

Bell Middle School

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May 2018

[School Website](#)

[Menu](#)

[Lunch & Bell
Schedule](#)

Message from the Principal...

Dear Bell Families-

It seems that I always have so much to share at the end of every school year, and this year may be even more impacted because of our 6th grade transition for 2018-2019. So, make yourself comfortable, as you read on.

Staffing Updates: We have done our fair share of hiring this year, and we are still not finished. I gave an update in February, but here's a more comprehensive list. However, I wanted to give you the latest update. We will have a total of eight core content teams – English (ELA), social studies (SS), and science (Sci) next year. Three at 6th grade, two at 7th and 8th grades, and one team that will teach both 7th and 8th grade classes (to be clear, they are not combined classes). The following are the teaching assignments for next year.

Team	ELA	SS	Science
6	Pennington	Haberkorn	Lee
6	Ingro	McGinnis (new)	Baum
6	Rotman (new)	Pullen (new)	Cole (new)
7 STEM	Ranney	Paricio	Tietjen
7	Cheaqui	Heiny	Russ
8 STEM	McVey	Martinez (new)	Leigh
8	Charles (new)	Krisl	TBD
7 / 8	King	TBD	TBD

continued...

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Rory Pierce

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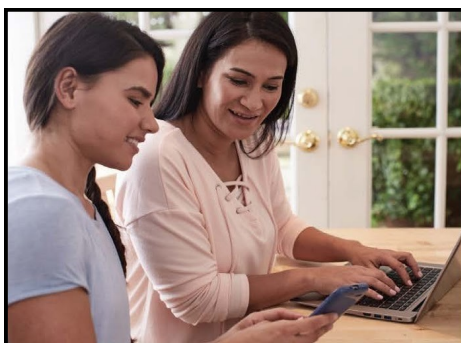


Message from the Principal, continued...

In addition, we have had some changes and additions amongst our *elective, math, special education, administrative, and support services* staffs.

- **Assistant Principal** – Valerie Calvert, who is a former principal in WY, resident of Golden, and currently works in an Expeditionary Learning school in Denver as an AP.
- **Math** – Shannen Johnsen, a Bell alum, and Clara Mizenko, a Colorado School of Mines alum will be joining our math team
- **Engineering** – Kirtis Courkamp, currently a math teacher, will be partnering with Mrs. Flores next year in engineering.
- **Robotics / Multi-Media** – Jessica Klauzer-Zimmerman, currently an engineering teacher at Bell, is taking over robotics and multi-media
- **Family and Consumer Studies** – Beth McCrea who is coming from Creighton MS
- **Spanish** – Jessica Swift, currently a social studies teacher, will be partnering with Mrs. Geer to teach Spanish
- **Special Education** – Megan Gibbs
- **Digital Teacher Librarian** – Julie Schlosser is currently the DTL at Moore MS
- **Principal Secretary** – Stanci Hagan
- **Financial Secretary** – Joanne Dynes (started at Bell a few weeks ago)

continued...



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Message from the Principal, continued...

We still have the following positions to fill:

- Two science positions
- One social studies position
- One special education position
- Interventionist / learning specialist
- Half-time PE teacher
- Speech Language Pathologist
- Two paraprofessional positions

Finally, we will be saying farewell to some amazing people next year. Our *retirees* are:

- **Susan Arntson, Jahn Baer, Sibylle Dean, Jan Hooston, Teri Mullen, Sue Urban, and Brian Van Vorhees.**

Other staff who are moving on to different adventures in their careers and lives are:

- **Dylan Burdick, Greg Rold, Jen Bates (on one-year leave), Kelsi Spence, and Mandi Ryd.**

Supply Lists for 2018-2019 – These will be available on our website by the end of May.

Important Dates for 2018-2019 – We reviewed these at PTA and BAT this week and are confirming a few more dates. We will be sending these out via email later this month, and they will be posted on the website.

Construction Update – If you ever get around to the back of the building, you might see that our construction project has begun. The contractor started digging for the 1,700 sq. ft. addition onto our **cafeteria** last week. It is a little bit of an inconvenience for right now, but we're easily navigating around it. Because access to the cafeteria from the outside back door is limited, ***we will have breakfast students entering into the school from the main doors for the remainder of this year.*** This is to keep the students away from the fenced-off area for construction when there is no outside supervision available.

continued...



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Message from the Principal, continued...

- **Carpeting:** Additionally, as I've mentioned in previous newsletters, all the carpeting in the building is getting replaced. This is almost more disruptive than anything else, as we have to dismantle and pack-up everything in those rooms to be put into storage. When it's all done, it will look awesome, though!
- **Inside Renovations** – Because we are expecting about 250 more students next year, we needed to be creative and find more classroom space in the building. While we have a few rooms that are underutilized in the building, we also needed to create about four new full-size classrooms. To do that, we are cutting the library down in size, enlarging the one classroom currently attached to the library, and creating a second classroom. We are also taking a space on the west side of the building that was broken into four small rooms and creating two large classrooms. Finally, in order to make better use of space, we are cutting our weight room down in size to create a new, larger orchestra room. This will allow us to make the old orchestra room the new staff lounge, and use the old staff lounge as another classroom.
- **Outside Renovations** – When you return in the fall, you will also notice that the front landscaping/walks look different. They will be renovating that whole front area to create more space for students to get on and off the buses, as well as stand outside.

Teacher's Room Assignments - Another change when you return in the fall that you will notice is that nearly every classroom teacher (not electives) will be in a different room than they were in before. With all the renovations and transition of all 6th graders to Bell, it was a good opportunity to put teams as close as possible together, utilize all of our science classrooms as science classrooms (not general classrooms), and keep our grade-levels together, as much as possible. So, keep that in mind as you return to school in the fall. Your favorite teacher from this year will likely not be in the same place as before!

continued...



Message from the Principal, continued...

May Important Dates – Always check our calendar on the Bell website for any [upcoming events](#). Here are some important events in May to make note of:

- May 3 – **ALL School Social** 2:30-4:00
- May 10-11 – ***The Lion King*** musical at 6:30
- May 14 – **Lakeside Amusement Park** Bell night
- May 16 – **iSTEM Showcase**
- May 21 – **8TH grade picnic - NO SCHOOL FOR 6TH & 7TH GRADE**
- May 23 – **6th & 7th Grade Awards in the morning**
- May 23 – **8th Grade Awards at 6:00pm**
- May 24 – **TRACKS Award Day and LAST DAY OF SCHOOL. School's dismissed at 11:40**

School Dress Code Policies - One important reminder that accompanies every spring is about **school-appropriate dress**. Please remember the following rules and guidelines for school-appropriate clothing:

- **Tank top straps should be a minimum of two fingers wide.**
- **NO off-the shoulder** shirts or dresses, though the “cold-shoulder” style is acceptable
- **NO tube tops**
- **All shorts and dresses/skirts should be no shorter than the length of students’ fingertips** when hanging straight down by their sides.
- Make sure that **no shorts or pants are “sagging”** and showing undergarments.
- Please make sure that **none of the clothing has words or images** that are inappropriate for a school setting (drug or alcohol references, paraphernalia, weapons, etc.).
- **Students are allowed to wear hats outside**, but must take them off when inside of the building **(This INCLUDES taking off hoodies)**.

If students are wearing clothing that is determined to be inappropriate for school, **we may offer them some other clothes to change into if available, or they will call home to get a change of clothes.** Thanks for helping your son / daughter be successful with these requirements!

As we look at the end of this school year, I want to take a moment to say thank you for your support and patience as I transitioned into the principal position at Bell. While there have definitely been some challenges as we prepare for 250 more students at Bell next year, the parents, staff, students, and Golden community have been incredibly patient, kind, and supportive. May is going to be busy, and I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming weeks.

Important Dates for May 2018



5/1/18 – Bell Accountability Mtg. 4-5p

5/1/18 – PTA Mtg. 5-6p

5/3/18 – Spring Social 2:15 -4p

5/7/18 – 5/11/18 Staff Appreciation Week

5/10/18 – 5/11 Lion King 7:00p

5/14/18 – Lakeside Night 5:30 – 10:30p

5/17/18 – Band/Choir/Orchestra Concert 6:30 – 9:00p

5/21/18 – 8th Grade Picnic –

5/21/18 – No School for 6th & 7th Graders

5/23/18 –End of the Year Awards

5/24/18 – Last Day of School for Students (Early Release 11:40a)


For detailed information about events, please see the Bell Website “News & Announcements” or Teacher websites.




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Spring Honor Roll Certificates

The second semester honor roll cut off for grades is May 11th. Students who have a GPA of 3.0-4.0 will receive a Gold, Silver, or Bronze certificate of recognition, depending on their GPA this semester (see below). Due to the End-of-the-Year Awards assemblies on May 23, we will not be presenting these certificates in an assembly like we did after the fall semester. Instead, students will receive these certificates during their 1st period classes on May 22nd.



Criteria for 2nd Semester Honor Roll:

- Gold – 4.0 GPA
- Silver- 3.5-3.9 GPA
- Bronze- 3.0-3.4 GPA

STEM Club

The **Bell Middle School** Girls in STEM Club, sponsored by **Jen Flores** and **Jen Bates**, hosted their first annual Hackathon on April 6 -7. Shortly after the final bell of the day, girls poured into the school auditorium to receive their challenge; create a game that appeals to other girls your age. The 40 sixth- through eighth-grade girls worked tirelessly through the night to create their games using the Scratch skills they had learned either in engineering class or on their own. Hourly raffles included prizes donated by Red Rocks Community College and Colorado School of Mines. In the morning, teams presented their game to a panel of female engineers from Colorado School of Mines.

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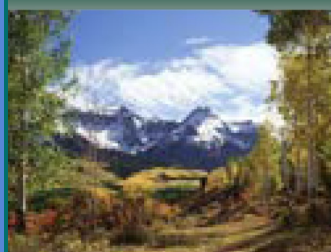
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Girls in STEM

On Friday, April 6th, the Girls in STEM participated in an overnight hackathon. Teams of three students were challenged to design and build a video game that middle school girls wanted to play. The first hackathon was a success and we would like to thank all the parents who brought in food, volunteered as mentors, and judged the final presentations.

1st Place: Emma Wilson, Emma Mears, Fiona Goble: "Slendicorn"

2nd Place: Hannah Studt, Natalie Campbell: "High School Musical"

3rd Place: Sophia Anderson, Annika Waples, and Ardena Jordan

Honorable Mention: Taylor Allen, Ashley Strock, and Libby Girard

Our final event will be attending the GESTEM Denver conference with all 7th grade girls at Bell MS on Friday, May 18th.



STEM

Save the date! On Wednesday, May 16th, from 4:00-6:00, all iSTEM students will be participating in the iSTEM showcase.

For 6th grade, students will be creating a "call to action" to present to Jeffco curriculum writers, Golden City Council and Sustainability Council, environmental engineers, or Colorado citizens about a threat to a Colorado ecosystem. In their presentation, the students will also be creating a simulation to explain the threat and the implications for the ecosystem.

In 7th grade, students will be showing their zoo exhibits and iSTEM magazines.

In 8th grade, students will be presenting their capstone projects. There is a wide range of projects- aquaponics, hydroponics, redesigned shoes, sensors that alert you to put on sunscreen, and composting in Golden to name a few projects!

We look forward to celebrating the work your child has done with you!



Great Women in Engineering (Winners)

We at Girls Who Code are excited about our brand new, **two-week** specialized summer camps, Girls Who Code Campus! Campus offers beginner and advanced courses for middle and high school students to explore coding concepts and join a sisterhood of girls who code.

Campus courses are great for:

- Girls that are exploring their interest in STEM and are looking for more challenging courses.
- Girls that are considering studying STEM in college and want to get a leg up.
- Girls that are applying for STEM-related scholarships and want to demonstrate their interest.

We are running five Campus courses in the Denver and Boulder areas in Summer 2018:

[Boulder Country Day School](#)

Introduction to Computer Science (ages 10-14), 06/04/2018 - 06/15/2018

Website Design & Development (ages 13-18), 06/18/2018 - 06/29/2018

[Colorado Academy](#)

Wearable Tech & Fashion Design (ages 13-18), 07/09/2018 - 07/20/2018

iPhone App Development (ages 13-18), 07/23/2018 - 08/03/2018

[Kent Denver School](#)

Introduction to Computer Science (ages 10-14), 07/16/2018 - 07/27/2018

[Register](#) (*Early bird pricing ends December 31st*)

[Learn more about Campus](#)

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Best,

Becca Garges

Denver/Boulder Community Ambassador, Girls Who Code Campus

becca.garges@girlswhocode.com

Our 2016 Annual Report is here! As we celebrate Girls Who Code's Fifth Anniversary, find out how close we are to closing the gender gap in tech:

<https://girlswhocode.com/2016report/>.

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July 29 - 31, 2018
Ages 8-13


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Counselors

Looking for educational experiences over the summer? Check out a couple of options below:

Summer Opportunities for Students:

- Visit **Warren Tech's** website and look under "Programs" for all the wonderful courses happening over the summer.

Course Options:

- Girls Who Hack
- Graphic Design
- Introduction to Culinary Arts
- Women Build Games
- Women In Metals (WIM)

<https://jeffcowarrent.ss12.sharpschool.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=664246&pageId=3402929>

- **Regis University** is offering summer programs for Reading Skills and Speed Reading

www.regis.readingprograms.org

1-800-903-0162

Important Assessment Dates

The spring Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Assessment window runs from April 23 - May 23. All students will take their final reading and math assessment (8th graders will also take a science assessment) during this time. Students have been monitoring their progress throughout the year, and the spring testing window is a time for celebration, reflection, and future goal setting. If you have any questions about this assessment, please contact me.

Allison Johnson

Instructional Coach

Bell Middle School

alajohns@jeffco.k12.co.us

Spanish

Spanish 1: We have just finished our unit on food where we learned the most common foods and how to order and communicate in a restaurant. We sat up a restaurant scene in our classroom and students acted out skits where they spoke with a “waiter” or “waitress” and ordered their meals. Our last unit is about the city. We will learn about all of the places you can go in a city and learn how to talk about things that we can do in each place. Students will end the unit by creating their dream city and will know how communicate about it.



Spanish 2: In Spanish 2 we have been learning how to speak in the past (preterit) tense. In order to practice this very important skill, we spoke of our daily routines. We learned how to say what we did yesterday to get ready for school and to get ready for bed. We then learned about places in the city, and we communicated about where we went and what roads we took to get there. We also reviewed commands and told people where to go in the city, giving directions for arriving at different locations. Our last unit will take us back to our childhood. We will learn how to talk and write about things we did as a child. This unit introduces us to the imperfect tense, which is a second past tense in Spanish. Students will end the year by making a childhood scrapbook and communicating about things they did as a child.



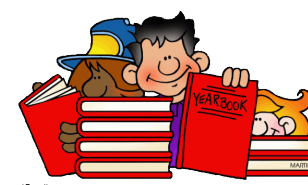
Choir and Musical Theater Performances

Don't miss our production of Disney's *The Lion King, Jr.* on May 10 and 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium! Our musical theater cast and crew students have been working hard all semester and can't wait to share this story with you. This is one you don't want to miss!

Our final concert of the year for Choir, Band, and Orchestra is May 17 at 6:30 p.m. Come hear all the amazing music Bell has to offer!

Yearbooks

- Yearbooks will be handed out to students on May 22 during 6th hour.
- Yearbooks for students with outstanding fees will be held in the financial office. Students will receive their yearbooks once their fees are paid.



Congratulations

Our 6th grade students worked ferociously to compete in the 2018 Colorado School of Mines (CSM) ConocoPhillips Center for a Sustainable Water-Energy Energy, Science and Technology (WE²ST) Research Symposium challenge for innovative water solutions. They were charged with creating new solutions to some of our world's most pressing water issues. Our students worked in groups to achieve their goals. With over 38 groups competing for a chance to present their idea at the CSM symposium, only 3 projects made the final cut.

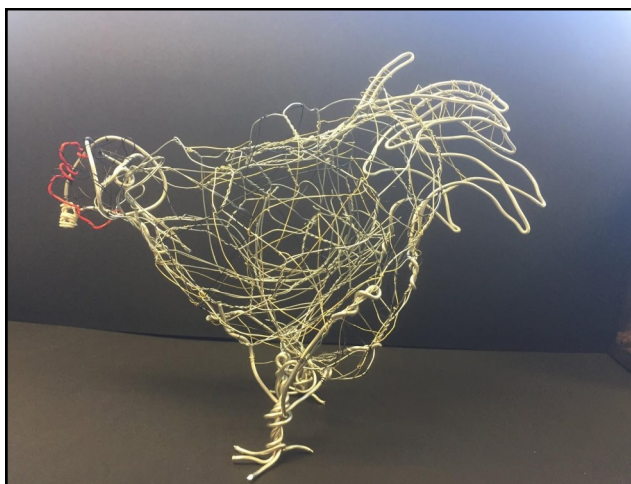
- ◆ iSTEM students, Nola Norden, Hunter Brickle, Cassie Valverde, and Jack Schumacher, shared their project on a preventative lead pipe coating for application before or after pipe installation.
- ◆ iSTEM students, Stephan Stone, Von McLaughlin, Camden Novak, and Emma Wilson, shared their project on creating simple, affordable wastewater treatment for developing countries.
- ◆ Traditional student, Halim Carr, presented his project focused on building up the coastal wetlands with bio-solids to minimize impacts of the rise in sea level due to climate change.

The night was ran most like a science fair where graduate and post graduate students from Colorado School of Mines, along with some of our Bell Middle School 6th graders, shared their research with peers, colleagues, family, and executives from ConocoPhillips.



Our students stole the show and had all the CSM students, faculty, and executives from ConocoPhillips impressed with the work they had done. They truly did a great job presenting at the event! Way to go, 6th graders!

Wire Sculptures Made by Visual Arts Students

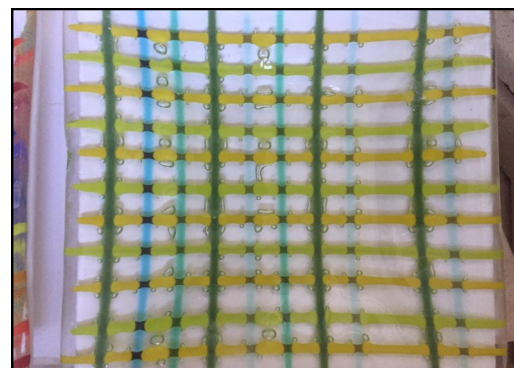
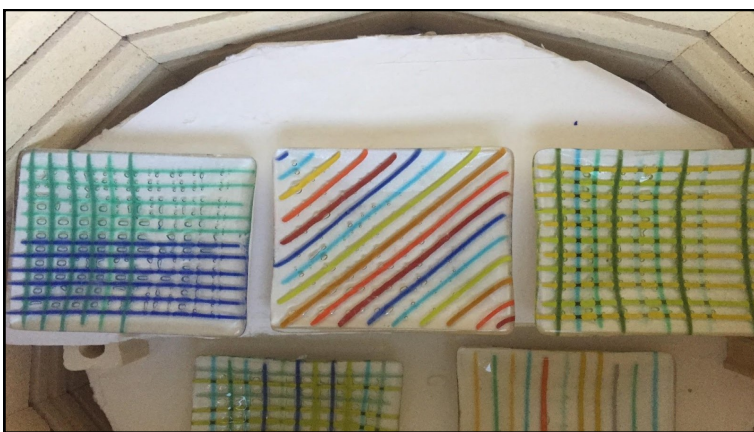


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Painted Clocks Inspired by Jackson Pollock



Fused Glass Fresh from the Kiln



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Photo by [Steven Libralon](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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Jumpstreet Indoor Trampoline Parks Celebrate Kids of All Abilities



April is National Autism Awareness Month but Jumpstreet celebrates kids of all abilities every month!

Jumpstreets across the country host a special semi-private event on the first Saturday of every month, including Saturday, April 7. Children with special needs and their siblings are welcome to enjoy the park one hour before it opens to the public. **The private hour is from 9am to 10am.**

Jumpstreet COO Mark Goldman says,

“Families have shared with us that their children with developmental challenges feel more confident in their play when the park is less crowded. We want all our young guests to have fun.”

The special admission price for the monthly event is \$8 for kids 5 years old and older and \$4 for ages 4 and younger. The admission is for a two-hour pass.

For more info, please visit GotJump.com.



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