



Una escuela bilingüe con énfasis en STEM  
A Dual Language STEM School

# ROADRUNNER EXPRESS

**Foster Elementary**  
Jefferson County Public Schools

Office 303 982 1680

Fax 303 982 1679

**November  
2019**

## *Principal's Page*

Dear Foster Families,

Over the last year the Foster community has held many conversations and community meetings, written newsletter articles and even conducted a survey around moving toward becoming a Dual Language K-8 option school. At the Jeffco Board of Education meeting on November 7th, the Board of Education voted unanimously for Foster to become a Dual Language Option school beginning with the 2020-2021 school year.

Next year Foster will offer dual language programming for grades K-8 and traditional programming for grades 1-5. Starting with the 2021-2022 school year, Foster will offer only dual language programming establishing a dual language option school. Students living in the historic Foster boundary will have priority in the lottery for the Foster dual language program indefinitely, depending on abilities in Spanish and space available. We will work together as a community as we make this transition.

**Enroll Jeffco**, the district's choice enrollment system, opens and closes earlier this year. You can access the system and school finder through this link: <https://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/schools/enrollment/enrolljeffco>

**If you have a child going into PK, Kindergarten or 6th grade next year, you will need to access the Enroll Jeffco system and indicate what your school of choice is for your child.** Students in the Dual 5th grade will be rolled into Dual 6th at Foster unless parents indicate otherwise in the Enroll Jeffco system. Students in our **Traditional 6th grade** will also need to utilize Enroll Jeffco to be able to select a middle school for your child for next year.

**Here are the timelines:**

**December 10th** - Round 1 Opens

**January 15th** - Round 1 Closes

**Lottery Offers sent to families:** January 28th

It is very important to meet these deadlines as Foster does not have any wiggle room around them. The school finder tool is great to use to find information about different schools and programs. Here is the link for that: <https://enrolljeffco.force.com/Find/s/>

See the attached flyer for opportunities to see the dual language program in action and also share it with friends you feel might like to join next year. It is a wonderful opportunity for others who are looking for a bilingual, biliterate opportunity for their child.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I hope you all have a wonderful December.

Leigh Hiester  
Principal

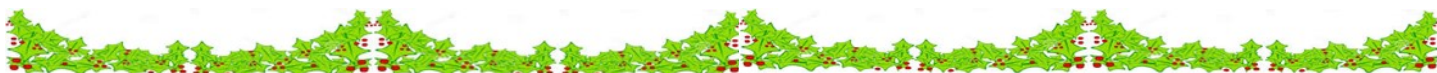
### **Accountability Committee**

We hope you will join us for our Accountability meeting which will be on Thursday, December 12th 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!

**December  
2019**

13 . . Student Assessment Day

23 - 1.06.20 . . NO SCHOOL  
Winter Break



# Kindergarten

November was a very busy and short month. We wrapped up our Social Studies unit, History: Comparing my story to yours, and we enjoyed learning about each other through our time lines.

In reading, we enjoyed comparing different versions of the same text. We learned about story structures (beginning, middle, end). We were also able to identify and learn about characters and setting. One thing we will continue is with prompting and support retell a known story.

The unit in Writing, Authors as mentors, showed us that there are many forms of writing such as; pattern books, abc books, and lists. It has also taught us active listening strategies, such as taking turns in conversation, avoiding interruptions to the speaker and paying attention.

In math, we learned to count to 20 and organizational strategies to make sure each item is counted only once. It also gave us an introduction to addition and subtraction as we learned that a quantity can be changed by adding more to it or by taking some away from it.

Please remember to send your child with an appropriate coat. Students will be going outside unless it is extremely cold.

We hope you have a wonderful break with your family.

*Ms. Melissa, Ms. Shannon, and Ms. Alma*





Hi Everyone!

Your children are learning their 1st grade routines better and better each day! We are moving away from Kindergarten and fully into first grade! Halloween was so much fun! Thank you for your help with the class parties!

We had an amazing time at our Field Trip to the Children's Museum. Thank you to all the parents that came to chaperone.

In reading we are working with each of your children in small reading groups. We are also working on reading strategies such as prediction and **making opinions with the whole class.**

In writing we are continuing to write our personal narratives. **In English or Spanish language development we are working on retelling a story.**

In Math, we are continuing to add and subtract numbers and solve word problems. Please practice counting forward and backward to 120 with your children.

In Social Studies we are working on traditions and holidays.

We hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving break!

Ms. Rosa, Ms. Brie





# 2NDGRADE

Dear Second Grade Families,

We are doing great in second grade! Your students are growing and learning and continuing to practice their Peace Promises! These promises are such an important part of our day and help your children understand that their actions affect our whole community. We are growing each day and continuing to develop an understanding of responsibility, respectfulness, kindness, focus and safety in your children! We continue to use Class Dojo to support this learning.

- In Reading: we are working on comparing and contrasting books and characters. We have been using thinking maps to do this work!
- In Writing: we have finished writing poetry and will work on personal narratives a bit more, before moving into non-fiction writing and research.
- In Math: we are developing our knowledge of two-digit addition. We have completed Unit 2 which was working on writing numbers to 1000, understanding greater than and less than, and place value. Remember, by the end of second grade we need to be able to add and subtract 3 digit numbers! We have just started our Geometry Unit where we will be learning about shapes and their attributes.
- In Social Studies: we have finished our Geography Unit but we will continue to incorporate maps in all of our units.

In Science: we have begun a problem based learning unit around habitats. Students will be using the inquiry process to learn about different habitats in the world, critiquing the Denver Zoo, and designing an ideal animal habitat. Thank you to everyone that volunteered for our Denver Zoo trip, we couldn't have done it without you!

Thank you for sharing your children with us and we look forward to the next month in second grade!

-Ms. Hollie and Ms. Elena





Hello Families,

We wanted to say a quick thank you to all the families for supporting the 3rd grade team in the following ways:

- Providing snacks for the classroom
- Providing paper towel donations
- Volunteering during the Halloween celebration
- Providing treats for the Halloween celebration

**General-**Please make sure your child has the **iPad fully charged at school each day**. We rely on technology to complete many of our daily activities.

**Reading-**We are in the middle of our unit on nonfiction text. The focus of this unit is for students to use non-fiction text features and common structures of main idea and supporting details. They will also understand that not all ideas or features offer the information necessary to determine the main idea. Students will continue to practice and strengthen their comprehension strategies. We will use the skills we learn in reading to support our learning in writing and science.

**Writing-**This writing unit has the students continuing to work through the writing process: prewrite, first draft, revision, editing, and publication. Students will be working through the writing process while creating informative and explanatory pieces.

**Science-**We have been learning about Earth's materials throughout our science unit.

This includes:

- Erosion vs. weathering
- Climate change
- Rock cycle
- How soil is formed

We have explored the following questions:

How are the materials on Earth's surface changing?

How do Earth's materials break down and build up on the surface of the Earth?

**Math-**Our math unit has focused on telling time to the nearest minute, solving elapsed time word problems, representing data on a graph and interpreting data from graphs. We will continue practicing our multiplication fact fluency.

**The Culmination of Learning-**Students will take on the role of a city planner. Students will:

- Research and learn about erosion
- Design a new playground space that addresses erosion and weathering
- Math will be incorporated by having students provide measurements for their new park and providing the area of the proposed park
- Reading will be incorporated by having students select text (erosion, weathering, to support their plans for the park

Writing will provide the students with the opportunity to write a report about their research, create a proposal for city council or to create a poster board to present.



Thank you,  
The third grade team



## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade News!

We hope you all have a relaxing Thanksgiving break! The next three weeks will be filled with a lot of learning in 4th grade.

### Testing

As we approach the middle of the school year we will be having a few important tests.

-On Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> we will have our mid-year Flex Day. Students will come in by appointment to take their reading test(s) (DRA/EDL)

-We will be giving the mid-year MAP Language Arts and Math tests the weeks of the 2<sup>nd</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> (students will take Language Arts English and Spanish and one Math test). We will share the results of these tests as soon as possible.

### We are Learning:

Reading: Main Idea and Theme

Writing: Persuasive writing (our first time writing 5-paragraph essays!)

Math: Division

Social Studies: The Impact of Place on People

4th grade Dual Team



# 5th Grade

Hello 5th Grade Families,

Students will be taking the mid-year MAPS assessment in December before we go on Winter Break. They will take a math assessment and a reading assessment in English, and students in the Dual Language Program will also take a reading assessment in Spanish. We will send the exact date(s) home once we have the MAPS date scheduled. We will appreciate your support in motivating your student to do their very best!

Reminder that there is an Assessment Day on Friday, December 13th. Look for a note in your student's Friday folder with details.

As always, please reach out with questions.

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)







## English Language Arts

Mrs. Vanessa Gonzalez [vagonzal@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:vagonzal@jeffco.k12.co.us)

Hello all, I hope you are all staying warm!

When we return in December we will start unit 4 and It will be a writing unit.

6th grade will be focused on Argumentative Commentary: individuals/events or ideas.

7th grade will be focused on Argumentative: Consumer Product Review and or/Researched based Essay. Please watch for the tight deadlines. Most of the final projects are due by the end of the quarter (unless otherwise posted) 12/20/19 before break. We will have a school wide assessment day on December 12, 2019, so if your student has a D or F grade, missing, late work or 2nd chance assignments, please have them see me on that day at 8:30 am. I will set them up and they will have 1 week to catch up, before final grades are posted for Q2. I have started using a digital doc. for their monthly homework expectations and I have been checking their planners daily in class. I hope the new posting style is helpful.

To be fully prepared and ready to learn in Language Arts students must bring:

Chromebook

Paper/ journal for note-taking and in-class work

pencil/pen

folder or section in a binder to keep needed papers

Planner

Homework

Please remind your student that kindness goes a long way! Do what's right and do your best!

I will miss you all over break and I look forward to seeing you in December! I love you all!

Have a great break!

-Mrs. Vanessa

## Spanish Lang. Arts

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Now it is time to come back ready to do the best we can at school.

6th grade: Students will engage in inquiry, tapping into the funds of knowledge to uncover traditional oral storytelling from past generations, as well as myths and legends that might be passed on to their families/cultural backgrounds. Students then can either find or create an appropriate text, scene or script to reenact an event or embody a person via a *declaration*, which is itself a revered tradition in Hispanic countries and communities around the world.

7th grade: The students will try to work in a travel agency and promote the country they choose. The goal is to know in depth what they are going to offer to their public. Traveling to other places is an opportunity to experience the culture, the language, and even the politics and government of people who are probably unfamiliar.

Please, take the time to check your students' planner daily if you can. The students are writing down assignments, homework and other important events in my class.

Thanks for all your support.

Have a great time, Ms. Vale





## Math

Michael Chavez [michael.chavez@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:michael.chavez@jeffco.k12.co.us)

The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter is amongst us that will run from 10/15/19 til 12/20/19.

I have had the privilege of meeting many families throughout the year, and hopes this continues til the end of the year.

6th grade= Operations with whole number and fractions.

7th Grade= Modeling with expressions and equations and inequalities

Please be sure you are checking their daily planner to see what assignments they have for the week

Enjoy the upcoming days til Thanksgiving and Christmas

Thanks, Michael

## Science

.Ms. Nidya Caviedes [nidya.caviedes@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:nidya.caviedes@jeffco.k12.co.us)

I hope you all have wonderful Thanksgiving Break! When we come back we will be doing the following:

For 6th grade we will continue to learn about ecosystems and all the factors involved in the ecological balance.

In 7th We will learn the systems of the human body by differentiating the function of each organ and emphasizing the importance of eating healthy to maintain our health.

## Social Studies

Mrs. Carissa Soto Rodriguez [carissa.sotorodriguez@jeffco.k12co.us](mailto:carissa.sotorodriguez@jeffco.k12co.us)

I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving Break! When we come back in December we will have three weeks left before the end of 2nd quarter.

6th Grade: We will be beginning our second unit of the year, *Economic Success and Political Change*. In this unit we will be focusing on the purpose of government, policy and opportunity cost.

7th Grade: We will continue our 2nd unit, *Resources, Trade, and Profit*. In this unit students will become economic thinkers and study the effects of local and global supply and demand on local economies.

We will have a school wide assessment day on December 12, 2019, so if your student has a D or F grade, missing or late work, please have them see me on that day at 9:30 am.

Current Event Homework Assignment Due Dates:

December 6th

December 20th

6th Grade needs to focus on the Western Hemisphere and 7th grade on the Eastern Hemisphere.



## Arvada High School Activity

With the beginning of 2nd quarter we've started a new adventure at Arvada High School with students attending enrichment classes. The middle school students choose classes that they were interested in and have the opportunity to collaborate with students at the high school.

Here are the classes students are participating in this quarter:

Theatre with Ms. Carissa  
Chess Team with Ms. Nidya  
Reading and Writing Society with Ms. Vanessa  
Honors Spanish with Ms. Valentina  
Mathletics with Mr. C

## Counseling Center

Ms. Nicole [nicole.head@bvsd.k12.co.us](mailto:nicole.head@bvsd.k12.co.us)

Happy Fall!

The mental health team at Foster is excited to be offering psychoeducational lessons on Wednesdays during electives. We will cover topics ranging from gossip to grief and friendship. I encourage you to talk to your student about their Wednesday lessons and to reach out to me with any questions, comments, concerns, or topics you'd like us to cover.

During November, the middle school team and the counseling center will be working towards helping our students develop and practice the skills needed to be successful students. We will be strongly encouraging planner use and organized binders, lockers, etc...

For our ICAP (Individual, Career, and Academic Planning) curriculum, I'm looking forward to diving in with your students on learning styles and how they can use their strengths to set meaningful goals, manage high expectations of learning, and better focus while in class.

Parents/Guardians: Thank you for your support in checking IC to help your student succeed. Please know that teachers are being asked to put a "Missing" into their gradebook when an assignment due date has passed and they don't have the completed assignment. This will impact your student's grade. We do this because it's the most effective way for us to communicate to your student that they should be noticing that missing assignment and taking care of it. Every Monday, your student is asked to check their grade in Infinite Campus and record any missing assignments in their planner.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions/concerns!

Nicole Head





The students at Foster Elementary have been busy creating some great artwork, as well as learning about the elements of art.

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are busy learning about portraits what makes up a portrait.

3<sup>rd</sup> grade is learning how negative and positive spaces are used to interact with one another to create a work of art.

4<sup>th</sup> grade is busy using non-traditional materials to create a personalized shield.

5<sup>th</sup> grade is also learning how to create art using everyday materials.

Middle school is learning how to use value and scale drawing to create a large self-portrait (perfect for hanging in a great hall or the living room).

Middle school parents, we still have a lot of room for our Washington D.C. trip!

Thanks for all you do!

Mr. Jesse





## Fit Bits: News from the Foster P.E. Department!

The end of first trimester is approaching and students have been busy in the gym continuing their study of fitness concepts including fitness assessment, goal setting and understanding the importance of an active lifestyle. Students will continue their health focus as we enter our nutrition units in second trimester.

Check out the [myplate.org](http://myplate.org) website for a preview of the nutrition information we will be covering during class and I encourage you to practice identifying food groups and looking at nutrition labels with your student.

Finally, I am looking for pictures of Foster students, families and staff doing physical activities on their free time for the "Roadrunners in Action!" bulletin board. You can drop a hard copy in my box in the lounge or feel free to email them to me at [schumace@jeffcoschools.us](mailto:schumace@jeffcoschools.us).

Stay healthy, stay happy!

Ms. Sammy Chumacero







# Health Room

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.

We have a limited quantity of warm knitted hats and some gloves for students in needed.

Please let us know if your student is in need of some cozy outerwear.

Flu season is here! 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 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)

We could use some gently used clothing donations. Many young students sometimes need a change of clothes throughout the school day. We could use pants in small sizes (6, 7 and 8) to help our students in their time of need.

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

Holli Mulholland –Health Aide





**Reading Challenge Due: January 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Turn in your checklist by the due date for a chance to win a prize!**

Read a book about a winter sport.

Read a book about a holiday that you don't celebrate at home.

Read a collection of short stories to celebrate National Short Story Day on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

What is something that you want to learn more about in the New Year? Read a book on that topic to get a head start!

Read a book by an author who has a first or last name that starts with the same letter as yours.

Read a book of your choice.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Healthy Families Share Important Characteristics

Families come in all shapes and sizes: single parent, blended families, domestic partnerships, or any number of combinations. In fact, it's nearly impossible to define a "normal" family. Regardless of their makeup, healthy, strong families share certain attributes.

### Healthy families:

- Communicate openly
- Adapt to life changes and stresses
- Have clear responsibilities
- Spend time together regularly
- Are part of the community

Are committed to each other and love each other unconditionally



Effective communication, respect, and acceptance are the building blocks of a healthy family. A healthy family also has clear limits and disciplines without using shame or guilt. Every family has times of conflict. There are bound to be disagreements. Families that learn to resolve conflicts in a positive, supportive manner can turn such challenges into an opportunity for growth and cooperation.

### Some helpful tips for parents:

- Be consistent in clearly explaining your expectations and consequences, then follow through with the consequences.
- Take time for yourself. You can be a better parent if you take care of your own needs.
- Treat children with respect; treat them how you would like to be treated. If you're angry, think before you speak in order to give constructive advice rather than destructive criticism.
- Be supportive and emphasize the positive.
- Set children up for success. Give children age appropriate opportunities to choose, negotiate, and learn to care for themselves.
- Be a role model: take an honest look at your own behaviors and activities. Make an effort to change those behaviors you wouldn't find acceptable in your children.
- Establish clear boundaries. Know your limits, and openly address your concerns in a rational manner before you've reached the end of your rope.

Nurture your children: give unconditional love. For example, say "I love you and we can work together to do things better" instead of "Why can't you just do it right?"

**If you would like further information or to speak with an EAP counselor, please contact your confidential Employee Assistance Program at 303-982-0377 or [please visit EAP Mental Health Tips for more articles like this](#). Your EAP offers no-cost assistance to all Jeffco Public Schools employees, their family members over age 15, and retirees. "Confidential help from caring professionals..."**



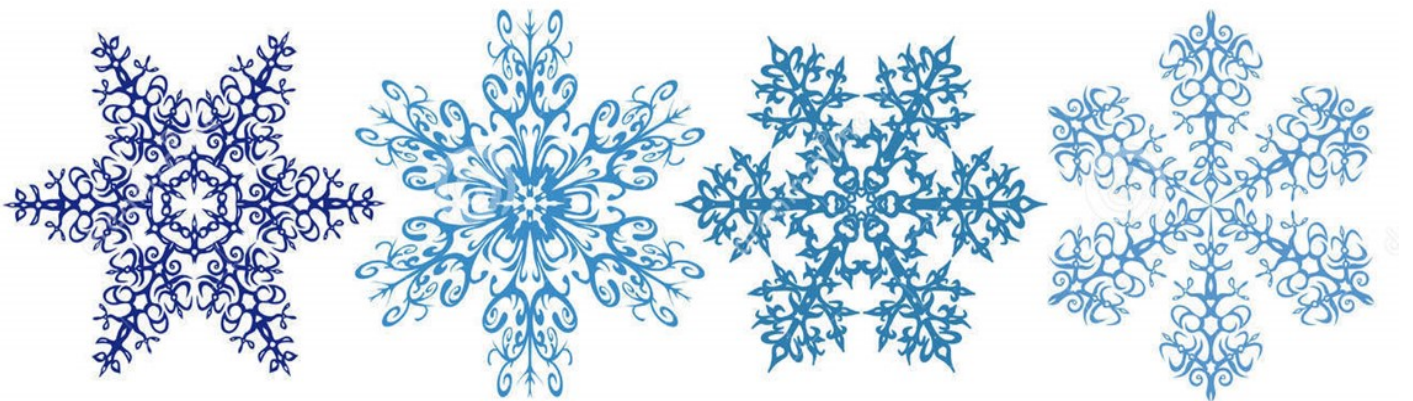
**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Annual Winter Festi-  
val**

**December 19th**

**5 – 7pm**

**in the  
gym/cafeteria**





# **SANTA HOUSE 2019 IS COMING!**

Santa House is an opportunity for parents or guardians who may be struggling economically this year to exchange a voucher for gifts at NO COST for each of their children living with them. Santa House is sponsored by Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth (AWRSAY).

Santa House will be open from

Dec 11-14 11a.m.-3p.m.; with extended hours on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>

Dec 16-19 11a.m.-3p.m.; Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> the house will be open until 6 pm.

**Santa House is CLOSED SUNDAY.**

It is located at:

Arvada Presbyterian Church

5592 Independence St (across from the Arvada Cemetery)

At the Fellowship Hall

Watch for the voucher and an information letter to come home in your child's folder prior to Thanksgiving.

