully understand this if you make the decision to NOT receive phone calls from the school. To add or adjust your telephone number, please update your Jeffco Connect Profile.

PREARRANGED ABSENCE FORMS

Prearranged absence forms are for students who know they will be out of school prior to the absence. The form is used for absences of three days or more. The forms are available from Lori Johns in the Main Office. The student completes the form by getting the appropriate signatures from their teachers. A parent signature is required. The form is then returned to their administrator for final approval and signature.

HOMEWORK REQUESTS

If your student is out of school for three or more days and you want homework, the best way is to contact your student’s teachers directly. Teacher phone numbers and email addresses are on our website at bearcreekhs.jeffcopublicschools.org. Some teachers also have web sites where students can access homework assignments.

InfoFinder i is Available to Parents

Jeffco parents can find bus route information online using the new InfoFinder i available through the district’s Website at:

http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/transportation/

InfoFinder i is a web-based program that allows parents easy access to their student’s bus stop and bus route information.
NOTICE REGARDING THE DISTRICT’S SECTION 504 PARENT GUIDE

The District’s Parent Guide to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Parent Guide") has been revised and updated. The updated Parent Guide is available on the District’s website at: http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/health/section504.html. Copies of the Parent Guide are also available in each school building and may be obtained from the principal’s office. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504") and the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities in any program receiving federal financial assistance. The Jefferson County Public School District is committed to ensuring compliance with Section 504 and the ADA. Accordingly, no discrimination against any persons with a disability shall knowingly be permitted in any program or practice in the District. The District further acknowledges that it has the responsibility to provide accommodations, adjustments, modifications, and necessary services to eligible student and other individuals with disabilities.

If you believe that your student with a disability has been denied an accommodation or service as a result of inappropriate weighing of available resources or if you have any questions or concerns related to Section 504 or the provision of appropriate services for your student with a disability, please do not hesitate to contact your student’s building principal.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURES

It’s time again this year, to start planning for cold weather and possible school closures. In cold weather, students should be dressed appropriately. It is sometimes difficult to get kids to wear coats and warm clothing to school. High school students complain about stuffing a large coat in a school locker, but every student should go to school prepared for inclement weather. You never know when a fire alarm will send kids outside. Stress wearing warm layers and shoes in order to be ready for an emergency.

Families should also have a snow closure plan. The district tries to give parents advanced notice of school closures, but the weather changes quickly and parents should have child care and alternative transportation plans pre-arranged.

When inclement weather is forecast, Jeffco Public Schools employees are already planning. A private weather service is consulted for the latest updates to weather radar and imaging. When snow starts to fall, the highway patrol and law enforcement agencies across the county are consulted. Jeffco’s own bus drivers and transportation workers serve as an additional resource regarding road conditions. The district makes every effort to decide and announce decisions to close schools before 6 a.m. Once a decision is made, a message will be sent to Jeffco families via phone, email, and text message. Parent contact information should be kept up-to-date through Jeffco Connect. Log on now, to make sure your information is correct. The local media will also be notified and social media updated. The district’s telephone hotline at 303-982-6600, and the school system website will also contain the latest information. School websites should be viewed throughout the day for changes to school-specific events.

When there is bad weather, the safety of students and staff is the number one consideration. The district makes every effort to make knowledgeable, informed decisions about school closures. Ultimately, parents are the primary protectors of their children and will need to decide what is best for them, regardless of any decision by the school district. The option to keep children home due to weather and road conditions is always at the parents' discretion and the school district understands and respects the decision. Parents can contact the school and arrange for an excused student absence.

Read the Jeffco Public Schools Alerts & Security page for additional information.
SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY

The State of Colorado passed a law in 2003 requiring public schools to provide parents and guardians with a statement about how they can access information regarding registered sex offenders in their law enforcement jurisdiction.

The sex offender registry provides the public with certain information on the whereabouts of sex offenders so that members of local communities may better protect themselves and their children from these known sex offenders.

In Jefferson County, parents and guardians can request the sex offender registry by contacting your local law enforcement agency. Registry information is released to any person 18 years or older residing or doing business in the law enforcement agency's jurisdiction. You can also check the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) website – http://sor.state.co.us – that contains a statewide list of certain high-risk registered sex offenders.

In addition, the Colorado Sex Offender Management Board publishes the School Resource Guide to Sex Offender Registration, including information about the list itself and facts about sex offenders. Access this link for a copy of the resource guide:

http://dcj.somb.state.co.us/home/resources

SAFETY MESSAGE FOR PARENTS

We are very excited about this school year and we want to ensure that our students have a wonderful and safe year. We are asking every parent to discuss safety with their child.

- Please talk to your child about safe behaviors. Instruct your child to never go anywhere, or accept anything from strangers. Tell them never to get in a car with someone unless they have your permission.
- Reinforce safe behaviors with your child and tell them to always be aware of their surroundings. If a stranger approaches your child, whether it is at school or outside of school, be sure that your child knows what to do: yell or shout, run away and immediately tell an adult.
- Stress to your child the importance of going straight to school and coming home immediately. If your student walks to school, please try to arrange a safe route with other students. Walk in groups of at least two.
- If your child is young, please teach them their home address and how to get in touch with you or another trusted adult.
- Make safety part of your everyday routine.

Knowledge about safety will help our students feel confident and ready to learn. We are looking forward to a great school year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the school.
THE COUNSELOR CORNER

Welcome back BEARS! The Bear Creek Counselors want to welcome students and parents to utilize the services we offer. BCHS Counselors are here to assist students with academic/educational, social/emotional and career/college/post high school planning. If we can be of assistance during the year, please contact us:

A-E  Kristen Kofoed  kristen.kofoed@jeffco.k12.co.us  (303) 982-8721
F-L  Gretchen Slaughter  gretchen.slaughter@jeffco.k12.co.us  (303) 982-0109
M-Ri  Joy Pearson  joy.pearson@jeffco.k12.co.us  (303) 982-5283
Rj-Z  Melanie Ryer  melanie.ryer@jeffco.k12.co.us  (303) 982-8777

Intervention Counselor  Allison Erwin  allison.erwin@jeffco.k12.co.us  (303-982-8647)

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

If you are needing resources around mental health, substance use, or emotional support for yourself or someone you know, options for help are listed here:

- Jefferson Center for Mental Health: 303-425-0300 or https://www.jcmh.org/
- Colorado Crisis Center: Available 24/7/365. 1-844-493-TALK (8255), Text TALK to 38255, https://coloradocrisisservices.org/
- Contact your student’s counselor or visit the Bear Creek High School website, counseling tab, for additional referrals
- Please visit the grade level counseling google classrooms for more information.

ACADEMIC/EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

If students are struggling, encourage them to utilize their Connections time, free period and teacher office hours on Fridays to get extra support. If they do not know how to access these resources, or need additional resources, they should check in with their teacher or counselor. TIP: Parents, utilize the Parent Portal and teachers’ websites to check assignments, grades, and attendance. Make sure your student has an organizational and calendar system they use to keep track of all assignments, tests, and due dates.

CAREER/COLLEGE RESOURCES

The Counseling Department recommends that families explore the resources available through Naviance. It is a web-based program used to investigate careers, to search for and apply to colleges, to sign up to meet with college representatives, to complete letter of recommendation forms, and to access scholarships. Counselors also use this tool to communicate information about college visits and scholarship opportunities. Naviance can be accessed at any time from the Counseling page of the Bear Creek website https://student.naviance.com/bearcreek Students log-in with Clever and use their regular Jeffco user name and password.

Need help staying organized as you plan for college? Check out this link: https://mappingyourfuture.org/collegereport/seniorcalendar.cfm

College NIGHT! ROAR (Regional Officers of Admission of the Rockies) is offering a Fall College Night at BCHS on Monday, October 18th from 6:30 – 8:30. There will also be additional support for FASFA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) completion.

FREE COLLEGE APPLICATION DAY$ are Tuesday, Oct. 19th – Thursday, Oct. 21st. Applications for colleges in Colorado can be submitted on this day for no application fee. For details: https://highered.colorado.gov/cofreeappdays

Financial Aid Workshops (Remember FAFSA opens October 1st, 2020) Please visit https://studentaid.gov/ for information about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and to complete the application.

Scholarships: Please view the information on scholarships through the Bear Creek High School Senior Google Classroom page. Please also schedule an appointment with your counselor with any questions about how to find scholarships and questions about application.

Testing

SAT TEST DATES  BCCHS School Testing (CEEB) Code: 061043
November 6, 2021
December 4, 2021
REGISTRATION DEADLINES  LATE REGISTRATION
October 8, 2021  October 26, 2021
November 4, 2021  November 23, 2021

Colleges and Universities in Colorado have become test optional as far as admissions for the fall of 22 school year but please contact your specific school’s admission advisor to determine if you need to submit a SAT Score. See your counselor if you need any further support concerning SAT scores.

SAT Test Dates, Registration, Test Prep, & Score Reporting online at www.collegeboard.org
ASVAB Testing at Bear Creek High School

October 19th in the morning, no classes that day. October 19th is for invited senior students only as an opportunity to earn their math and verbal graduation requirements. Future ASVAB test dates will be determined and posted. Please contact Melanie Ryer about additional questions concerning the ASVAB: melanie.ryer@jeffco.k12.co.us

PSAT/NMSQT Test at Bear Creek High School – 11th grade students Wednesday, October 18th, 7:15-noon.

Test fee: $18.00 to Ms. Shellhorn in the BCHS Financial Office. If you are F/R Lunch, the fee may be waived. There are only a few test spots still available so please contact Gina Shellhorn asap if interested in taking the exam.

The PSAT/NMSQT is a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT. It also provides students with the opportunity to qualify for the NMSQT (National Merit) scholarship program and gain access to college and career planning tools.

Advanced Placement (AP)

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams May 2022: updated information can be found on the BCHS website under counseling tab for test dates and information. Registration for the AP exams takes place this FALL for AP testing in May. Registration for the AP Exams runs from October 18th, 2021 - October 29th, 2021 at 2 pm for the tests to be given during May 2022 for this school year. Detailed registration information will be available on Monday October 18th through AP Classrooms and BCHS Website. Tests should be paid for by October 29th at 2 pm through Jeffco Connect or Ms. Shellhorn in the financial office. Please contact Joy Pearson with questions.

SEL UPDATE:

We are excited to announce our new prevention counselor, Ms. Erwin, to the team. She will be working with students on 504’s and social-emotional learning.

SEL quick tips-Questions to ask that build social emotional skills:

1) Self-Awareness:
   a. What are my thoughts and feelings?
   b. What causes those thoughts and feelings?
   c. How can I express my thoughts and feelings respectfully?

2) Self-Management:
   a. What different responses can I have to an event?
   b. How can I respond to an event as constructively as possible?

3) Social Awareness:
   a. How can I better understand other people’s thoughts and feelings?

4) Relationship Skills:
   a. How can I communicate my expectations to other people?

5) Responsible Decision Making:
   a. What consequences will my actions have on myself and others?
Now Hiring
Substitute Kitchen Workers

Feed Jeffco's kids!

Want to help in the kitchens but still be able to attend your child's field trip? Looking for a way to contribute one or two days a week, but not ready to commit full-time?

Consider being a substitute in our kitchens!

Pay is $15/hour - pick your schedule!

Call or Apply today!

303-982-6747
jeffcopublicschools.org/employment/jobs

Jeffco Food & Nutrition Services

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.