

The 3 C's of life:
CHOICES, CHANCES, CHANGES.

You must make a **choice** to take a **chance** or
your life will never **change!**



ATTENTION PARENTS

May 23rd
May 27th



ELITCH GARDENS **June 1st 9:00-3:30**

On June 1st, our 8th graders will be going to Elitch Gardens. The fee is \$23, not including a meal. Students have the

option of taking a sack lunch from the school. Students must hand in the permission slip and fee to the Main Office no later than May 27th!

Events

Restaurant Night

May 23rd 5:00-9:00
Location: The Kitchen
Next Door

Choir Concert

May 25th 9:15-10:10
Location: Auditorium



8th Grade Continuation **June 2nd 8:30-10:30**

The day has come where your 8th grader will be moving on to a new chapter in their lives. Merrill would like to invite you to a formal Continuation ceremony, where we recognize the accomplishments and success

of your child. Please join us on June 2nd from 8:30-10:30 for this wonderful celebration. Once the ceremony is over, all 8th graders must leave the school. Parents please plan ahead for this. We hope to see you all!

Mark Your Calendar

May 30th
No School
Memorial Day

June 1st 9:00-3:30
8th Grade Elitch Gardens

June 2nd 8:30-10:30
8th Grade Continuation
Location: Auditorium

June 3rd Field Day
Last Day for 6th and 7th Grade
7:35-12:35

2016-2017 Elective and Signature Course Decisions

Our 6th and 7th grade students will be submitted their 2016-2017 elective and signature (enrichment) course interests this Wednesday. Please review the course offerings (LINKS BELOW) with your student and talk to them about what they are interested in taking.

<http://merrill.dpsk12.org/academics/elective-courses/>

<http://merrill.dpsk12.org/signature-courses/>

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!*

LAST DAY FOR BREAD MAY 23RD
No Bread May 30, 2016- Memorial Day Holiday

Broadway Jr. "The Little Mermaid"



Thank you to all our Broadway Juniors for their tremendous work! The students all had a wonderful time as all three nights were a huge success. Thank you to all the parents and families who supported our students. We are very proud of our Jaguars!

Thank You Ms. Horgan

We would like to thank Ms. Horgan for all the work that she has done with Broadway Juniors. Throughout the years, our shows were always a success and we have Ms. Horgan to thank for that! You have built many memories here at Merrill that will never be forgotten. We are going to miss you very much. You rock Ms. Horgan!!!

Shakespeare Festival



Two teams from Merrill participated in the DPS Shakespeare Festival on Friday, April 29th. Despite very wet, cold weather they performed amazingly, earning a blue ribbon for Merrill! Ms. Sommer coached the teams who performed scenes from a "Midsummer Night's Dream" and " As You Like It." Nice job Jaguars!

AVID Family Night



The AVID site team hosted the Spring Family Night for AVID students and families to celebrate the hard work these students have put in this year, as well as the strong support they receive from their families. There was good food, student awards, and lots of fun! Thanks for a great year, AVID students!

Most Memorable Moment at Merrill



Mel Horgan

"All three nights of The Little Mermaid, Jr. are a most memorable experience for me this year. I am so proud of these students. Each night, the majority of the students played a different part, having to learn songs, choreography and script to fit each of the characters that they played. When the Finale was coming up on Friday night, I wanted to put the whole musical

on pause, as I didn't want it to end. I am so thankful to have spent 26 years at Merrill. I will miss you all immensely!"



Jon Markowich

"My most memorable Merrill experiences have been watching my students become independent, confident, and proud learners!!"



Kate Hunter

"Last year in my 6th grade math class when the students were so highly engaged in a debate about one math problem – a student even stood up, put their fist to the table and said, "allright listen guys because I'm right about this..." It was one of the best debates I've ever seen and it was about math!"



Karen Pepper

"Yesterday I had a memorable experience taking some Merrill students over to Ellis to talk with the 5th graders who are coming next year. We went to ease their fears of coming to a BIG middle school and just to answer their questions. The first student to ask a question inquired, "How does one start some gossip? I want to be known as ferocious." Kendra, the one 8th grade representative, had a quick response – " You might not want to start any gossip, because it might not turn out how you want. Gossip usually leads to problems and it changes as people share it." I thought this was a great example of how kids learn and mature from 6th to 8th. This same student later on asked, " Do you have any classes about mythical creatures?" Andrew, one of the 6th graders responded, " Well, yes we study gods and goddesses in Ms. Hatch's class and that is sort of about mythical creatures." I was very impressed with the Merrill students that came with Emily and I yesterday – they were so articulate and had such a fun time."

Juanita MacKenzie

"Having the privilege of teaching the awesome 6th grade class!"

Parent Portal

1. TO CREATE YOUR PARENT PORTAL ACCOUNT:

Visit <https://myportal.dpsk12.org>.

Click the "Getting Started" tab at the top.

Follow the instructions and fill out the form on the left side to create your own account.

You will receive an email from the DPS Portal Team with a link to activate your account. Click the link to verify your email address.

2. TO SUBMIT YOUR ONLINE SCHOOL VERIFICATION INFORMATION:

Log into your Parent Portal account starting July 18, 2016 at <https://myportal.dpsk12.org>.

Recommended browsers are Firefox, Google Chrome and Internet Explorer 8.0, 9.0 and 10.0. Click the "Online School Verification" tab on the left side of the page, follow the instructions, and complete by Aug. 15.

Some changes can't be completed online and will require you to take documentation to the school. If you receive this prompt while completing the process, please gather the appropriate documents to complete verification during registration. This includes changes in address, names or guardians. You must go through verification for every student enrolling in a DPS school, just as you have done with the paper process in the past.

NOTE: *Updating your student's information online is not required. Paper forms are still available at all DPS schools, and you are welcome to complete verification at your student's school.*

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.



**Merrill Middle School/
PTSA**

[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!

[All In Planning Committee](#)

Meetings are scheduled this summer to plan for next years' activities. Join in the fun to build community, socialize, and help make Merrill better than ever! **Are you #ALLIN?**

Jun 15

July 13

Aug 3

All meetings will be held in the Community Room at 7PM at

Garlic Knot University Hills

2553 South Colorado Blvd

Denver, CO 80222

P: 720-542-3528

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

"ALL IN" Event Update

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!

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!



Sports



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Boys Soccer Information

Boys' soccer tryouts begin the first week back in August. Please make sure that your student has a physical on file. We encourage all parents to bring in a copy of their child's physical during registration.

Please visit our website for the 2016-2017 sports schedule.

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