



# ROADRUNNER EXPRESS

**Foster Dual Language Pk-8**  
Jefferson County Public Schools

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December  
2022

## *Principal's Page*

Dear Foster Families,

December is here! This is always such a busy time of year, with added pressures of extra events and need/wants to fill. We have a few things coming up at Foster that we want to be sure you have on your calendar. These are opportunities to gather as a community, to support our students, and to plan for next school year. This is an incredible community and we are so grateful to be able to be together again in person!



6 -1/14/23 . . Kg Reg.  
Begins

7 -1/13/23 . . Rnd 1 Choice  
Enrollment

14 . . Winter Festival 5:30-7

21-1/ 4/23. . Winter Break

### **Empty Bowls is back!:**

A long standing tradition in the Arvada Area is Empty Bowls, which is held at Arvada High School. On December 8th from 5:30-8:00, the Arvada area schools will be coming together to raise money for Community Table and enjoy time together. Join the community in having some soup, listening to entertainment (including our Mariachi and choir!) and raise money for a great cause! More info to come.

### **Winter Festival:**

On December 14th we will have our annual Winter Festival. This is a fun community event where families come together to eat, dance and enjoy time together. It will be from 5:30-7 and more information will be shared soon.

### **Choice Enrollment window:**

The Enroll Jeffco first round window opens on December 6th and closes on January 17th. It is important for families that have incoming students for PK or Kindergarten who are not currently enrolled to BE SURE to go through this process in the first round. **Our spaces fill up quickly and once we are full, we are not able to add students.**

We will have tours of the schools for new families and any others who would like to take part. We will also have an Open House to learn about our middle school on December 6th from 5:30-6:30. Our teachers, AMPS teams, and some students from Middle School will be present to share about our exciting new middle school opportunity for our students!

This is also the time for 8th graders to choose a high school. Schools have the dates of tours and shadow days posted on their websites. Arvada High School will be working closely with students who will be transitioning there from our school.

### **Middle School Band and Orchestra Concert**

We will hear our amazing students perform on December 6th at 6:00 in our new performance space in the gym. Please come and join us in hearing our amazing students perform!

**Remember** that **December 19th and 20th are now Non-student contact days**  
so there will be no school for students those days.

Have a great month! Leigh

## **Foster School Accountability Committee**

Please join us for our next School Accountability Committee (SAC) meeting of the school year. The SAC meets several times a year to discuss our school Unified Improvement Plan, school budget, staffing, and student achievement. Our next meeting will be on December 8th at 2:30 in the Makerspace. Please join us!

Dear Foster Families

November 29, 2022

Today, I am excited to share an update about our school's start and end times for next year.

Starting in the 2023-24 school year, Jeffco Public Schools will implement new start and end times for schools across the District, including ours. The Healthy and Equitable Start Times initiative for next school year is expected to increase efficiency and reliability of transportation and create consistency in instructional time to best serve all students and families.

Next year, our school day will begin at 8:40 and end at 3:40. This will give us 6 hours and 30 minutes of instructional time each day.

Learn more about Healthy and Equitable Start Times from Deputy-Superintendent Dr. Kym LeBlanc-Esparza.

### Benefits for our Students

**Physical and mental health for adolescents:** Research shows that healthy school start times result in improved student attendance and graduation rates, more students arriving at school on time, and better overall physical and emotional health. Even changes as small as 13 minutes can lead to positive outcomes for adolescents.

**Equal opportunity for academic success:** By making the length of the school day the same for students at the same level, all students are receiving the same opportunity to learn. In the past, students at Jeffco schools received unequal amounts of instruction based on their school's start and end times. In some cases, this added up to nearly a year difference in instructional time.

**More efficient and reliable transportation services** that support families and students and lower the likelihood of bus service disruptions.

The District Implementation team will continue to study and problem solve the impacts these new times will have across our district, including athletics and activities scheduling, child-care options for our school-aged students, transportation needs, and more. Updates will be shared with our community as we collaborate and develop solutions.

At Foster, we will have our PK begin the day at 8:50 and end at 3:30, which will add 10 more minutes to their instructional day. We have this program start and end close to our K-8 times to help with parents dropping off multiple students, and off-set the times to help with parking issues.

I understand that change can be hard. We hope that by providing you with the updated start and end times well in advance of the 2023-24 school year, your family will be able to be better supported through the transition and put plans in place for next year. Visit the District's [Equitable & Healthy Start and End Times webpage](#) to learn more.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration in ensuring a thriving experience for all Jeffco students!

Leigh Hiester    Principal





*Foster Dual Language PK-8 is an option school that provides a unique opportunity that brings together Spanish and English speaking students in an effort to develop full bilingualism in both groups. Students have the opportunity to learn a second language without compromising their first language or academic learning. Our Dual Language program supports the development of the three pillars of Bilingual education: bilingualism and biliteracy, high academic achievement, and sociocultural competence.*

## THE PROGRAM:

- Offers a full day Pre-School program where 90% of the day is in Spanish for all students
- Develops children who will be more competitive in the global economy and more collaborative in our multicultural society
- Takes advantage of the optimal window of learning a second language during the primary years
- Supports families with a cultural, ethnic, or multilingual heritage
- Produces critical thinkers and problem solvers who can use a communication-rich approach to succeed in the information age
- Nurtures understanding and cooperation of the different cultures living side by side in Jefferson County
- Gives students an edge in high school, college, and the workplace
- Provides a pathway toward attaining the Biliteracy Seal, which is a recognition for students who have studied and attained a high level of proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation
- Incorporates STEM experiences, Problem/Project Based Learning (PBL) and one to one devices into every day learning school wide.

## TOURS:

November 16th	9:30-10:30am
November 30th	9:30-10:30am
December 13th	2:00-3:00pm
January 11th	9:30-10:30am

[www.jeffcofosteres.ss12.sharpschool.com/](http://www.jeffcofosteres.ss12.sharpschool.com/)





Hello Foster Families,

I hope that this update finds you all warm and healthy.

This is the time of year where we begin to collect the middle of the year data. We will begin by assessing using the MAP screener . The window for the screener is from 12/1-12/16. The MAP screener is used to measure growth and it is adaptive. This means that the assessment adapts to the student's responses and shows individual growth. For students who fall below the 25th percentile, classroom teachers will also dig deeper into the needs of the students with a diagnostic assessment.

We also have an assessment day on 1/27. Please see your Class Dojo for updates and dates of the classroom assessments.

In January, we will begin the Access assessments. This assessment measures English Language Proficiency and is given to language learners of English. Please be sure that your student attends and is present for those assessments. Again, please check Class Dojo for specific testing days.

You should have received a progress report and a report card by now, another progress report will come out in January. Please keep an eye on that. Conferences will take place on February 7th and 9th and the sign up will be digital.

Module 4 will end on December 16th and we will begin Module 5 when we return from break. If you are looking for some extra practice or activities to do for home learning, you can visit IXL and practice 10 problems in Literacy or Math per day. I also love the Khan Academy Website and that is free. Finally, I also love Wonderopolis, this website allows the reader to pick something that they are wondering about and read about it.

Have a great break and we will see you all in the new year!

Vanessa Gonzalez  
Instructional Coach  
Foster PK-8





## Preschool December Newsletter

Dear preschool families,

It's hard to believe that we are wrapping up 2022. During December our students have enjoyed sharing their special assignments and baby items with the group. It has been a pleasure to listen to their presentations and see their pictures. Thank you so much for all your support as we learned about our learning theme of "Past, Present and Future". The presentations allowed

students to practice speaking in front of the class. They did a fantastic job and we learned so much about them.

### Reading

Read alouds have focused on retelling and understanding the sequence of events in a story. Also; we have talked about our favorite part of the story and our favorite characters.

### Math

In math, our students have been working on measurement; students have been using different measurement units such as feathers, blocks, yarn, unifix cubes, pencils, etc. This has been a great experience for students to learn about math in their everyday lives.

We would like to end this newsletter by thanking each and every one of you for all the support you have provided us throughout this year.

Happy holidays!

Ms. Anilu & Ms. Gisela

### Important Dates:

12/7-1/13 Round 1 Choice Enrollment  
12/14 Winter Festival 5:30-7:00 pm  
12/19-12/20 No School for Students  
12/21-1/04 Winter Break/ No School



# Kindergarten News

November has been 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 literacy, we have started our new module "Happy, Healthy Me". In this module, children will learn the essentials of healthy living, like eating well, exercising, and practicing good hygiene. They also see that being "my healthiest me" is a blast: It's playing basketball, it's swinging on the monkey bars, it's eating a rainbow of foods. And after fun, active days, it's a good night's sleep. The first two weeks are spent in Spanish Reading with Ms. Alma and English writing with Ms. Shannon. Then we will switch and do Reading in English and Writing in Spanish to end the module.

We have also been learning active listening strategies, such as taking turns in conversation, avoiding interruptions to the speaker and paying attention.

In math, we are learning to count to 20 and organizational strategies to make sure each item is counted only once. We are also getting 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.

Our new science unit has started, "Weather and Climate", students will know that sunlight warms Earth's surface, that weather is the combination of sunlight, wind, snow and rain, and temperature in a particular region at a particular time. We will also be observing to collect data that can be used to make comparisons.

Important dates in December

December 14 --Winter Festival 5:30-7:00

December 19- January 4 - Winter Break

Ms. Shannon, Ms. Alma





Hey 1st Grade Grownups!

Thank you again for all your support!

First graders are working really hard in all of the units. We have finished Module 3 for literacy and started working on Module 4 before Thanksgiving break. Students are writing in Spanish with Ms. Rosa and reading in English with Miss Brie. At the end of Module 4 we will send home Into Reading My Book 2.

In math, we are working on learning about Place Value.

In science, we have finished our External Features Animal Unit.

Just a reminder that students need to wear jackets to be able to go outside, they will not be able to go outside if they forget their jackets at home.

Also, please make sure your students bring their charged chromebooks every day. We encourage your students to read at home, explore their chromebooks, and practice counting to 120.

Enjoy Winter Break!



## Second Grade News, December 2022

**It's hard to believe that we are already into December.** Second graders were very busy during the short month of November! In science, We learned all about animal habitats, animal adaptations and ended the unit by creating a diorama of a habitat. If you would like to see their great work, it is on Flipgrid and students can show you the amazing creations from both classes. They did an incredible job of explaining the animals and non living things!

### **Literacy:**

We are in Module 4, *Once Upon a Time* where we focus on fables and fairy tales. Students are reading in English and writing in Spanish. In reading, students are focusing on identifying the moral of a story, learning lessons from characters and identifying the conflict, beginning, middle and end of the story. In writing, students are excitedly writing a short imaginative story in Spanish. They are enjoying this unit! Please ask them to identify conflicts, morals and versions of different stories! If they want stories in Spanish, visit Ms. Elena's Virtual Biblioteca and go into the castles for fables and fairy tales. Watch out for the dragons!

### **Math:**

In Unit 3 students build common vocabulary for shapes and length measurements by analyzing visual models and real world situations. They will use attributes to identify and draw shapes (triangles, quadrilaterals, pentagons, hexagons, and cubes) they see in their everyday lives. Moving from non-standard to standard measurement units (inches, centimeters, feet, and meters). Although they are learning vocabulary in Spanish, most of the words are cognates and will easily transfer to English as well as the skills.

### **Social Studies:**

We are focused on how communities change over time. We're exploring the great plains and how this region has changed over a span of several years. Students are learning about native American culture and are enjoying an exciting read aloud from the past.

### **Extra note:**

It would be very helpful if students continue to build fluency with math facts 1-20 addition. They have also asked for Youtube videos to help them learn advanced skills on their own. The links are in Google Classroom.

**We are very grateful to have such wonderful families.**

**Thank you for all you do!**

**Happy Holidays and we look forward to an exciting new year!**







Hello Third Grade Dual families,

It is so hard to believe that the year 2022 is coming to an end! It has been so amazing working with you and your children this first half of the school year. We are looking forward to seeing more growth in our students academically and emotionally. We hope that during this winter break students continue to read daily and work on their multiplication and division facts. Coming back from break, we will begin

Access testing our native Spanish speaking students. More information on when testing will take place will be shared with you soon. Before break, students will take the middle of the year assessment for MAPS.

### **Here is what we are learning in class with Ms. Paola:**

**Writing:** Over the next three weeks, our class will develop knowledge about plays, with a focus on the dramatic genre. We will read texts and watch videos about the characteristics of plays, both classical and contemporary. The children will also write a story that can be performed as a play.

**Math:** In unit 3, students estimate and measure liquid volume and masses of objects (using units of (g), kilograms (kg), and liters (l)). They also use appropriate measuring tools (to the inch  $\frac{1}{2}$  and nearest  $\frac{1}{4}$  Students will collect measurement data to develop data visualizations with multi-unit scales (picture graph, bar graph, and dot plot) to accurately communicate and reason about information Develop their concept of measurement telling time to the nearest minute (on analog and digital clocks), as well as using elapsed time and time intervals Apply their knowledge to solve a variety of measurement problems (linear, liquid volume, and mass) and time with the four operations.

**SLD:** Students will focus on their Spanish fluency and phonemic awareness. They will also review and practice the vocabulary from Arriba la lectura. The students are also focusing on the right pronunciation of Spanish words and phrases.

### **Here is what we are learning in class with Ms. Mari:**

**Reading:** At the end of Module 4, Stories on Stage, students will understand that some stories are better told as plays. In this module, students will learn the important elements of retelling/ summarizing a story, of drama and of the theme. Students will be able to summarize the main idea of the story, identify and discuss the elements of drama and identify and discuss the theme. Students will continue to develop their vocabulary using the module's weekly selected vocabulary words. We will continue to build their foundational skills by discussing digraphs, diphthongs and vowel teams. I have started to send home spelling words and will begin giving a spelling word quiz once a week.

**Science:** *What regulates weather and climate? How do natural hazards affect individuals and societies?* These are our focus questions for unit 2 in science. In this unit, students will understand that weather is the minute-by-minute to day-by-day variation of the atmosphere's condition on a local scale. Scientists record the patterns of the weather across different times and areas so that they can make predictions about what kind of weather might happen next. Climate describes the ranges of an area's typical weather conditions and the extent to which those conditions vary over years to centuries. Students will also understand that a variety of hazards result from natural processes (e.g., earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, severe weather, floods, coastal erosion). Humans cannot eliminate natural hazards but can take steps to reduce their impacts.

**ELD:**

In English Language Development (ELD), we are building our listening, speaking and comprehension skills in English. We are using this time to reteach and deepen their knowledge of the module's vocabulary, generative vocabulary (prefixes and suffixes), grammar, and foundational skills.

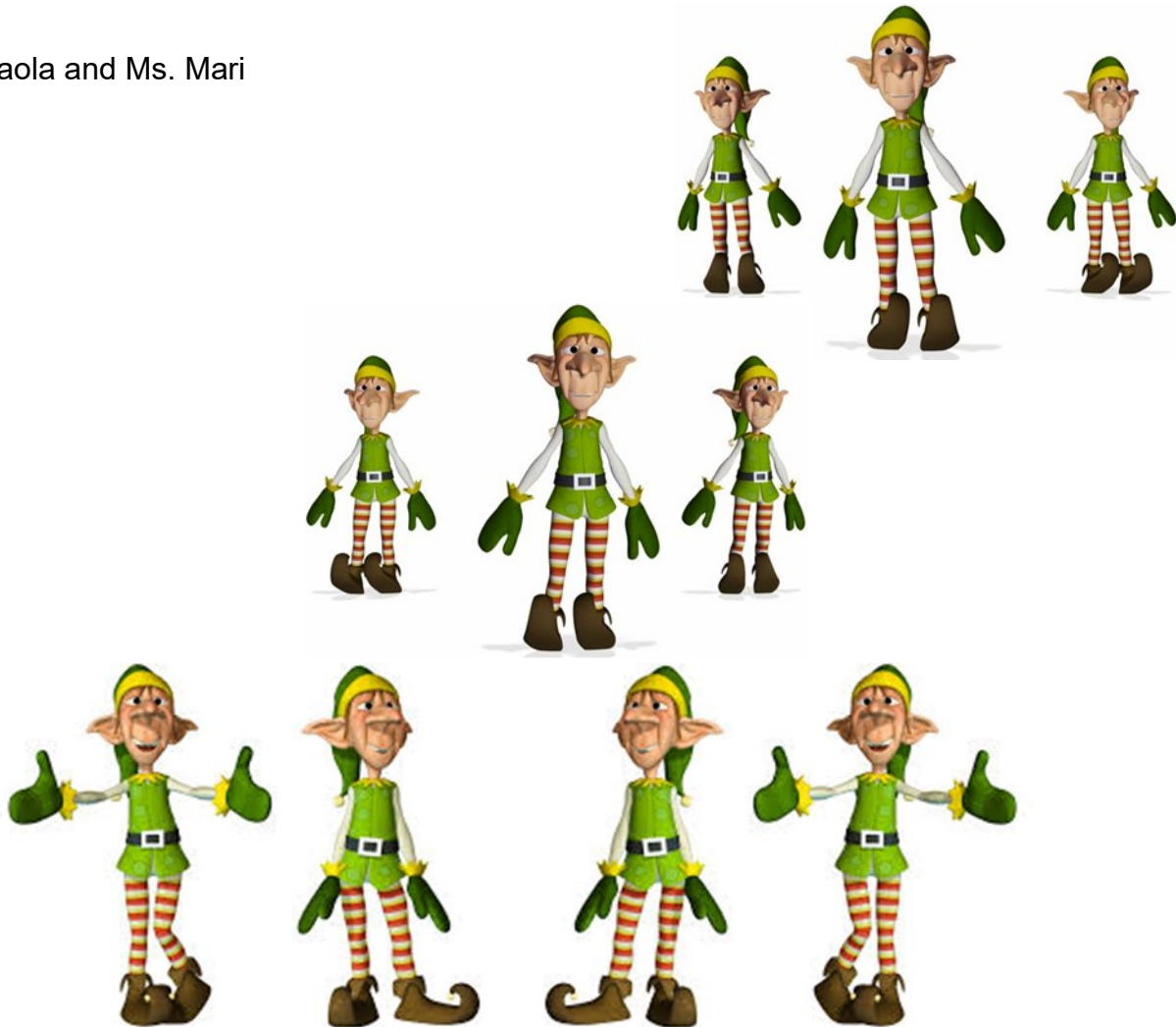
**Reminders:**

- Library checkouts are now on Wednesday so please return books by the previous Tuesday.
  - Please bring a healthy snack for your child or donate a healthy snack for 40 students.
- Students **MUST** come to school with their chromebooks fully charged each day. We have had several students come to school with Chromebooks not charged.

**Important Dates:**

- December 7th Kindergarten registration begins
- December 7th Round 1 Choice enrollment begins
- December 12-15 MAPS testing in third grade
- December 14 Winter Festival 5:30-7pm
- December 19-January 4th Winter Break
- January 5th Students return!

Ms. Paola and Ms. Mari



## 4<sup>th</sup> grade Newsletter!

Welcome to December,

We had a blast watching Harry Potter and Sorcerer's Stone in the theaters and we appreciate all your help bundling up the kids for the snowy walk. A special thanks goes to our volunteers who braved walking across Wadsworth and the snow to get to the movies.

In **Reading**, we are reading a variety of texts that present them with examples of what makes someone a hero in Spanish.

In **Writing** we are writing about a person who has made a difference in our life in English, as well as working on those transition words.

In **Math** we have been working very hard on division. The more they practice, the better they will get. Also, don't forget to try and memorize those multiplication facts because it makes a difference. They have been learning this in both classrooms since it is also a big unit.

In **Science**, we learned about circuits and electricity. We finished our unit by making an interactive poster and having first graders come in and learn from us in English.

In **Social Studies**, we started a new unit about how Colorado became a state and some important people that helped us along the way.

**Spelling Bee:** The English Spelling Bee for our 4th grade classroom will be on December 14th. The top 4 students will be going to our school spelling bee for 4th-8th grade students. The school Spelling Bee will be in January.

Don't forget to check to see if your students have headphones as some of them have lost them or they broke. MAP testing is coming up so please let us know if your students will be out so we can be sure to help them do Makeup testing .

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR DECEMBER

December 6th: Reading MAP test in English at 12:10

December 7th: Middle School Open House from 5:30-6:30.

December 8th: Reading MAP test in Spanish at 12:10

December 12th: Math MAP test in the language of their choice at 12:10

December 14th: Spelling Bee in the classroom.

December 17th- January 5th Winter Break





# 5<sup>th</sup> Grade December

## Important Dates

Winter Break 12/19/2022-1/5/2023 -NO SCHOOL



## Important Reminders

Band and Orchestra

Monday 1:50 Thursday 10:20

Students brought home a practice log. Students are to be practicing at home.

This also means that they should return their instrument on band and orchestra days.



## Our Learning

**Reading** Project Earth with Fiction Text

**Writing** Editorial Writing

**Math** Multiplication and Division of Fractions

**Science** Earth's Systems



Hello Foster Middle School families!

We hope you all had a great Thanksgiving Break and were able to have some quality time together with your middle schooler. November was an exciting month for middle school. The 8th graders visited Arvada High School at the beginning of the month, and we had a very successful middle school fall dance and spirit week. We look forward to planning more exciting opportunities for the middle schoolers in the near future.

The next few weeks will be busy in middle school as we wrap up the second quarter. We will be completing our mid-year MAP assessments in Math, English Language Arts and Spanish Language Arts. We will be sending home growth data with the middle schoolers after we complete testing.

Please remember to check your emails and/or Class Dojo for our biweekly Newsflash for up-to-date information about what's going on in middle school. These are sent out every other Friday at 5pm. You can also find them on our middle school website, which is updated weekly.

**Important Dates:**

Thursday, December 6th 6-7pm: 6th - 8th Grade Band / Orchestra Concert at Foster

Thursday, December 15th: Middle School Shadow Day

Friday, December 16th: End of 2nd Quarter

Tuesday, December 20th: 2nd Quarter Grades Posted in Infinite Campus

December 19th-January 4th: Winter Break-No School



Science Ms. Nidya [Nidya.Caviedes@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:Nidya.Caviedes@jeffco.k12.co.us) \*This course is 100% in Spanish

**6th Grade:** We have been working on ecosystems with their intraspecific and interspecific relationships. Students will recognize the interactions in ecosystems and the importance of caring for the environment for the stability of all living beings.

**7th grade:** We are learning about the human body systems and the care we must take to maintain adequate health and avoid diseases. We are recognizing some common diseases that are caused by lack of adequate nutrition.

**8th grade:** We will be learning about the evolution of living things, recognizing Charles Darwin and Wallace as the ones who founded evolution as well as different scientists who helped improve the theory.



Social Studies Mr. Casey [cluebber@jeffcoschools.us](mailto:cluebber@jeffcoschools.us)

**6th and 7th Grade:** They are studying ancient civilizations and making projects with Google Slides and Google Sites

**8th Grade:** In the current unit, we look at the many perspectives of “westward expansion” and analyze the pros and cons of the new frontier.



Math Ms. Helena [hgonzalezjorge@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:hgonzalezjorge@jeffco.k12.co.us)

**6th Grade:** We continue to study the terms “ratio,” “rate,” “equivalent ratios,” “per,” “at this rate,” “constant speed,” and “constant rate,” and to recognize when two ratios are or are not equivalent. ratios. Students use these terms and representations when reasoning about situations involving color mixtures, recipes, unit prices, and constant speed.

Math Ms. Helena [hgonzalezjorge@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:hgonzalezjorge@jeffco.k12.co.us)

**7th Grade:** We continue with Unit 2. Students use these terms and representations when reasoning about situations involving constant speed, unit prices, and measurement conversions.

**8th Grade:** We are nearing the end of unit 2. Students learn the terms “slope” and “slope triangle,” and use the similarity of slope triangles on the same line to understand that any two distinct points on a line determine the same slope.



English Language Arts Ms. Gemma [gemma.cullen@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:gemma.cullen@jeffco.k12.co.us)

**6th Grade:** Students have been working on writing memoir narratives based on their own life experiences. In December, the students will begin learning the types of nonfiction texts and their various elements.

**7th Grade:** Students have been working on writing fantasy and/or science fiction narratives. In December, the students will analyze particular types of nonfiction texts and the ways they present ideas.

**8th Grade:** Students have been working on writing historical fiction and/or biographical narratives. In December, the students will compare nonfiction texts and debate their effectiveness in presenting information.



Spanish Language Arts: Ms. Carissa [csotorod@jeffcoschools.us](mailto:csotorod@jeffcoschools.us) \*This course is 100% in Spanish

**6th Grade: Traditions**

Students have been reading about different cultures and traditions in Hispanic countries and communities around the world. Students have been rehearsing different versions of Cinderella (Readers’ Theater) and are getting ready to perform for younger students in the school. We will continue exploring culture and traditions through interviews in the next month.

**7th Grade: Technology Innovation**

Students will be completing a short unit around research and informative writing through researching and writing a report about the evolution of different types of communication technology: TV, telephone, radio, computers, iPad, smart phones.

**8th Grade: Latino Leaders and Leadership**

We are working on our unit on Latino Leaders and Leadership. During this unit students will be reading and writing about important leaders in the latino community and analyzing what makes a strong leader. The focus of this unit is informational texts.

**All Classes:**

Spelling: Students are continuing to work on including accents in their writing.

Grammar: Students in 7th and 8th grade are studying how to conjugate regular preterite tense verbs. We use the preterite tense to talk about completed actions at specific times in the past. The **preterite is used when the past action has a definite beginning and definite end**. This next month we will be moving on to conjugating verbs in the imperfect tense. We use the imperfect tense to talk about repeated or continuous actions in the past. **The imperfect is used when the past action doesn't have a definite beginning and definite end**.

Students in 6th grade are working on **reflexive verbs**. We use reflexive verbs when we're talking about **an action that someone does oneself**. They are very useful when we talk about our daily routines. For example;  
Yo **me baño** todos los días. (I **take a shower** every day).

Please remember that all middle school students have grammar practice for homework twice a week.





## Electives

### Fitness, Health & Wellness:

### Choir & Vocals:

### Ceramics:

### Videography:

Our videography students are learning digital tools for videography. We will be creating a collaborative video for sharing school wide with video clips from all students. We are exploring possible topics and ideas for our joint venture.



Band Mr. Reading [jacob.reading@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:jacob.reading@jeffco.k12.co.us)

#### Band I:

Over this last month, we finished up learning our basics and are finally ready to start learning our new songs! We have started two songs, Inception and Ancient Hunters that we are very excited to perform for our first concert of the year. Students will be learning new rhythms, playing in multiple parts, and learning about style as we learn these two new pieces.

#### Band II:

Band II has been working very diligently on preparing three pieces, Air and Dance, Congo Caves, and The Tenth Planet. Each song is in a different time signature which is a unique challenge as the students work on playing within different feelings of time. Students who registered for the All County Honor ensemble are preparing for their upcoming auditions and we are very excited to have awesome students looking for a challenge. If your student would still like to audition for All County Honor Band but missed the registration for auditions please contact Mr. Reading for more details.

Orchestra Mrs. Brells [Kristen.Brells@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:Kristen.Brells@jeffco.k12.co.us)

#### Orchestra I:

In Orchestra I we have been working on a unit where we focus on the basics of music theory which will help the students unlock a greater understanding of the functionality of music. We have been working hard preparing for our concert including our piece Caribbean Breeze. It features playing in multiple parts as well as new rhythms. The other piece we have been working on is called Abandoned Funhouse that features new notes and different styles of playing.

#### Orchestra II:

In Orchestra II we have been working on four pieces. The pieces we have been working on are To Catch a Pickpocket, Desert Sands, and Dark Visions. We are getting to the point in our music where we can focus on more than just the notes and rhythms. We have been focusing on adding more musical aspects such as expression, dynamics and articulation. The newest piece we have been working on is more challenging, it is called Turbulence. It features new rhythms as well as contrasting styles.



Counselor/Mental Health  
Counselor Alma Ross Voicemail: 303-982-1716  
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School Social Worker Adam Sweeney Voicemail: 303-982-2833  
[adam.sweeney@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:adam.sweeney@jeffco.k12.co.us)

Social Emotional Learning Specialist (SELS) Alena Ruzicka  
(Monday, Wednesday-am, Thursday)  
Voicemail: 303-982-5941 [alena.ruzicka@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:alena.ruzicka@jeffco.k12.co.us)  
Google Voice (call or text): 720-523-3417

Counselor/Mental Health  
School Psychologist Voicemail: 303-982-1021  
(Monday & Wednesday) [caroline.curtiss@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:caroline.curtiss@jeffco.k12.co.us)  
Jefferson Center School-based Clinician Lindsay Stenzel  
[lindsay.stenzel@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:lindsay.stenzel@jeffco.k12.co.us)



And just like that we are in December! Wow!

There is so much going on at Foster. In addition to preparing for empty bowls we have also been learning about and creating some absolutely beautiful works of art. Kindergarten has been continuing to explore their imagination and how differently we see art.

They have also been learning to see the everyday art around them.

1st grade has been continuing to learn how to use color and how to mix it. By using mathematics formulas to mix the colors students are able to visualize what color they are mixing.

2nd grade has been continuing to learn about space and perspective. They have also been learning how color is affected by space.

3rd and 4th grades were able to create some bowls and ceramic pieces for empty bowls.

4th (Ms. Vicky's class) grade students have started to work on their self identity shields and they look amazing!

5th grade is continuing to learn about perspective and how to find an

tive  
ac-  
tual







# Music Notes

Katie Oaks - General Music, K-8

[katie.oaks@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:katie.oaks@jeffco.k12.co.us)

Hello Foster families! We have some exciting activities planned for the month of December. Please read on for more information!

Students in kindergarten and first grade are celebrating the festivities in the month of December by learning, singing, and playing instruments to classic holiday songs. Second grade students are learning about *The Nutcracker*, a ballet by Tchaikovsky commonly performed in December. Students in third and fourth grades are playing songs related to Las Posadas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas. Ask your fourth grader to share a recorder song with you!

Students in 5th grade have begun a nearly year-long composition project. Foster is fortunate to have an actual composer working with us this year through an alliance between JeffCo and Artist Year. [Lucas Lemonholm](#), a composition graduate of Rice University in Houston, is our Resident Teaching Artist and will be leading this composition project for our 5th graders. Students have begun using the Digital Audio Workstation, SoundTrap, to experiment with composition. It's a neat program - take a moment to look at it with your child!

Our middle school choir elective enjoyed an incredible day-long workshop followed by a concert at the Arvada Vocal Music Festival in November. We're so proud of them!



# From the Library

## Library Checkout

**Care of Devices:** Foster classroom teachers have all taught and discussed care of district devices provided to support learning. Continually talking with your child(ren) about careful handling, use and care of devices is appreciated. Leaving the case on at all times, only using the charger provided, keeping the device in a secure and safe location and only using approved sites and applications are all topics that support digital learning. Bringing devices to school each day fully charged is an additional student responsibility and supports being ready for daily learning.

**Digital Citizenship topics for November to January** relate to students being problem solvers. They will learn about being critical consumers and creators of information as well as keeping personal information safe and secure, both important topics in our digital world.



PRIVACY & SECURITY  
We care about  
everyone's privacy.



NEWS & MEDIA LITERACY  
We are critical  
thinkers & creators.



### Media Literacy Tips Sheet

Grades K-5 [English](#), [Spanish](#)  
Grades 6-12 [English](#), [Spanish](#)

**Discussion Question for School and Home:** How can I be a critical consumer and creator of news and media?

### Privacy & Security Tips Sheet

Grades K-5 [English](#), [Spanish](#)  
Grades 6-12 [English](#), [Spanish](#)

**Discussion Question for School and Home:** How can I keep my personal data safe and secure?

Our **October Book Fair** proceeds are used to purchase additional resources and equipment which support literacy and technology. Thanks to everyone who stopped by to browse and/or buy books and other treasures! Our students enjoy having a bookstore in the library for a short time twice a year. Our next fair will occur in February.



“The 'Hour of Code™'/'Hora del Código®' is a global initiative by Computer Science Education Week [csedweek.org] and Code.org [code.org] to introduce millions of students to one hour of computer science and computer programming.” As part of **Computer Science Week and Hour of Code**, Foster students will be engaging in opportunities supporting

computational thinking such as programming/coding, problem solving, reasoning and digital creation. We are partnering with MiTek and Jefferson County Libraries for this event. Coding activities can be done at home as well. Hour of Code has resources for home use. Check out their resources here: [How to do an Hour of Code with your Child](#)



## Season's Greetings From the Foster Health Room!

Hello Foster Families! The hearing, vision, and dental screening that took place in November went very well! Thank you for sending your children to school on those important days, I greatly appreciate you all!

We are in the season of sickness. COVID, RSV FLU, stomach bugs and colds are everywhere. In addition; they are spreading like wild fire. To stop the spreading of these illnesses please practice good handwashing, coughing and sneezing into a tissue or elbow, and please keep sick children home!

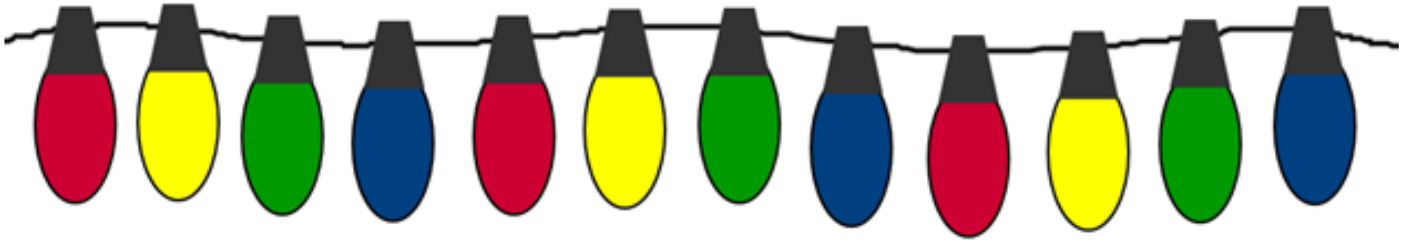
Students with fevers may return to school when they are fever free for 24 hours without medication. The same thing applies to vomiting; Students that have vomited may return when they have not vomited for a full 24 hours.

Following these procedures, helps reduce the amount of children/ adults from being exposed. With the holidays coming around the corner we want to make sure that everyone is being safe and staying healthy!

With that being said, I hope you have an amazing break! I look forward to seeing you all in January!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Chaley Garcia



# Happy Holidays!



# Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) at Foster

## SEL for Elementary School

At Foster, we utilize Second Step as our SEL Curriculum. We would like to keep families informed and have you support student learning in the home. Here are the Elementary links for Unit 2: Emotion Management.

Kinder	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
<a href="#">English</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	<a href="#">English</a>
<a href="#">Spanish</a>	<a href="#">Spanish</a>	<a href="#">Spanish</a>	<a href="#">Spanish</a>	<a href="#">Spanish</a>	<a href="#">Spanish</a>

If you would like to see a year at a glance create your own Second Step Password by following these directions:

Go to Second Step.org  
Create an Account  
Go to Family Access  
Type in your students grade level activation key

Kindergarten	SSPKFAMILY70
Grade 1	SSP1FAMILY71
Grade 2	SSP2FAMILY72
Grade 3	SSP3FAMILY73
Grade 4	SSP4FAMILY74
Grade 5	SSP5FAMILY75

## SEL for Middle School

At Foster we utilize Second Step as our SEL Curriculum for Middle School. We would like to keep families informed and have you support student learning in the home. Here is the link for our first Second Step Middle School Family Letter ([English/ Español](#)).

## SEL for Preschool

At Foster we utilize Second Step as our SEL Curriculum for Preschool. We would like to keep families informed and have you support student learning in the home. Here is the link for our first Second Step Early Learning Family Introductory Letter ([English/ Español](#)).

