

"You don't always need a plan. Sometimes you just need to breathe, trust, let go and see what happens."

- **Mandy Hale**



Merrill News

May 16th
May 20th

International Festival

Thank you to all the parents who came and celebrated with us our annual festival. We take pride in our culture and diversity. Our students enjoyed representing the different countries as well as showing off their cultural talents.

Events

Band Concert
May 19th

Location: Auditorium
Time: 6:30

PTSA Meeting
May 19th

Location: Library
Time: 5:30



Mark Your Calendar

May 19th @ 6:30

Band Concert
Location: Auditorium

May 19th @ 5:30

PTSA Meeting
Location: Library

May 23rd 5:00-9:00

Restaurant Night
Location: The Kitchen Next Door

May 24th 9:15-10:10

Choir Concert
Location: Auditorium

May 30th

No School
Memorial Day

June 1st 8:30-10:30

8th Grade Continuation
Location: Auditorium

June 2nd 9:00-3:30

8th Grade Elitch Gardens

June 3rd Field Day

Last Day for 6th and 7th Grade
7:35-12:35

Free Bread!

Panera Bread is providing Merrill with bread and pastries every Monday morning. Please feel free to stop by and grab some delicious baked goods. *Special thanks to the Hands Up For Children Organization!*

No Bread May 30, 2016- Memorial Day Holiday

Hope Scholarship



Attached is a photo. "Teachers nominated students for either 'most improved' or 'academic achievement' to enter a competition to win a \$500 college scholarship. Nominees developed projects on the topic of water conservation and creative ideas to save water. Denver Water partnered with the Minority Enterprise & Educational Development program to choose the winning projects and award the scholarships. All participants worked so hard and should feel proud of their work! The winners were: Liam Homburger, Valeria Miramontes, Duke Tinsley, Hibba Haghegh, Spencer Hodas, and Annie Welch. Go Jaguars!

Advisement

In Advisement this week, students wrote letters to themselves reflecting on their school year, what they have learned, and how they have grown. These letters were sealed and are to be opened in a year. They also wrote advice to incoming 6th graders, focusing on tips for succeeding in middle school and things that they wished they knew when starting a new school.

After-School Programs

After School Program Spring Updates:

Fitness Bootcamp is back! Students interested in body awareness and agility and strength training should join this Wednesday after school experience. Spring session of Fitness Bootcamp begins on Wednesday, April 6th--3:45 to 4:45.

Spoken Word is an opportunity for students to share their voice loud and proud with a community of writers/performers in and beyond the Merrill School community. Students will come together every Friday starting April 8th from 3:45 to 4:45 to write, share, revise, and perform their original pieces. High school students and local SLAM competitors will join sessions to provide expertise and inspiration.

Staff Spotlight



Ms. Welsh is the 6th grade social studies teacher at Merrill. She grew up in Welches, Oregon and attended Portland State University. Ms. Welsh enjoys spending her time outdoors reading while enjoying a nice cup of tea.

Why did you choose to teach?

"I chose to teach because it is what makes me happy."

What are your hopes for your students this year?

"I hope they will learn to appreciate other perspectives and grow from each other."

Counseling Corner

The **9th Grade College Readiness Summer Camp** is sponsored through a partnership between Denver Public Schools and the Center for Urban Education at Metropolitan State University of Denver for entering 9th grade students and their families. The **9th Grade College Readiness Summer Camp** is aimed at strengthening student educational interest, motivation and

achievement that will lead to the development of a successful vision and plan for high school success, college access and degree completion. We seek participants from DPS 9th grade students, including Denver Charter Schools.

Program Choices:

Session I: June 13th – July 1st, 2016

Session II: July 11th – 29th, 2016

Deadline to Apply:

June Camp: Wednesday, May 4th, 2016

July Camp: Wednesday, May 4th, 2016

Notification of Acceptance: Wednesday, May 11th, 2016

Daily Schedule:

Monday through Friday

9:00 to 9:15 am: Check-in/Breakfast

9:15 am to 3:15 pm: Programs (including Lunch)

3:15 to 3:30 pm: Daily Reflections

Transportation: Public transportation passes will be provided daily to camp participants.

Please contact Ms. Barlow (Emily_barlow@dpsk12.org, 720-424-0608) for more information.

PTSA News



Next PTSA Meeting – Thu 5/19/16 – 5:30 in the library

Please join us for the next PTSA meeting. Agenda items to date:

- All In Celebration review and fundraising discussion
- Goal is to order the kiln at this meeting, install for fall use
- Need volunteers for financial audit over summer

Merrill Restaurant Night – Mon May 23rd 5:00pm-9:00pm

Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support Merrill Middle School. Come to

[The Kitchen Next Door](#)



658 South Colorado Blvd
Denver, CO 80246

[View Map](#)

303-757-0878

Let us know you can make it – [CLICK HERE](#)

50% comes back to Merrill in their 50 | 4U promotion!

This is our YEAR END Celebration, so let's make it a PARTY!

[Flier](#)

Spread the word on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Tell your friends and family to join us!

Please direct PTSA questions to <mailto:merrillptsa@gmail.com>

“ALL IN” Event Update

THANK YOU MERRILL COMMUNITY!

It gives me great pride to announce our 1st Annual “ALL IN” Gala was a HUGE success!

In a very short amount of time and with amazing results the “ALL IN” committee of the PTSA was able to secure a fabulous venue, received countless donations of food, beverages, and numerous amazing items and experiences that were auctioned off raising funds for the future needs of the Merrill Students and the school.

I am beyond excited to report that the 1st Annual “ALL IN” Gala raised approximately \$28,000.00!! An absolutely amazing accomplishment!!!

Thank you to ALL of our sponsors, everyone who graciously donated auction items, those who donated your time on the committee, your time at the event (setting up, breaking down, the AV crew, running around, etc.!), our key note speakers Mr. Stringer and Ms. Heba, our Teachers and Staff who attended the event, and the Merrill Community for all the support!

We are very excited and looking forward to the 2nd Annual “ALL IN “ Gala next year, we can't wait for you all to join us!

GO MERRILL JAGUARS!!!

Eric Fling

If you were not able to attend the party, you can still contribute. There are some fabulous items still available at ½ off:

- Cruiser Party
- Bowling with Ms. Pachan, Ms. Sommer and Ms. Zick
- Hiking with Ms. Brionna, Ms. Bergquist, and Mr. Roberts
- 4 DU Hockey Game Tickets
- 2 tickets to Comedy Works
- Open Water Scuba Class & Pool Training
- And of course - Merrill Donation

BUY NOW

Stay Connected



Don't miss out on what happens on a daily basis at Merrill. Follow us on [Facebook](#), Instagram ([MERRILL JAGUARS](#)) and twitter ([@merrill_jaguars](#)).

Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Students may arrive at school as early as 7:30 AM, and should be dropped off on Iowa, which is on the south side of the building. Students will walk from Iowa to our blacktop, where all students line up in the morning for school.

Students may be picked up in front of the school on Monroe at 3:35 PM. Please note that C3 parents are picking their students up on Monroe starting at 2:45. The parking lots on the north side (off Florida) and south side (off Iowa) are for staff only. Please do not use it to park. Thank you **Because we do not have supervision after 3:50, students MUST be picked up no later than 3:50 every afternoon. Thank you for your support.**

Also, please park along the sidewalk. FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN, NO DOUBLE PARKING

What's Up at the High Schools?

Each week we will highlight events happening at our surrounding high schools. We encourage our families and students to get out and support our community!

Shadowing and Touring: [CLICK HERE](#) to schedule a shadowing experience at South!

Sports Camp this SUMMER! Recognized as one of eight model programs for sports sampling in the United States, 2-4-1 Sports is proud to partner with Denver South High School.



Denver South's rich athletic tradition and commitment to multisport participation coupled with the proven model of 2-4-1 Sports Academy makes 2-4-1 Denver South a camp you won't want to miss. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information and to register!

Shadowing and Touring: [CLICK HERE](#) to schedule a shadowing experience at Thomas Jefferson High School

Sports



Page

Boys Baseball Team



Merrill's baseball team won their game 7-2 and are going to the CHAMPIONSHIP Friday, May 13th @ Roberts to play at 3:45.

We are very proud of our Jaguars and where they have come!

Stay tuned for next week's updates on the results of the game!

Washington D.C. Trip

Attention 6th Grade Parents and Guardians,

We have our next Washington D.C. trip planned for April 2017 for our current 6th and 7th Graders (who will be our 7th and 8th Grade students in April of 2017). No set dates yet, though we usually go mid-April. This is our first notice to begin planning and saving for the trip. The cost is estimated to run between \$1,500 and \$1,600 per student. Cost includes all airfare expenses, all hotel expenses, all meal expenses, - basically all expenses except souvenirs

Our last trip in April of 2015:

Day 1- Upon landing:

White House Visitor Center-
White House Group Photo Stop- Front Gate
Washington Memorial
WWII Memorial
Museum of American History
Lincoln Memorial
Korean Memorial
Hotel Check-in

Day 2

Arlington National Cemetery
Kennedy Gravesites
Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
Changing of the Guard
Iwo Jima Marine Memorial
National Archives
The Holocaust Museum
Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial
FDR Memorial
Jefferson Memorial

Day 3

U.S. Capital Tour
Library of Congress
Supreme Court
Mt. Vernon – George Washington Home Tour
African Slave and Servant Memorial
Alexandria Colonial Ghost Tour
Hotel

Day 4

National Museum of Natural History
IMAX – Titans of the Ice Age
National Gallery of Art
Air and Space Museum
Airport - Depart

The Registration Process does not open until the next academic year- 2016/2017. For now, this is just an initial notice to begin planning, and saving in order to join the trip.

We have an excellent working relationship with Worldstrides, and they have more information on their website- Worldstrides.com. Working with them we have always had safe, incredibly active, and fun trips to D.C.

Sincerely,

Tim Patterson

D.C. Coordinator/Visual Arts

timothy_patterson@dpsk12.org