



# ROADRUNNER EXPRESS

**Foster Elementary**  
Jefferson County Public Schools

Office 303 982 1680

Fax 303 982 1679

March 26,  
2021

## *Principal's Page*

April 2021



1-2 . . . -NO School Spring Break

6-7 . . . Continuation Pictures  
Kg, 5th & 8th G



Dear Foster Families,

Happy Spring! As we move through this school year, it is impossible not to become excited about the possibilities that next year will bring us. On the horizon is a year that has potential to feel “normal” again. That, along with a building remodel/addition, is incredibly exciting. We are working hard to make sure that we finish this year strong, while we also work to have a “normal” start to our “normal” year next year. In order to make that happen, we will have our last day of in-person learning on May 19<sup>th</sup>. What this means:

- **Our last day of in-person learning will be May 19<sup>th</sup>.** This will be a full day of school.
- Students will participate in **remote learning May 20<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>.**
- We will still have class gatherings and parties--including continuation celebrations for Kindergarten, 5th, and 8th grades--the last week of school, just not on school property.
- A tentative date for Continuation will be May 26<sup>th</sup>, but we will confirm this once we gain approval from the school district.

Please let me know if you have questions about this.

We hope you will join us for the tech night we have planned for April 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00-7:00 PM. This night is called “Digital Wellness Night” and will take place virtually. We will send fliers with more information as we get closer to the date.

Foster’s Title One status will continue into next year with one significant caveat: we did not qualify as a Title One school at the elementary level. This means we will have a reduction of funding for our school from Title One, while we maintain Title One status as a school because we qualified at the Middle School level. We are hoping that if we work together to identify families who qualify for financial assistance next year, Foster will qualify again at the Elementary level.

We are excited to share that Valentina Lowitsch has been hired as the new Dual Language Coach of Foster. We are also excited to share that Casey Menninger has been hired to take her place on the Middle School team. I will share more hiring updates in our next newsletter.

Hope you all have a wonderful Spring Break!

In Peace, Leigh



## Accountability Committee

We hope you will join us for our School Accountability Committee (SAC) meeting, which will be on Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:15 via googlemeet. We will discuss staffing, budget, and upcoming changes in the new school year. Please let Leigh know if you are interested in attending and she will send you a link! [lhiester@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:lhiester@jeffco.k12.co.us) This will be our final SAC meeting of this school year.



# Tech Information

Here are some links to Jeffco information on the Jeffco public website:

[Securly Home App](#). Securly is installed on all Jeffco devices and does our filtering when those devices are off the Jeffco network. The app allows parents to view their child's activity and even restrict some activities.

[Securly Classroom Management](#). This is another Securly product (same system as the filtering and parent view/control) that gives teachers the ability to monitor students on their devices. It is available whether the students are in-person or remote, but only active Monday-Friday 7am-4pm.

[Digital Wellness](#) resources on the public website. These are developed to correspond to what students are learning through digital citizenship. December focused on Privacy and Security—it's a drop down menu on this page—with lots of resource links by grade level available.

[Cyberbullying](#)  
[Privacy, Filtering & Internet Security](#)  
[Screen Time](#)

We use Safe Search on Google and YouTube to filter searches. It isn't perfect. No filter is. Filters try to use rules and/or patterns in words or images to determine if they are appropriate or not.

YouTube isn't a part of the Google Educational App Suite, so it is a separate entity in terms of filtering. It also, in many ways, is more like social media applications than a true search engine. What this means is that content is being continually added (exponentially!) and that content is moderated to some extent. When content gets published, it can take some time for it to be flagged or appropriately categorized for filters to then recognize what it is/isn't.

Home internet providers like CenturyLink and Comcast have options for filtering, as well. You would need to check with them to determine what is required to manage settings for this.

Although Jeffco has put filtering systems into place and provides classroom management tools, we believe that the best way to manage what children are searching for online is to have humans—parents and teachers—regularly observing online activities (the tools provided help a lot with this, along with just dropping in to look and ask questions) and having conversations about them.

Foster will be hosting a virtual Tech night for parents on April 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00-7:00PM to help parents to be informed of safety measures and best practices for tech at home.



## May 19<sup>th</sup> Last day of In Person Learning

The construction remodel and addition project is huge and will impact nearly every part of our existing building. To remove and replace the old carpet in much of the school, asbestos abatement must be done. This process alone can take five to six weeks and we cannot be in the building while it happens.

To finish the construction for an on-time, in-person start in August, every classroom and even most of the closets and storage areas will need to be completely packed up and moved out so that the abatement company can get started as soon as possible. Due to this, the district has given us permission to **move to remote learning for the last six days of the school year.**

What this means:

- **Our last day of in-person learning will be May 19th.** This will be a full day of school.
- Students will participate in **remote learning May 20th-27th.**  
We will still have class gatherings and parties--including continuation celebrations for Kindergarten, 5th, and 8th grades--the last week of school, just not on school property.

Thank you for all you have done to support your child's learning this year.

This has been, without a doubt, the most challenging year ever for parents, educators, community members, and especially our children.

Even with these changes,  
we will do everything we can to make this end of the year special.





Parents and Guardians,

This year has been a constant reminder for all of us at Foster of just how important each of you are in helping our students be successful and stay motivated. We appreciate you!

We know that parenting through this pandemic has been unique, challenging, and often exhausting. We understand how hard it was for you to manage your responsibilities while also helping your student(s) stay focused during online learning, continue to turn in their best work, and remain positive. Please do reach out to us if there's anything that we can do to help support this important time in your child's education.

At Foster, we have your student's engagement at the top of our priority list. Right alongside that is our hope that each of you feel engaged in your experience with Foster as well. We believe in partnering with families and we want you to feel included and welcome in our community.

One way that we can accomplish these goals is for you to feel invested in what your child is doing while they are at school all day. A fun tip for this is to send them into school with something that you value as a goal for the day.

For example, you could ask your child to do one of the following:

- Please say 'hi' to someone you don't usually say 'hi' to today.
- Please ask your teacher how their weekend was.

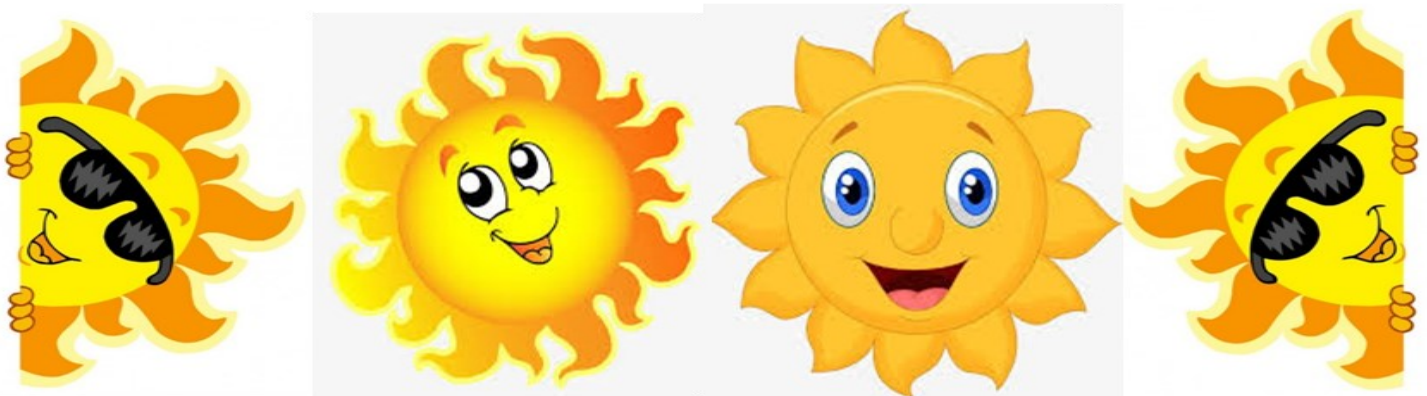
Please notice anyone who is by themselves during recess and invite them to spend time with you.

These simple tasks will help you bring your family's values into the school to enhance our school culture and make you feel more connected to your child's day. Also, they make for wonderful family discussions.

Here is a link on "Where to go for Help" when you have a question.

[Where to go for Help- English](#)  
[Where to go for Help- Spanish](#)

Thanks, Ms. Nicole Foster PK8 Counselor



# Middle School Highlights

This month has been a particularly exciting time to be part of our phenomenal middle school. We're honored to share a few highlights with you of some recent events that deserve celebrating:

Our Multicultural and Diversity class finished reading the book Ghost Boys and the author, the celebrated Dr. Jewell Parker Rhodes, came to join us for a class. She brought us to tears as she shared her incredible life journey, and we ended the class by bringing her to tears with the heartfelt words of our students. She praised our dual language model, shared her email with every student, and committed to being there for any student who needs her. She thanked our students for being her hope for the future of a better world for her own granddaughter. We are all grateful for having met her and we share in her belief that every student at Foster carries with them the potential for greatness.

Three of our middle school students partnered with Project Prepare to build a winter garden box out in our community garden. We're proud to announce that their garden box survived the biggest storm of the year, and we are loving watching the first buds of the garden start reaching for the sun.

Five of our middle school students received scholarships from the Arvada Elks. We are so proud and excited to see them accomplish their goals.

Four of our middle school students were accepted into the Colorado Youth Congress. They've been busy representing Foster well as they work with local change-makers to help make Colorado more inclusive and more responsive to youth mental health needs.

We welcomed our first class of students into the National Junior Honor Society. It was a heartwarming experience to welcome these students into this prestigious club. They've worked hard to deserve this honor and now they will begin working hard together to be of service to the Foster community.



## Join Foster's Parent-Teacher Association!



Foster Dual Language PK-8 PTA is a Community of Parents and Teachers working together in a Bilingual Environment to support our amazing students and to build community!

If you would like more information, please join us at a PTA meeting or email [president@fosterpta.org](mailto:president@fosterpta.org) or find us on [Facebook.com/FosterElementaryPTA](https://www.facebook.com/FosterElementaryPTA)

Membership is online this year! <https://foster-pk-8.cheddarup.com>  
(You do not need to be a member to attend meetings)

**NEXT PTA MEETING IS APRIL 7 AT 6PM (via Zoom)**

Spanish/English translation is provided.

## ¡Únase a la Asociación de Padres y Maestros de Foster!

¡La PTA de Foster es una comunidad de padres y maestros trabajando juntos en un ambiente bilingüe para apoyar a los estudiantes maravillosos y construir comunidad!

Para más información por favor asista a una reunion o envía un correo electrónico a [president@fosterpta.org](mailto:president@fosterpta.org) o visítanos a [Facebook.com/FosterElementaryPTA](https://www.facebook.com/FosterElementaryPTA)

¡La membresía está en línea este año! <https://foster-pk-8.cheddarup.com>  
(No es necesario ser miembro para asistir a las reuniones)

**LA PRÓXIMA REUNIÓN DE LA PTA ES EL 7 DE ABRIL A LAS 6 (por Zoom)**

Tendremos traducción al español/inglés.



### Zoom instructions / Instrucciones para Zoom

**To join / para participar...**

Online/ en línea:  
<https://zoom.us/j/5581683674>

Phone / por teléfono: 253-215-8782

Meeting ID / el código: 558 168 3674



As your family's schedules and needs change Project Prepare is here for you.

We offer before and after school programs in a COVID safe environment right here, at Foster Dual Language PK-8.

We focus on having fun through physical, academic and social play at reasonable rates that bring convenience and reassurance to you.

Our hours are from 7:00am -6:00pm. Find more details on line at [Project Prepare](#) or email [Tracie Mayes](#).

[Click here to register](#) now while space is available.

**Extended Morning 7:00am-8:30am (breakfast is not provided)**



**Full Time:** More than 2 days a week.

Standard Fee	*Scholarship Fee
\$140 per month	\$50 per month

**Part Time:** Up to 2 days a week.

Standard Fee	*Scholarship Fee
\$60 per month	\$22 per month



**Full Time:** More than 2 days a week.

Standard Fee	*Scholarship Fee
\$210 per month	\$75 per month

**Part Time:** Up to 2 days a week.

Standard Fee	*Scholarship Fee
\$88 per month	\$32 per month