



# ROADRUNNER EXPRESS

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

Office 303 982 1680

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March  
2022

## *Principal's Page*

Dear Foster Families,

We have a huge celebration!

Ben Thiesen was the winner of the Arvada Spelling Bee. He is heading to the State Spelling Bee and we wish him lots of luck and good spelling vibes. Olin Jacobson, Sara Benage, and Vivi Bautista also represented Foster at the Arvada Spelling Bee and we are so proud of them all!

This has been a challenging school year for educators across the nation, and Foster is no exception. Layering on top of the pandemic, the construction issues, teaching literacy with a new resource, and beginning with 50/50 literacy added additional stress and frustration for our staff and our community. I am pleased to share that even with these interruptions and changes, we were able to see lots of growth on our MAP assessments given in December, and continue to see that growth in our formative and unit assessments.

I am so proud of our amazing staff who continue to show up and give it their all for our students. We all came together throughout January and much of February to keep our school open, with many staff pulling extra duty to make sure classes stayed in session. A huge thank you to Mari Vassel for filling in as a substitute and helping to keep us open.

March 28 and April 22 have been added as non-student contact days and will be used by educators to work on planning, assessing student work, data collection and analysis, and other tasks relevant to their positions that benefit student learning. This additional planning time for our teachers and school-based educators is important because these opportunities have been severely limited during this school year. Thank you for your understanding. We look forward to the positive impact of this planning time on our students' learning experiences.

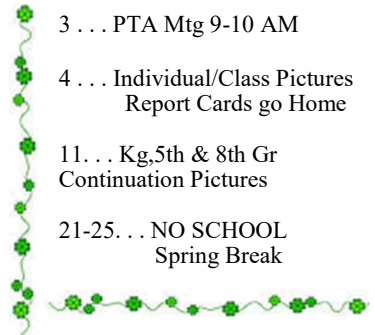
We continue to work on community building, which includes:

- adding Cafecitos each Friday at 9:00 AM.
- We will be having a STEM night on March 10th, which is always great and includes a Silent Auction of really fun items.
- We will be showcasing our new Makerspace where students will be able to tinker, work with robotics, create mobile legos, and more. We would love to build up our supplies in the Makerspace with items like: toilet paper rolls, paper towel rolls, egg cartons, etc.

Please also mark your calendars for our annual Tamale Throwdown on April 29th. This event is a fundraiser for Project Prepare and we will also be celebrating the official opening of our school building.

We are working with a wonderful bilingual consultant in family engagement to plan some next steps and feel so lucky to have her working with us.

We are also excited to have Kenia Quezada as our Family Engagement Liaison! She is already doing a fantastic job!



## Construction update:

- Our new doors and entryway should be completed over Spring Break. The current doors are our temporary doors, which are a big improvement from the wooden doors but not our final set. This will include our new cashier's window area.
- Landscaping will finish up in the Spring with sod, some trees, and an addition of picnic tables and benches. There will probably also be some concrete work as well.
- A new pathway is being created on the north side of our property to allow for community members to access the area west of our school without going through our property. The fenced area will have a rock surface, similar to our garden, that will not need much maintenance. We will also have a gate on our side of the fence that opens to that area that one can go out of, but locks when trying to enter from the other side.
- The 1/2 playground is still waiting for some asphalt to create a four square area and more of a play pad. Asphalt has been delayed due to weather repeatedly. We will be having the blacktops re-covered as they were damaged by the big trucks and immense amount of dirt.

Thank you for being a part of the Foster Community!

Leigh Hiester  
Principal

## Foster School Accountability Committee

Our Foster School Accountability Committee will be meeting on Monday, April 11th from 2:30-3:30. All are invited to attend!



# Spirit Week!

February 28th-March 4th

Monday 28-Feb	Tuesday 1-Mar	Wednesday 2-Mar	Thursday 3-Mar	Friday 4-Mar
Crazy Hair Day	Twin Day or Foster Fiesta (wear your Foster gear)	Pajama Day	Mismatch Day	Fancy Friday

We will be having a new book and stuffed animal collection all week. All donations will go to Children's Hospital. Thank you!



## CMAS Assessment 2022

CMAS testing for 3-8th grades begins the week of March 30 and ends the week of April 31. CMAS assessments give us important information about how individuals and groups of students are doing, and provide data that helps us improve our instruction. Individual student data is shared with families at Fall conferences (2022). If you choose to opt your student out of this assessment or have any questions, please contact Shari Crist @ 303.982.1680 or by email [scristbr@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:scristbr@jeffco.k12.co.us). Please notify me as soon as possible if this is your decision, as this affects our staffing and scheduling.

We ask that you please do not schedule appointments for students during their testing window; we have scheduled the majority of the assessments in the morning to make this easier for you, so it is very important that your student is not tardy on these days.

The schedule is as follows:

### Week 1: 3/30- 4/1

9:00-11:00	Wednesday 3/30	Thursday 3/31	Friday 4/1
	ELA 3-5 grades 90 Min. 6-8 grades 110 Min.	ELA 3-5 grades 90 Min. 6-8 grades 110 Min.	ELA 3-5 grades 90 Min. 6-8 grades 110 Min.

### Week 2: 4/4-4/8

9:00-11:00	Tuesday 4/5	Wednesday 4/6	Thursday 4/7
	Math 3-8 grades 65 Min.	Math 3-8 grades 65 Min.	Math 3-8 grades 65 Min.

### Week 3: 4/11-15

9:00-11:00	Tuesday 4/12	Wednesday 4/13	Thursday 4/14
	Science 5th and 8th only 80 Min.	Science 5th and 8th only 80 Min.	Science 5th and 8th only 80 Min.

# CMAS

Happy March!

We would like to take a moment to talk about some safety concerns in the school parking lot at drop off and pickup. Because our school was built in the 1950s, when most students walked to school, our parking lot is very small! We have some protocols that we use-that are typical of all schools-that help to alleviate congestion and keep our students safe.

The furthest south lane up against the curb is called the “hug- and- go” lane; in this lane, we ask that you pull in, keep your engine running, let your students get in/ out, and then merge into the inside lane, which is for continuous traffic.

*Please do not stop and get out of your car in the hug-and-go lane,  
and please do not park your car there.*

The continuous traffic lane is closest to parked cars; in this lane, we ask that you keep moving so other families can merge out. Do not stop in this lane, and do not allow students to get in or out of the car in the continuous lane. This creates a very dangerous situation for everyone.

Kenia Quezada-Leanos, our new Parent Engagement Liaison, is coordinating parent volunteers for crosswalk duty! Please reach out to Kenia if you would like to volunteer!





Dear preschool families,

We would like to celebrate the success of our very first field trip to the Children's Museum! We had such a great time. All families should have received either the paper voucher or the link to obtain a free membership to the museum for a year. Please let your child's teacher know if you have misplaced it or have not received it. A big thank you to all the parents that volunteered for the field trip. We could not have done it without your help!

**Inquiry Study 5: Is What I Want, What I need?** We have had a slow start to Inquiry Study 5 due to delayed starts, field trips, etc. However, this week we are having discussions and learning about money, how to earn money, reasons we save money, and spending money on various wants and needs. Students will gain an understanding about the differences between needs and wants. Students will engage in pretend play with money. The drama centers have been transformed to a cafeteria (Ms. Mari's class) and a pizzeria (Ms. Anilu's class) so that students can act out buying and spending on food, a very important need. At the end of this unit, we would like to have a bazaar (market) where students can actually sell their artwork and crafts. Any money raised will go to a fundraiser that students vote on. For example, St. Jude's Children's Hospital or an animal shelter. We are still planning this event, but will give you more information as it develops.



#### **Key Vocabulary:**

want, need, choice, money, coins, bills, physical attributes of coins (small, big, brown, silver, etc.), bazaar

#### **Literacy**

Students will be learning our Estrellita segment #4, letters n (nido), f (foco), b (bandera), and j (jirafa). We encourage you to practice the sound chart with your students and find words, pictures, and items that start with the letter sounds. Some games you can play at home to reinforce phonological awareness are *I Spy-initial sound* (exp. *something that starts with mmmm*), rhyming games, or clapping each syllable of a word. Reading at home and talking about the stories are a great way to build vocabulary and comprehension skills.

#### **Math**

This week in math, we will focus on identifying money. Students will learn the names of coins and their attributes. Some activities we have planned for this unit are making patterns with coins, sorting coins, playing Roll and Stack with coins, and experimenting with coin rubbings. Students will continue to solve simple addition and subtraction number stories. They will have the opportunity to create number stories, act them out, and use objects to solve number problems.



#### **Important Dates:**

February 24	PTA meeting 6-7pm
March 4	Picture day-Individual and class pictures
March 10	Stem Night 5:30-7pm
March 17	Talent Show 6pm
March 21-25	Spring Break-No School
March 28	No school for students-Teacher planning day

Happy March!

Ms. Anilu and Ms. Mari

Hello Kinder Families,

Wow, February sure raced by! It was filled with fun ~ celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Day with all the creative projects, sharing cards and treats on Valentine's Day. Also, we really appreciated seeing everyone at our Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences.

This month we will start our fifth module in **Reading and Writing** called "I Can Do It" Students will spend the first two weeks reading in Spanish with Ms. Alma and writing in English with Ms. Shannon. The last two weeks we will switch and students will do writing in Spanish and reading in English. During the module students will learn that despite their young age and varied abilities, with a little hard work, some practice and the mindset of perseverance, they too can achieve their goals.

In **Math**, our Unit, "**Partners, Problem Drawings, and Tens**" will focus on learning to:

- extend the counting sequence to 100

- instantly recognize and represent numbers 6-10 as being composed of a 5-group and more ones (conceptual subitizing)

- use concrete materials and drawings to compose and decompose numbers 11-19 into ten ones and some more and quantities 2-10 into partner numbers

- identify which of two groups has more than (or fewer than or the same amount as) the other using matching, counting, and knowledge of number sequence

- act out addition and subtraction situations, including when both addends are unknown, by representing quantities with math drawings and equations

- explore attributes of 3D shapes

We will begin our Science unit "**Forces and Interactions: Pushes and Pulls**". Students will learn that pushes and pulls can have different strengths and directions and also, that a bigger push or pull makes things speed up or slow down more quickly.

**Important dates:**

March 4<sup>th</sup> - individual and Class pictures, also report cards will go home. Please remember to return the envelope signed and empty.

March 10<sup>th</sup> - STEM night 5:30-7

March 11<sup>th</sup> - Kindergarten continuation pictures

March 17<sup>th</sup> - Talent Show

March 21- 25 - Spring Break

Thank you for your support!

Ms. Shannon and Ms. Alma



# 1ST GRADE

This year is flying by.

Thank you everyone for coming to conferences and meeting with us about your amazing students.

We had lots of fun at the Valentine's Day party.

We just finished Module 6 of Into Reading where they read in English and wrote in Spanish. They are doing so wonderful! Please keep reading at home every night.

In math, we continue to work on place value and counting up to 120. Please practice math fluency within 20.

For science, we have been working hard on learning about animals.

We are excited for our Field Trip to the Zoo soon.





Hello Second Grade families! Here are some updates to our learning:

**Math:**

We just started a new unit in math! Students are learning to tell time on an analog clock, understand the difference between AM and PM and we will be learning to read bar graphs! Please quiz your child about time, ask them what time it is and as you are doing different activities, ask them if it is AM or PM. Also, please ask them to "teach" you how to tell time! One of the best ways to learn something is to teach it! As you come across different graphs, please share them with your child so that they can see that these are items that are seen in everyday life.

**Literacy:**

We have finished up our literacy unit focused on leadership and have started our new unit that focuses on weather, seasons and extreme weather events. We are excited because this is the perfect compliment to our previous science unit. Students will be reading and writing and making lots of connections to our natural world. In English we will focus on reading and in Spanish we will focus on writing. We are so excited to see our students grow as readers and writers and can see a lot of wonderful growth!

**Social Studies:**

We just started a new unit focusing on the economy! Students are learning about making choices, scarcity, availability, supply and demand and more! As you make financial decisions, please speak with your child about how you are making choices (saving, waiting, need vs. want, etc.). Eventually we hope to have a market.

Please continue to work with your child at home on math facts (addition and subtraction within 20 or for some students multiplication facts). Students need to become "fluent" in that they can easily look at  $5+3$  and know without counting on their fingers that it is 8.

Ms. Laura, Stephanie and Elena



Hello third grade families!

Below you will find information about upcoming curriculum as well as a variety of announcements.

Take care,

Ms. Paola ([pamoore@jeffcoschools.us](mailto:pamoore@jeffcoschools.us)) & Ms. Julie ([jmenning@jeffcoschools.us](mailto:jmenning@jeffcoschools.us))

## Literacy (Reading: English/ Writing: Spanish)

In Module 7, “our class will build their knowledge about people who make their communities better and stronger, with a focus on the narrative nonfiction genre. We will read texts about individuals and groups that make a difference in their local or global communities. Children will also write a news report for an imaginary school newspaper.”

### BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

#### Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child’s knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading, and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

#### Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is narrative nonfiction. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that:

- Spark your child’s curiosity.
- Tie to the module topic.
- Tell the story of a real person who has made a difference in his or her community.
- Describe a clear sequence of events that explain the person’s contribution.

#### Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

**The Big Idea** Reinforce the topic words *outreach*, *fellowship*, *communal*, and *resident* in conversations with your child. Use prompts like these: Name the places where you are a **resident**. Describe a **communal** event.

**What Does It Mean?** Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

**Word Hunt** Look for compound words and words with the suffixes *-ion*, *-ness*, and *-able* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.

## Math (English and Spanish)

## Content (Science & Social Studies)

### Miscellaneous announcements:

- Reminder: the Saguaros now begin their day with Ms. Paola, and the Tortugas Marinas begin their day with Ms. Julie. Therefore, Saguaros will have math and content in the morning and reading and writing in the afternoon. The Tortugas Marinas will have reading and writing in the morning, and math and content in the afternoon.
- On Fridays we often have tinker/makerspace time. If you would like to donate clean recycled materials any week, we would greatly appreciate it!

Library day: Friday





# 4TH GRADE

Hello 4<sup>th</sup> grade families,

We are so excited about our all day field trip to Keystone Science School on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Don't worry it's not an April Fools Joke. We raised all the money for the bus and will use the fun run money for the School. All in all, Kids will have to pay zero dollars. Start planning ahead because students will need to arrive before school starts. Our estimated time to leave Foster is 7:30 in the morning; feel free to carpool with other parents. We should arrive back after school around 4:30.

Students just completed their Spanish reading unit about the wonders of Nature.

For writing in English, they wrote letters to experts around nature and animals.

In Math, students just finished up measurement and will begin fractions.

In science, they finished up waves (ex. sound waves).

In Social Studies, they worked on Geography and animals of Colorado.

We will start back up with Colorado History right after mining towns were formed.



# 5th Grade

## Important Dates

Spring Break 3/21-3/25 NO SCHOOL

No Student Contact Day 3/28 NO SCHOOL

## Important Reminders

Band and Orchestra

Monday 1:50

Thursday 10:20

Students took 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** Art for Everyone

**Writing** Personal Narrative Writing

**Math** Measurement & Data

**Science** Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems

**Social Studies** American Government



# **m**iddle **S**CHOOL

Hello Foster Middle School families!

Happy March!! We are getting close to the end of the 3rd quarter! Second quarter will end on March 11th and grades will be finalized by March 18th. When we get back from spring break we will be moving into our CMAS testing. We will share our CMAS testing schedule with you when we get closer to the testing dates.



## Science

**6th grade:** We are working on ecosystems and the relationships between their organisms. We will start food chains and food webs.

**7th grade:** We are working on the organs and systems of the human body, from its anatomy to its physiology and the importance of keeping us healthy.

We will do a dissection of a pig heart to identify the parts of the heart and their functions

**8th grade:** We are working on tectonic plates of our planet, from how they split in Pangea to the movements they continually have, even though we do not see them easily.



## Social Studies

**6th grade:** Students understand that actions and reactions of various nations and their citizens to current events depend upon a variety of factors, which include interdependence and shared history, policies, and leadership.

**7th grade:** Students understand that participation in a global society means we use multiple sources to develop awareness of issues and we advocate for and share our opinions and ideas.

**8th grade:** In this pivotal unit, students will use the American Civil War as a backdrop to examine various facets of conflict



## Math

**6th grade:** We are working on expressions, equations and inequalities. Applying the distributive property is usually the hardest part of the unit.

**7th grade:** We are finishing inequalities. Next week we will start working on modeling proportional relationships

**8th grade:** One group is finishing real numbers, learning how a quantity can be expressed in different ways, decimals and fractions. Also how to transform a fraction into a decimal and vice versa.

The other is finishing Exponents and scientific notation





## English Language Arts

**6th grade:** We are just finishing our argumentative writing unit where students have been writing argumentative pieces about whether or not cell phones should be allowed in school. Students reviewed articles and selected evidence to support their opinions and were then asked to explain and elaborate on their thinking.

Next, we will tackle a new reading unit!

**7th grade:** We are just finishing our argumentative writing unit where students have been writing consumer product reviews. Students were asked to select a product, or a business, or a service they love and argue what makes this product so amazing.

Next, we will tackle a new reading unit!

**8th grade:** We are just finishing our argumentative writing unit where students have been writing argumentative pieces about a topic of their personal choice. They conducted research and backed up this evidence with solid reasoning and acknowledged a counterclaim.

Next, we will tackle a new reading unit!



## Spanish Language Arts

**6th grade:** We are busy working on our unit around Self-awareness and Self-care. As part of this unit we are doing a book study with the book Wonder, which teaches about the importance of kindness, tolerance, and acceptance. We will be writing fictional or true narratives around self-awareness and self-care as our writing portion of this unit.

**7th grade:** We have just begun our unit on Creating a Community. As we learn about the importance of community, students will be working on creating a class newspaper to share important things that are happening in our school and local community.

**8th grade:** We are working on our unit about Latino Leaders and Leadership. During this unit students have been 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 grades: GRAMMAR!**

We have been busy 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.**



## Electives -Art -PE -Music -Technology -Diversity

**Web Development:** Students are learning to code websites using HTML and CSS. Ask your students to show you what they have been creating in code.org. We will finish up the quarter with a final project where students will create a multi-page website using all of the coding skills learned this quarter.

**Diversity:** We are hard at work learning the vocabulary that is essential to understanding our world as it is while working for a better world. Ask your students to tell you some meaningful examples of assumptions, stereotypes, and prejudice. Our next project will be on representation and every student will work on a project of their own design. I can't wait to see their amazing work.

**Physical Education:** Arvada High School is offering an opportunity for ANY 7th/8th grade students who want to play tackle football through AHS and the Denver Broncos.

Students will need to turn in a permission slip through google forms and pay \$40 for football equipment (pads, helmet etc.).

Please email Ms. Sammy for more information!



### Counselor's Corner

Our 7th and 8th graders have been exploring different strengths and interests and how those connect to being curious about high school and beyond.

Our 8th graders had an amazing field trip to UCD. We learned a ton and were amazed by our luck in getting to go to a great art studio and seeing the work of Gregg Deal.

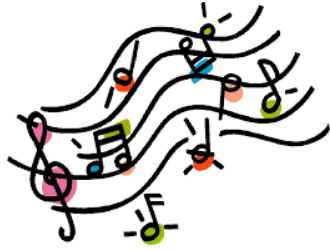


We have been busy in art! While every grade has been busy creating amazing art work I would like to take this time to shout out 5<sup>th</sup> grade. They have been working on a nutrition unit, in conjunction with P.E. (Ms. Sammy helped with nutritional information and facts), Music (They have been creating songs for their presentations with Ms. Katy's help) and Art (All of the visual elements were created in art). This project is one of the coolest projects we do as a whole specials team and we are excited to do it again...after a 2 year...ummm break???

The rest of elementary school has also been creating amazing art as well. Each grade is focusing on a different element of art. The elements of art are the building blocks used by artists to create works of art and are clearly visible as you walk down our art hall way!







# Music Notes

Katie Oaks - General Music, K-8  
[katie.oaks@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:katie.oaks@jeffco.k12.co.us)

Hello Foster families! Here is what to expect from music classes for the month of March:

For younger elementary students, music classes will focus on vocal exploration: developing the singing voice and pitch-matching skills, basic solfege syllables, and hearing high and low pitches.

Older elementary students will finally dive into recorders and recorder karate! Foster has plenty of recorders for each student; however, please contact Ms. Katie if you would like to purchase your own. All recorders will be assigned to a specific student and sanitized after each class.

Fifth grade students will begin playing the ukulele in music class. We will begin with identifying parts of the instrument, how to properly hold the instrument, and how to tune before playing. We will also learn how to play melodies and strum chords.

As we reach the end of February and Black History Month, middle school students will listen to and learn about African American musicians. During the month of March and Women's History Month, we will listen to and learn about female musicians. Once each week, we will welcome renowned Denver-area guitarist and music educator, David Ochoa, into our classes. Read more about David here: <https://davidchoamusic.com/>

I'm looking forward to a great month of music madness! 🎵😊





## FitBits: News from the Foster PE Department

Ms. Sammy Chumacero: K-8 PE Teacher

[samanta.chumacero@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:samanta.chumacero@jeffco.k12.co.us)

Next month will be a busy one in the Foster gym! Continuing our focus on skill development and game strategy this trimester, students will complete units in striking with implements (paddles, racquets, bats etc.) and volleying. Older students will also learn about the skill related fitness components and how they impact sports performance.

March is also the official start to our annual Kids Heart Challenge fundraiser for the American Heart Association! This optional program helps teach our students more about the importance of taking care of your heart health while giving students the opportunity to help out with an important cause. Keep an eye out for fundraising envelopes and registration forms for online donations in your student's Friday folder soon!

You can also register online at: [Kids Heart Challenge](#)

Stay healthy, stay happy!  
Ms. Sammy Chumacero  
K-8 Physical Education





## From the Library

### DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Each month, classes address a specific Digital Citizenship topic to ensure our students know and understand how to utilize digital tools in a safe and responsible manner. Families receive monthly resources to support various topics which we hope are helpful in extending this topic into the home setting. March's topic is privacy and security. Students learn how to protect personal information and gain a deeper understanding of their data privacy rights so they can advocate for themselves and others. More information and family activities can be found on Jeffco's website;



[Digital Wellness Supports for Families](#)  
[March Digital Family Letter](#)



### Arvada Area Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Olin Jacobson, Vivi Battista, Sarah Benage and Ben Thiessen who competed in the Arvada Area Spelling Bee on February 10. The winner of this competition proceeds to the next level to determine state bee participants.



### Book Fair

Thanks to all students and families who shopped at our Book Fair. Proceeds from the fair are used to buy materials and equipment for our school.

### Advanced Learning Plans

Teachers will provide progress monitoring reports for all students who have an Advanced Learning Plan in place. If you do not receive a report, please contact your child's teacher. This process keeps families informed of how students are progressing with the goals set in October.



## Spanish Spelling Bee

**Congratulations to the finalists in grades 4-8 who will be participating in our school Spanish Spelling Bee on Wednesday, March 9th, 2022 at 1:30pm in the library!**

**The first and second place winners will be representing Foster in the State Spanish Spelling Bee on April 16th, 2022 at Casey Middle School in Boulder.**

