

CASTLE ROCK NEWS

November, 2021

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

Attendance Phone #: 281-5807

Please call the above number if your student is sick, will be tardy, or needs to leave school for an appointment (doctor, dentist, etc.). **If your student is sick, please call before 10:00 AM to report the absence.** If the absence is more than two (2) days, the Attendance Office can collect your student's assignments from their teachers and retrieve their books from their locker (**please call the school by 10:00 AM to request assignments**).



WORLD BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA – ONLINE

Castle Rock Middle School subscribes to World Book Encyclopedia – online. This is available for all of our students every day, any time. If you haven't had an opportunity to check out the online encyclopedia, I encourage you to go to the Castle Rock Library webpage (link found on our school webpage) and click on World Book online. The user name is CReagles and the password is eagles. If you are doing some research, this is a great resource for everyone and is available 24/7!

Castle Rock Website/ PowerSchool for Parents

We are pleased to have PowerSchool for Parents again this year. The PowerSchool program provides parents with secured Internet access to a wide array of their children's school data, such as district, school, and classroom news; student assignments, report cards and progress reports; transcripts, standardized testing results; and email links to teachers, counselors, and school administrators. Parents can access the program through any Internet connected computer. Please come to the Main Office if you would like to sign-up for this program.

CASTLE ROCK BOOK CLUB

This year, the Castle Rock library will again encourage reading and participation through book clubs. Castle Rock has two book clubs: One meets on Thursday after school at 3:15 PM, and the other meets on Wednesday at lunchtime. The book clubs will be reading different genres, and then we will create a variety of "teasers" for other students. Some of these teasers include book trailers, QR codes, and short book reviews. These will be posted to our Book Club blog, attached to the Library web-page, as we try to convince the students at the other middle schools to read our books. Those students that are participating have a Media Consent form for parents to sign as we will be posting images onto the blog. We are looking forward to reading some great books and having a fun time as we explore, create, and share with other students and other schools.



NURSE'S CORNER



Attention Parent/Guardians of students with Asthma: Montana State Law (20-5-420) allows capable students to carry and self-administer their asthma medication during school hours, before, after, and during any school activity, and anytime the student is on school property. In accordance with the law, appropriate paperwork is required for any student who plans to carry and self-administer their asthma medication. This includes high school students (State Law supersedes our district policy which does not require paperwork in order for high school students to possess their prescription medication). If your child plans to carry their asthma medication at school, please obtain the necessary paperwork from the Attendance Office. Appropriate paperwork is also necessary for students who plan to store their asthma medication at the Attendance Office, or who are in need of assistance from the Nurse to administer their inhaler. Please notify the school nurse of your child's asthma management plan for school and you will be provided with the appropriate paperwork.

FOOTBALL



The Castle Rock football teams each had successful seasons. The Castle Rock "A" team was 6-0, and 2-0 in the playoffs, beating Ben Steele in the Championship game to win the City Championship! The player's work ethic and dedication was second to none, and it showed with their daily improvement. The Castle Rock "B" team showed great improvement throughout the season, finishing with a record of 3-3. The teams played some outstanding football, and finished the season on a strong note. The Heights community should be proud of each member of the Castle Rock football team!

Coach Reichenbach



SOFTBALL

The 2021 softball season was a great learning year for everyone. We had 40 players of varying skill levels participate this season. Some were new to softball, and others had great knowledge of the game. With so many athletes, we were able to create three teams, but had the complication of only having two coaches. Being spread thin didn't stop anyone from enjoying our time together. Even though there were few "W's" in the win column, many goals were met, and so many improvements were made by each individual player including the first over the fence homerun on our newly fenced field. Coach Kochel and Coach Staub were very privileged to work with girls that had a variety of talents and experiences to bring to the game. We are very proud of how the girls kept competing and kept pushing to make themselves better softball players this fall. We wish the 8th graders good luck next year in high school and look forward to working with our younger athletes for another year or two.

8TH GRADE GIRL'S COMPETITIVE BASKETBALL

Eighth grade girl's basketball runs from October 11th till December 3rd. Games began on October 28th. We're looking forward to a great season! **GO EAGLES!**



7TH/8TH GRADE GIRL'S INSTRUCTIONAL BASKETBALL

The 7th and 8th grade girl's instructional teams had their first games on Saturday, October 30th.

BOY'S WRESTLING

The wrestling season has started and we have 18 boys and 2 girls out for the season. They are learning moves and working hard to improve every day. They are a great group of kids and we are excited to see how they progress throughout the season.



8TH GRADE REGISTRATION FOR SKYVIEW

High School registration will be held on February 15, 2022. Here are some important dates to be aware of (there will be more information to come as the dates get closer).

IMPORTANT DATES

End of January, 2022: 8th grade school counselor will visit with 8th graders about careers and high school course planning during History classes.

February 8, 2022, 6:30 - 7:30 PM: 8th grade parent meeting in the Skyview Theater.

February 15, 2022: High School registration.

If you have questions regarding High School registration, please contact Danette Cerise, Assistant Principal, at 281-5302, or Tina Boone, School Counseling Department Head, at 281-5308.

YEARBOOK

Great things happen daily at Castle Rock! Relive the amazing school year by purchasing a yearbook. **Yearbooks are on SALE now. The cost of the hardcover yearbook is \$20.**

You have two options to reserve your Yearbook:

1. **Order a yearbook online.**

To order online, visit the following link:

bit.ly/buy2021

2. Get a form from the Main Office, or see Ms. Parish or Mr. Chase. (If paying by check, please make payable to CRMS).

Order today to ensure you get your yearbook! We do have a limited number of yearbooks and once they are sold they are gone.

Do you like to take pictures? Are you attending one of the exciting and amazing activities offered at Castle Rock? Do you want to have a photo you took featured in the yearbook? Here is your chance. Photos you take can be shared directly to the Yearbook Staff in one of three ways:

1. If you love to snap those photos on your phone, download the free app on the App Store (iOs/Apple) or Google Play (Android). Just search for "Herff Jones eShare", then send pictures to the Yearbook Staff through the app. You just need to enter the School Access Code: CRMS2021

2. If you have a camera that takes professional looking photos, you can also submit photos online by using the link: <http://bit.ly/crms2021>

3. If all else fails and you still want to have photos considered for the yearbook, feel free to email them to:

parishm@billingsschools.org OR chaser@billingsschools.org

The time to order your yearbook is NOW! Students will receive their Yearbook on the last day of the school year.

Yearbooks are \$20... ORDER TODAY!



ILLNESS PREVENTION TIPS

There's no doubt about it: various cold and flu viruses have arrived! Castle Rock custodians and staff will continue efforts to keep our building as clean and sanitary as possible. To that effort, custodians use cleaning products that kill bacteria and germs. Teachers and staff members have appropriate bottles of cleaners and rags available to wash desks and high traffic areas of the classrooms as often as possible. Students are encouraged to wash hands, use hand sanitizer, stay home/go home when ill, and cover their coughs/sneezes. Below are general recommendations, excerpted from the Center for Disease Control website to control the spread of flu and other illnesses.

Take these everyday steps to protect your health:

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it; wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based rub; avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth; germs spread this way; and try to avoid close contact with sick people.

If you are sick with flu-like illness, the CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone, except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medication.) Keep away from others as much as possible to keep from making others sick. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Rd., Atlanta, GA, 30333.

UPCOMING DATES

(Sports events can be viewed on Castle Rock's website: castlerockms.com)

NOVEMBER

11/19 END OF SIX WEEKS
11/23 PROGRESS REPORTS VIEWABLE
ON POWERSCHOOL
11/23 Orchestra Concert, Gym, 7:00 PM
11/24-26 NO SCHOOL - HOLIDAY

DECEMBER

12/6 Boy's Basketball Begins
12/6 Choir Concert, Gym, 7:00 PM
12/9 Band Concert, Gym, 7:00 PM
12/23-1/2 NO SCHOOL - HOLIDAY

JANUARY

1/14 END OF SIX WEEKS
1/14 END OF 1ST SEMESTER
1/17 NO SCHOOL - PIR DAY
1/18 REPORT CARDS VIEWABLE
ON POWERSCHOOL



HEIGHTS EXCHANGE CLUB STUDENT OF THE MONTH



September

Emma Lamb

October

Emma Miller

Each month, classroom teachers nominate students in the 8th grade who display the Castle Rock principles of Respect, Responsibility, and Excellence. The selected students are honored at the Billings Heights Exchange Club's monthly meeting.

XX

Hints for Improving Grades

No matter how well we think we've done so far this year, we can always make progress, improving our knowledge and skills through continued effort. Continuous growth and improvement lies at the heart of life-long learning and the pursuit of excellence. It forms the basis of adopting a *growth mindset*.

As we enter the third, six-week grading period, parents may find it helpful to review the following hints that teachers at Castle Rock frequently recommend to parents who are looking for concrete ways to help their children improve their performance in all areas of school life.

1. **Get on PowerSchool.** Parents can access information about students' assignments using PowerSchool. Parents can use PowerSchool to view grades and attendance and to email teachers with more specific questions. Teachers can respond more thoroughly and completely to questions posed in an email than over the phone. Of course, telephones still work, as well. A message left for a teacher on their phone is another way for parents to get clarification about the information that their students are telling them. To sign-up for PowerSchool, please visit the main office for your user ID and password.
2. **Seek extra help.** Teachers start their work day at 7:40 am and end at 3:40 pm. They are available to offer extra help and to meet for makeup tests and assignments, both before and after school during this time. Students who want to visit a teacher in the morning may enter the school through the front doors and go to their teacher's classroom.
3. **Expect accountability.** It's natural for any of us to seek reasons for our difficulties in life in the world around us, rather than from our own choices and actions. Children and youth need us to help them overcome this natural shifting of accountability that often inhibits growth. We are here to help parents expect and encourage personal accountability needed for students to take control of their own learning. If your student tells you, "I forgot my books at school", we tell parents that our doors are open until 4:10 pm. If your student tells you, "I did my homework", we encourage parents to say, "That's great! Let's have a look at it together". In everything that our students tell us, we do them a great disservice if we don't expect to see their words expressed in visible actions.

If you have further questions or concerns about your child's progress in school, we encourage you to email or call your student's teachers or school counselor to set up a time for a parent meeting. Meetings can be scheduled either before or after school, except for Wednesday afternoons during PLC when teachers meet for professional development.

You can also visit the school website at <http://www.castlerockms.com> for access to email addresses, teacher blogs, electronic textbooks, the school calendar, student handbook, and many other useful resources and links for enhancing your student's academic experience at Castle Rock.



PARKING LOT AND STUDENT SAFETY

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. As we enter the month of November, we ask that you please take a few minutes and bring up some talking points with your child.

First, please take a moment and discuss with your child the importance of walking to and from school with a group. We ask our students to not walk home alone, and always report any suspicious activity they witness.

The second point I would like to bring up is please refrain from parking on the West side of Governors, and having your son/daughter cross Governors. As we are all aware, Governors is very busy at the start and end of school. We are currently working with the City of Billings and our district in finding solutions to the traffic congestion at our entrance and Governors. We are also asking that we keep all vehicles out of the bus parking lot during pickup and drop off times. As the busses are loading and taking off, we do not want any of our students crossing in the bussing area to enter your vehicle. The bus parking lot is located to the North of Castle Rock, is the closest parking lot to Castle Rock apartments, and strictly for busses only. We appreciate your understanding and compliance to this matter.

As we approach the winter season, we ask that you use caution when entering the parking lot. **Please ensure you are taking a right turn as you enter the parking lot.** At times, this entrance can become slick and we need you to use caution to ensure safety for our students.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to a wonderful start to the winter season. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call or drop in.

Sincerely,

O'Shean Moran, Principal
Castle Rock Middle School