

“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams.
Live the life you have imagined.”

-Henry David Thoreau



Just Another Reminder....

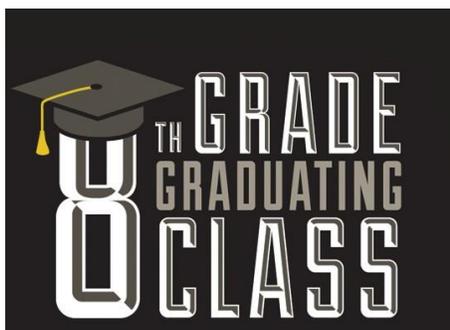
May 30th
June 3rd



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 in order to go!



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!

Events

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 & 7th
Grade
7:35-12:35

8th Grade Continuation Schedule

Date	Time	Activity	Notes
Tuesday, 5/31	11:00-11:30	Awards Assembly	Parents of students who will receive an award will be notified in advance—parents are welcome to attend
	11:30-12:30	Continuation Practice	Staff and Students only
	12:30-2:30	BBQ & Outdoor Activities	Staff and Students only
Wednesday, 6/1	Starting at 9:15	Load Buses for Elitch's	Staff will serve as chaperones—students need to have returned permission slip and money to Ms. Alex in the Main Office no later than May 31 st . Important Note: Students cannot stay at Elitch's after 1:30 without parent consent.
	Starting at 1:30	Load Buses for Merrill and return to school Students can immediately go home upon return to school; Ms. Wickham will have activity for those who are waiting for bus.	
Thursday, 6/2	Starting at 8:00	Continuation Reminders/Line-up	Street Sweeping will <i>not</i>

	8:30-10:00	(announcement will be made to go to auditorium) **No Period 2** (Soldner to cover Gerlits at 9:19; Fairbairn to cover Lemahieu at 9:19) Continuation & Reception to follow	be enforced from 8-12 from Florida and Iowa from Steele St. to Jackson St. Areas outside of these streets will follow regular street sweeping schedule. 8 th grade students go home immediately after reception
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2016-2017 Elective and Signature Course Decisions

Attention parents, for those of you who have not yet registered for your child's signature/elective courses, 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 TUESDAY, MAY 31st
No Bread May 30, 2016- Memorial Day Holiday

Most Memorable Moment at Merrill



Janessa Sanders

"I would say that the most memorable moment at Merrill was during teacher appreciation week when students made door signs and wrote notes for all the teachers. I loved the notes I got from students because they remembered so much from the school year and talked about interactions that we had had that I had forgotten about."



Emily Lupo

"My most memorial experience at Merrill was International Day. It was so enriching to learn from our students and quite moving to hear their real-life experiences. Although I have only been at Merrill for a month, the image of our students waving flags of all countries on stage created a sense of community for me, and I am excited for next year!"



Heba Nabhan

"My most memorable moment at Merrill was the Parade of Nations. It was absolutely breath-taking to see all the students lined up representing their countries or other countries. Our diversity was well represented that day from all the customs and acts that the students presented."

Staff Spotlight



Jenn Moss

Ms. Moss is one of our school secretaries. She grew up in Glendale, Arizona. Over the weekend, Ms. Moss enjoys hanging out with friends and family and camping while using their meat smoker. Yum! Palisade, Colorado is her favorite place because of the amazing scenery, not to mention all the orchards and wineries.

What are your hopes for our students this year?

"I hope they keep their minds open and are always willing to learn and try new things!"

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.

PTSA News



THE MERRILL COMMUNITY IS STRONG

The year is coming to an end and it has been a great year at Merrill and a great year for the parent, teacher and student community. We found out there was a need – when Merrill learned that we were losing Title 1 funding (over \$140,000 in the next two years) and the Merrill community came together to address it with our first annual Auction. We raised almost \$30,000 so there is still a need but we showed - most importantly – that we are a community and we came together... and that spirit continues!

New officers for 2016/2017

Becky Wiggins 303-589-4681 beckywiggins10@gmail.com

Emily Brouillette 720-394-9305 emily.s.brouillette@gmail.com

Amy Homburger merrillsecretary@gmail.com

Joe Welch merrillptsa@gmail.com

Please join the PTSA for next year – we need your involvement!

“ALL IN!” PTSA PLANNING OVER THE SUMMER TO KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING

Please join us over the summer to plan for Merrill community events as well as fundraising ideas

Garlic Knot community room 2553 S. Colorado Blvd....

June 15th, July 13, August 3 at 7:00 – 9:00

First official meeting September 15, 2105 6:15 in Library at Merrill

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

“ALL IN” Event Update

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

Bowling May 27th (1/2 price!)

Hiking May 28th (1/2 price!)

DU Hockey (1/2 price!)

LaJolla and Chicago luxury G2G getaways- reduced!

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?

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.

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