



# ROADRUNNER EXPRESS

Foster Elementary  
Jefferson County Public Schools

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September  
2019

## Principal's Page

Dear Foster Families,

Time for Parent/Teacher conferences! Our conferences will take place October 8th and 10th from 4:00-8:00 PM by appointment. This is an important time where parents and guardians are able to connect with the teacher of their child to learn how students are doing in school both academically and socially. Please be sure to schedule an appointment with your child's teacher if you have not done so. Information will be sent from your child's teacher. We are also trying to keep parents in the know at a deeper level with progress reports and you should have received one in the last two weeks. If not, please check with the classroom teacher about this.

In terms of changes for Foster in the coming year, we continue to have meetings at the District level to determine what that will look like. After a meeting with our superintendent Dr. Glass, we are now set to present to the school board and ask for a vote on Foster becoming a Dual Language PK-8 Option school. This would include a change in boundary for our school creating two choices of neighborhood schools for our neighborhood students, Foster Dual Language K-8 or Secrest and Swanson, depending on where families reside and inclusive of transportation. We would not offer Traditional Kindergarten or 6th grade next school year, and then no longer offer Traditional at all starting in 2021-22. We want to give families time to make this transition and will help with this process along the way. Students in the historic Foster neighborhood will continue to have priority for enrollment at Foster through the choice enrollment process indefinitely. Our hope is to have the final decisions by November 7th so that families can plan accordingly.

At Foster, we celebrate Halloween with a parade through the school at 3:00 and then a small party in the classroom. This will take place in the afternoon of October 31st. If your child does not celebrate Halloween, we will have different activities in the library for them to do.

This is an event for students grades K-7, so we have some straightforward and non-negotiable rules that **must be followed**:

- Students will have a regular day until 2:45 when they will be allowed to change into costumes. **Do not have your child come to school in costume or with make-up** on as they will have to remove it.
- **Scary masks are not allowed.** If students bring a mask we feel is too scary for Kindergarten students, we will not allow the student to wear it. Ms. Shari and I are happy to let students know if a mask is ok or not ahead of time, so please be proactive.
- **No blood or fake weapons allowed.**
- **Adults are not allowed to dress in clown costumes.**

**Healthy snacks are encouraged** for the class parties. Please remember not to bring snacks with nuts as we have numerous children with **nut allergies**.

Halloween is a fun community event at Foster. Please be sure to follow the rules so that we can be sure everyone has a great time!

Have a great October! Leigh

Accountability Committee

We hope you will join us for our Accountability meeting which will be on Thursday, October 3rd at 3:00 in Leigh's office. We will continue to discuss the proposal of Foster becoming a Dual Language PK-8 school and give you some updates on school growth and data. Please join us!



October  
2019

- 2... 1 Day Count/Fun Run
- 4... PTA Mtg: 9-10AM
- 7-11... BookFair
- 8&10... Parent/Teacher Conf. 4-8PM
- 21-24... Outdoor Lab
- 25... NO SCHOOL Fall Break
- 28... NO SCHOOL PD Learning
- 30... Vision/Hearing Screenings



# Halloween at Foster

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# Kindergarten News

September has been a busy month! We completed our introduction to our Peace Promises. We launched our literacy rotations. And of course, we had a whole lot of fun at Field Day!

October will welcome our second units of the year:  
In Reading, we will focus on “Making Predictions and Learning Voice Print Match While Building Stamina.”  
In Writing, our focus will be seeing “Authors As Mentors” and exploring new forms of writing, including pattern books, lists and ABC books.  
In Math, we will extend the counting sequence to 20 and utilize strategies to count and build sets of 10 objects. Students will also build on their knowledge of numbers 1 through 10 to understand the numbers 6-10 as composed of a 5-group and some ones. We will also explore the attributes of triangles and hexagons.  
Finally in Science, we will begin our Unit: “Observing Patterns: Objects,” in which we will use our Five Senses to investigate and describe the physical properties of objects and discover the best uses for different materials.

We are looking forward to meeting with each of you during the week of October 7 for parent/teacher conferences!



Thank you for your support!  
*Ms. Melissa, Ms. Shannon, and Ms. Alma*



We want to thank you for coming to "Back to School Night" and "Field Day"!

In science, our students are working on learning about solids and liquids.

In writing, we are really working hard on learning our writing process and not giving up when we can't spell a word.

In math, our first graders are working on learning math workshop and starting to add bigger numbers. You can help at home by having your students practice counting. Our goal for the end of the year is to count to 120.

Keep reading at home and encourage your students to write. The more practice they have, the more confident they become.

We are also still working on our behaviors so be sure to check class dojo to see their daily behavior.

Thank you,  
Brie, Rosa and Melissa





# 2NDGRADE

Dear 2nd Grade Families,

The school year is off to a productive start! The students have a sound understanding of the routines, procedures, and behavior expectations. We will continue to refine these skills throughout the school year and gain an understanding of how we learn best in a calm and peaceful learning environment.

Throughout the month of September we will be working on sequencing stories during reading by using sentence starters such as first, next, then, after that, and last.

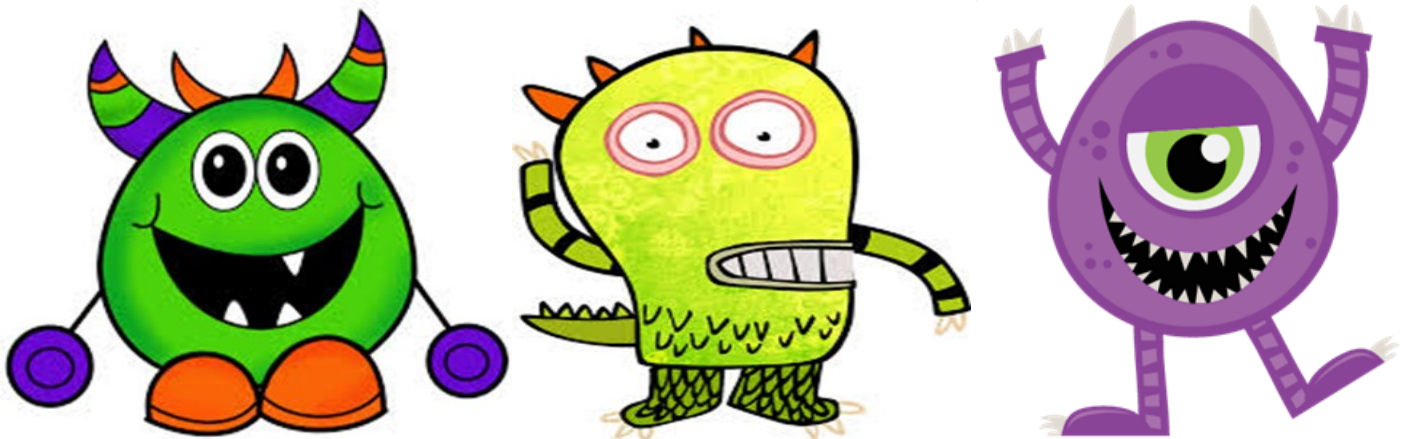
In writing we will continue to draft our personal narratives, familiarize ourselves with the writing process, and learn strategies that can help us when we get “stuck” and unsure of what to write about.

In math we will continue to add and subtract numbers within 20 using different strategies and learning to solve one and two-step word problems.

In social studies we are learning about 9 strategies we can use to help us solve small problems independently.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership! We appreciate it very much!

Sincerely, The Second Grade Team





Hello Third Grade families!

We are becoming procedure experts and we have gotten knee deep into learning! In Reading, we have been learning many comprehension strategies to help us become better readers. Some examples are: making connections to our background knowledge and questioning. We are getting ready to begin our unit that focuses on fiction text and characters in text. Throughout this unit we will discuss fiction story elements and characters (use evidence from the text to infer setting, problem/solution, character traits, feelings, motives).

In Writing, we have been discovering ways to use writing to help us learn. We call this Writing to Learn. The students are realizing that it helps them solidify their learning in every subject. Organizational tools we have been using are Thinking Maps. We have also been working on our Slice of Life (personal narrative) to help us understand the writing process and all of its steps. Next, we will work on figurative language and write some poetry.

In math we have been plugging away at our multiplication strategies (equal groups, repeated addition, arrays, and skip counting. We have focused on multiplication problems involving 0-5, 9, and 10. We have been learning about the properties of multiplication (commutative, associative, distributive, identity and zero), and word problems involving multiplication and division.

Please study for at least ten minutes at home nightly to learn multiplication facts by heart. This is so important to prepare them for the rest of third grade and moving on into fourth and beyond. Students are expected to be masters of multiplication by the end of 3rd grade. In Science, we are watching our caterpillars grow into butterflies and will soon see them fly away while studying Life Cycles of plants and animals.

We are so excited to get to know your children more and more each day, and get to know you more as well. Please feel free to ask us questions or volunteer some time in the classroom!

Thank you!  
Ms. Nikki, Ms. Paola, and Ms. Whitaker





# 4TH GRADE

Happy October! The students are finally settling in to 4<sup>th</sup> grade and working hard on our curriculum.

October will be a busy month in 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

In **Reading** we are working on comparing literary texts with a focus on character traits.

In **Writing** we are working on writing fictional short stories.

In **Math** we are working on multi-digit multiplication. Please make sure your child is practicing their multiplication facts every night! The expectation in 4<sup>th</sup> grade is that students have mastered their multiplication facts by the end of the school year.

In **Science/Social studies**, we learned how to be a good digital citizen in the online world. Students also learned about the solar system and created augmented reality models to showcase their knowledge. Next, we are learning all about energy.

Please remember to visit our classroom Class Dojo frequently for up-to-date information about what is going on during the week, field trips and important updates. Some students still do not have headphones, so please be sure to check with your child to see if they need a pair for school.

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR OCTOBER

Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>: Fun Run

Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>: Parent/Teacher Conferences

Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>: Halloween (more information to come)

-Prof. Stephanie and Prof. Vicky



# 5th Grade

Hello 5th Grade Families,

Our students have been working hard this first full month of school. We are very excited to see their hard work paying off. We hope your students have been sharing with you their knowledge of Colonial America and equivalent fractions. We have also started our first science unit around students investigating how physical properties can be used to separate simple mixtures. We will also be exploring characters in fiction texts.

As always, please continue to foster your student's love of reading by encouraging them to read at home, discuss books that they may be reading at school or home, and take trips to the library to gather new reading materials. Also, the Jeffco Public Library has an amazing set of digital books that can be easily accessed with a library card.

Here is an overview of the units we are currently working on. Hopefully students are coming home and sharing their new learnings with you.

Math - Addition and subtraction with decimals

Science - Changing physical properties

Writing - Crafting compelling narrative stories

Reading - Comparing and contrasting characters across different genres

## **Upcoming Important Dates:**

October 2nd - Fun Run

October 8th & 10th - Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 25th & 28th - Fall Break (No school for students)

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher.

Tiffany Alvarez (Traditional) - [tiffany.alvarez@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:tiffany.alvarez@jeffco.k12.co.us)

Kristin Steele (Dual - English) - [kristin.steele@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:kristin.steele@jeffco.k12.co.us)

Julie Cole (Dual - Spanish) - [julie.cole@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:julie.cole@jeffco.k12.co.us)





# middle SCHOOL

My name is Nicole Head, and I am excited to introduce myself to Foster's families as the Middle School Counselor.

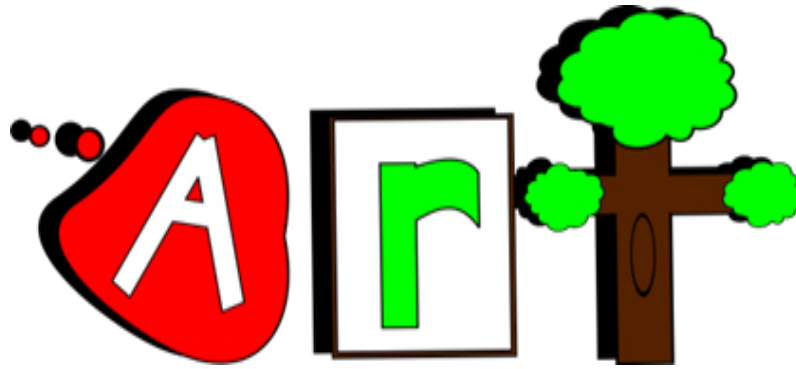
I truly love working in middle schools. For many years, I served as a middle and high school English and Social Studies teacher.

I am here to support both you and your students as they make the transition into middle school and to be their best selves while at school. That entails everything from staying on top of grades to building productive friendships and anxiety management strategies. Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have about your student.

Another exciting part of my position is that I will be introducing Individual Career and Academic Planning (ICAP) lessons to your students. Throughout the year, we will take a look at our learning styles, explore career options, discuss money literacy, work on meaningful goal setting, and more! The goal is for students to see themselves in a postsecondary role that motivates them to do their best while they're in school and to push past challenges so that they can meet their goals. If you have any expertise in any of these areas, please reach out!

Nicole Head  
Middle School Counselor  
Foster K-8





It's already September and Art is in full swing. Our Art hallway (the Foster Art Gallery) is up and there is some amazing artwork. If you get a chance to peek, I highly recommend it.

This month is somewhat of a continuation of last month, reviewing the elements of art as well as introducing new vocabulary and artistic methods to our Foster students.

For Middle School students

We still have plenty of room for our Washington D.C. trip in May. I am currently working on some fund raising ideas. If you have any question please feel free to contact me here at Foster.

Thank you,  
Mr. Jesse

[Jesus.Diaz@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:Jesus.Diaz@jeffco.k12.co.us)



# *Music Notes*

In music class we are working on becoming great ensembles this first semester. Teamwork is our focus to develop and foster community within each class. Students are starting to work using our Orff instruments. Older grades are finding technical challenges and lower grades are working on developing good instrumental technique.

Did you know that they are called *Orff* instruments because they are named after the famous composer Carl Orff? He designed the instruments after taking a trip to Africa where he was intrigued by the African Balafon-or xylophone. He returned to his home in Germany and designed the Orff instruments based on those from Africa. We have used them in schools ever since!

Younger students are experiencing movement and song. They are learning to move and create in their own way in the space. They are building confidence in singing alone and with others.

Looking forward to a great musical year!

Ms. Bequette





## FitBits: News from the Foster P.E. Department!

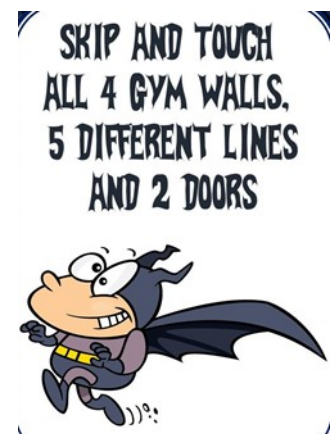
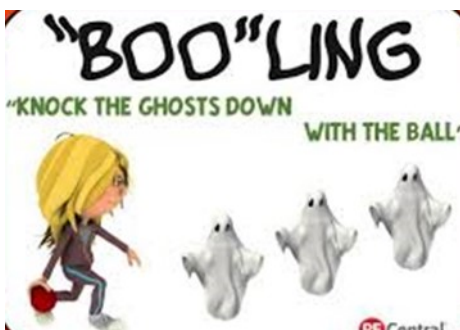
August and September really flew by here in the gym with students completing units in collaboration, routines (rules and procedures) and beginning fitness and nutrition that will last the remainder of first trimester.

Fifth grade students will receive their Fitnessgram test scores with report cards at the end of the trimester, as always, these test scores are solely used for goal setting and program planning purposes (never grades!).

Finally, we are lucky to be hosting a student teacher from Metro State University in October! Mr. Mikel Hottendorf has volunteered for our field day events before and will be co-teaching with me for 8 weeks in the gym. Feel free to come in and meet him during the second half of the month.

Don't forget our PTA fun run on October 2nd, it's going to be a blast!

Ms. Sammy Chumacero      Physical Education





## From the Library



Digital Citizenship topics will be addressed throughout the year to support students in the safe use of technology. The topic for August was Use and Care of Technology. Teachers and staff addressed this with students as devices were distributed. Students in fifth, sixth and seventh grade classes reviewed the district's Technology Use Agreement with a focus on caring for devices according to our school based agreements. Students in grades K-4 were instructed by their teachers regarding how to care for their devices.

This month's digital citizenship topic is **Digital Footprint & Identity**. Students will consider the benefits and risks of online sharing and explore how a digital persona can affect one's sense of self, reputation, and relationships. If you would like to address this topic as a family, this resource may be of help.

**Family Activity:** Digital Footprint & Identity [English](#) [Spanish](#)

Additional resources related to Digital Wellness and Digital Citizenship may be found at [www.common sense media.org](http://www.common sense media.org).



Our fall book fair will be held in Foster's library the week of October 7-11. This year Scholastic has added a new feature to the fair. Families may place funds on a Scholastic eWallet; which allows students to visit the book fair during the school day, make their selection and "pay" with funds you have provided. After the fair, any unused funds will be returned to families. More information on this new feature will be sent to families as we get closer to the fair. If you are interested in assisting with the fair (set up, break down, helping during the fair, etc.), please contact us at [carla.coverdell@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:carla.coverdell@jeffco.k12.co.us) to let us know when you are available.

### Gifted Education



Goal setting for Advanced Learning Plans will be set and/or shared at Parent Teacher Conferences (10/8, 10/10). Families of identified gifted students will be given an opportunity to share in the planning process with teachers. Feel free to reach out to your child's teacher to discuss needs and strength areas to be involved in the planning process. During the school year, teachers will provide periodic progress monitoring comments to families. If you have questions related to ALP goals and interventions your child needs or is receiving, please chat with teachers. You may also reach out to our GT Building Liaison/Leader for resources and support ([carla.coverdell@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:carla.coverdell@jeffco.k12.co.us)).



JEFFERSON COUNTY ASSOCIATION  
FOR GIFTED CHILDREN

The Jefferson Association for Gifted Children (JAGC) provides leadership and support to families and educators of advanced (gifted and talented) young people in Jefferson County. Check out their website to learn more about resources and other opportunities to connect with other families. Foster Elementary is looking for an ambassador to help support our families. If interested, please contact Carla Coverdell in the library.  
[JAGC Website](#)

To find out more about Jefferson County Public Schools Gifted Education programming, visit their website at [https://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/programs/gifted\\_talented](https://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/programs/gifted_talented). You will find information related to the Gifted Center application process, parent information nights, and a wealth of other resources to support and encourage your family.





Hello Families!

Just a few things to consider now that we are approaching the cooler weather months:

Please always dress your child appropriately for the weather, we want our kids to be comfortable while in the classroom as well as able to go outside for recess if the weather is cold.

Flu season is coming! Many doctor's offices have flu shots available beginning the first few weeks of October for both kids and adults. Many pharmacies have flu shots available for a small fee. Flu shots and immunizations are one of the most important pieces to keeping our community healthy!

JCPH is offering three free/low cost immunization clinics on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

For more information visit [https://www.childrensimmunization.org/uploads/ShotsforTotsandTeens\\_3ClinicFlyer\\_ENG\\_SPA\\_-2019.pdf](https://www.childrensimmunization.org/uploads/ShotsforTotsandTeens_3ClinicFlyer_ENG_SPA_-2019.pdf)

Outdoor Lab is this month for all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Please only send medications that **are not offered at Outdoor Lab**. If you have questions about outdoor lab medications please feel free to call or email me at [hmulholl@jeffcoschools.us](mailto:hmulholl@jeffcoschools.us)

Hearing and vision screening will be on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure your student attends school that day so we can get them checked. We need volunteers for this screening, if you are available at all on October 30<sup>th</sup> please either email or call me.

As always, if I can be of any assistance to anyone in our community, please feel free to contact me!

Holli Mulholland –Health Aide

