



## *Inspiring Students to Learn Today to Thrive Tomorrow*

August 4, 2023

Dear Julesburg Elementary School Parents/Guardians and Community,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying a wonderful summer. I also hope that the summer break provided some time for your child to relax, recharge and get ready to start a new school year. As you all know, we are embarking on a most exciting journey as we leave the building that has taken care of us for so many years and will now fill the hallways of our brand new, beautiful building. We are absolutely thrilled to be able to share this truly memorable experience with you and your children.

Once again, we are ready to head into another productive school year. Our devoted staff has dedicated a great amount of time this past summer, moving, planning, and preparing for our young learners. Their focus has been on creating a 21st century and beyond classroom that makes learning visible and prioritizes student engagement. Our hard working building maintenance, custodial staff, and students have spent the summer moving, preparing, and organizing our new learning environment and we are most grateful for their hard and committed work. Office staff is now available and will be registering new students on August 7th as well as making any changes to our existing family information. We are excited to announce that we will be launching our new electronic registration system through your Powerschool Parent Portal. This will be a much easier way to register, update information, and fill out necessary forms. More information will be sent out soon.

### ***New Staff and Role Changes***

#### ***4th-6th Grade Content Area Departmentalization***

A new school year often brings staff changes. First, we are thrilled to announce some changes we are making within our intermediate grades (4th-6th). Ms. Katlyn Auernhamer will continue to be our homeroom 4th grade teacher and will teach 4th grade reading and writing but will teach 4th-6th science. Mrs. Marilyn Wilber will continue to be our 5th grade homeroom teacher and will teach 5th grade reading and writing along with 4th-6th grade social

studies. Ms. Stephanie Seidl will continue to be our 6th grade homeroom teacher and will teach 6th grade reading and writing as well as 4th-6th grade mathematics. This is what we call departmentalizing, similar to what you see in junior high and high school. This is a great benefit to our students in multiple ways but most importantly, we have identified teachers who are particularly skilled in certain content areas and they will be able to use these strengths to support your children in all of these areas. This is also great preparation for when your children become 7th graders and will be more familiar with having multiple teachers over the course of the day. More information will come directly from our intermediate teachers to families of our 4th-6th graders.

### **New Staff/Roles**

We are also excited to announce that Mr. Corey Mikelson will be joining us as our new K-12th physical education teacher. Corey is coming to us highly motivated and educated in the area of exercise and wellness and is truly excited to be a part of helping our students to live an active and healthy life. Corey is also a graduate of the Julesburg School District. We are always honored when graduates return to our district to help us continue to grow. In addition, we would like to welcome Mrs. Iva Burnett as a full-time reading and math interventionist. Iva comes with many years of educational experience with high success of student growth and achievement. We also welcome both Mrs. MaKayla Weber and Mr. Forrest Sanabria into full-time paraprofessional positions to assist with reading and math interventions. Finally, we welcome Jill Smith into our food service program as well as Albino Nunez Dominguez and Guadalupe Montes Alvarez as our new building custodians. We are so grateful for all of our new additions to our building as they bring experience, knowledge, and great support to our students, staff, and families.

***“Reading is like breathing in. Writing is like breathing out.”***

@weareteachers

It is important for elementary educators to teach the most essential skills in all content areas. Reading, writing, math, science, social studies, music, physical education, and art are always well-planned, supported and monitored over the course of the school year. With that said, each year we select a theme that supports a content area or multiple areas to focus on and celebrate with various activities throughout the course of the year with our students, staff, and families. This year we will be carrying over the important area of literacy but will also be adding writing to that focus. Reading, as we know, is the most crucial academic skill because it is the foundation for learning. Through third grade, children are learning to read. Beyond third grade, children are using reading to learn. One of the most important predictors of graduating from high school is reading proficiently by the end of third grade.

Reading together 20 minutes every day teaches most school readiness skills (i.e., vocabulary, social skills, content information, a joy for reading). The simple act of reading with a child every day has significant additional benefits including:

- Increases the number of children acquiring the essential early literacy skills required for entering kindergarten prepared and eager for school.
- Develops socially and emotionally confident children who have strong bonds and are at pace with their peers.
- Reduces the school achievement gap and lowers remediation needs for K-12 students by helping children start and stay at grade level.
- Empowers parents and caregivers to become their child’s first and most influential teachers.

Source: <https://www.readingfoundation.org/third-grade-reading-matters>

We will not only be building and supporting our young learners in the area of reading during school, we will have several additional activities that encourage and motivate our students to grow a love of reading and to be highly effective readers. More information will come out as we begin those new activities. When we think about the most important skills to teach our children, building a lifelong love of reading as well as creating and fostering the capacity to create through the writing process is always at the forefront of our minds. Reading and writing may be looked at as fundamental skills within the classroom, but their use remains essential long after one's formal education comes to an end. Living in the digital age has made literacy even more important, as communicating professionally via writing is an important (and assumed!) skill in most workplaces. (source: <https://marcolearning.com/importance-of-writing-in-elementary-school/>) There are so many benefits to mastering the skills of effective writing and study after study proves that the acquisition of these skills allows students to become better communicators as well as better comprehenders and critical thinkers. Throughout the course of the year, we will tie the writing process, creative writing, and writing as an important form of communication into our daily activities, evening family and events, and engaging home/school connection projects. Don't worry...we promise...this will be fun!

Thank you once again for helping support your child throughout the summer months and for preparing them for the upcoming school year. Our school district is a collaborative community committed to developing life-long learners to become productive citizens. As a school staff, we will share the responsibility for the continued academic growth of all students by challenging and changing our practices, procedures and policies to meet the needs of our students. It remains a great honor to serve as your child's principal and I eagerly look forward to seeing you and your children soon. Please know that we will work hard to make this school year one of growth and achievement for all students.

Sincerely,  
Rhonda Palic  
Julesburg Elementary School Principal

***Important Upcoming Dates/Events***

DATE	EVENT
August 7th	<p>NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION AT OUR NEW SCHOOL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Please stop by anytime between 8:00 and 4:00 to register new students Preschool-12th grades.</li> <li>● Important information to bring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Birth Certificate</li> <li>○ Social Security Card</li> <li>○ Current/Updated Immunization Records</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
August 28 <sup>th</sup>	<p>ELEMENTARY TEACHER MEET AND GREET, 7:45-12:45</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Families will have the opportunity to stop by, tour your child(ren)'s classroom, get to know your child's teacher, pick up school and classroom paperwork, and pay the supply fee. This will only take approximately 15-20 minutes</li> <li>● <b><i>YOUR TIME WILL BE MAILED TO YOU!</i></b></li> </ul>
August 29th	<b>FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!</b>

- 2:30-3:30 - Author Mark Hoog Presentation to Students
- 5:00 - 8:00 - Back to School Night Kick-Off/Family BBQ/Fun Activities for Elementary Students/Author Mark Hoog Presentation to Parents

2023-2024 Julesburg Elementary School  
 SCHOOL HOURS: Monday-Friday, 8:00-3:30 p.m.  
 Breakfast: 7:45-8:00 a.m.  
 Playground opens for all students at 7:45 a.m.

Principal	Rhonda Palic
Office Manager	Brenda Lechman
Preschool Lead Teachers	Tara Hansen (Director and Lead Teacher) Jourdin Wilson (Lead Teacher)
Kindergarten	Lisa Lindsay
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Marlee Sanabria
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Emily Edson
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Keli Hoschouer
4 <sup>th</sup> Homeroom 4th Reading and Writing 4th-6th Science	Katlyn Auernhamer
5 <sup>th</sup> Homeroom 5th Reading and Writing 4th-6th Social Studies	Marilyn Wilber
6 <sup>th</sup> Homeroom 6th Reading and Writing 4th-6th Mathematics	Stephanie Seidl
Title I Math and Reading Intervention/Special Education/Gifted and Talented	Betty Hoschouer
Special Education (K-12)	Gayle Monette
Math and Reading Interventionists	Jana Harens Iva Burnett
Physical Education (K-12)	Corey Mikelson
Vocal Music and Instrumental Music (K-12_	Elli Kopp
Preschool Paraprofessionals	Paula Kantor and Ashley Stoneking

Elementary Instructional Paraprofessional	Susan Paiz, Forrest Sanabria, MaKayla Weber
Maintenance and Custodial Services	Jeremy Kizer Albino Nunez Dominguez Guadalupe Montes Alvarez
Food Services	Karla Johnson and Jill Smith

**IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

School Phone	(970) 474-3364
School Fax	(970) 474-3319
Website	<a href="http://www.julesburg.org">www.julesburg.org</a>

**PARENT NEWSLETTER 2023-2024**

*All parent newsletters will be sent monthly via text message this year. They will also be posted on our website, [www.julesburg.org](http://www.julesburg.org) and on the district Facebook page. If you need a hard copy of this monthly newsletter, please email Rhonda Palic at [palic\\_rh@julesburg.org](mailto:palic_rh@julesburg.org) or call the school at 970-474-3364 to notify them of your request.*



<p>Arrival and Dismissal</p> <p><b>Arrival &amp; Dismissal</b></p>	<p>Please refer to the map that was/will be sent through district messaging. As a rule, parents who are dropping students off will enter 5th street (one way), pull up to the curb to drop off their child(ren) and then proceed around the loop and exit out 4th street. Students walking should enter the campus on 4th street and walk up the sidewalk and either go through the front doors for breakfast or around to the playground. Preschool families will enter 5th street and pull into the parking lot on the southeast side of the building. We do have designated parking places for preschool parents as they are expected to walk their children to the preschool doors, check-in and then leave. SEE MAP BELOW!</p>
<p>Food Service</p>	<p>As a result of the past state election and initiative that was passed, all students will receive free breakfast and lunch. Breakfast will be served from 7:45-8:00 a.m. Students eat lunch at scheduled times between 11:00 a.m.</p>



and 12:30 p.m. Students will continue to have two entrée choices as well as plenty of fresh fruits and veggies from the salad bar. Students will have the ability to purchase a second entree upon finishing their first meal. Parents will have the opportunity to complete a form through our new online registration portal in order to give (or deny) permission for their child to purchase a second meal. We will also continue with the Fresh Fruit and Veggie Program, which will allow us to provide students with a fresh fruit or vegetable each day in the afternoon.

***FREE AND REDUCED APPLICATIONS: Julesburg Elementary School has qualified for the state CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) program, therefore all elementary students will receive free breakfasts and lunches. There is no need for elementary families to fill out the free and reduced form this year.***

iPads and Laptops



Julesburg Elementary School is fortunate to provide students with quality technology to support their learning. Students have access to laptops and/or iPads. Should your child need to take a device home to complete work, we will ask that parents pay a \$20 insurance fee for the iPad or \$40 insurance fee for a laptop. A technology use agreement form will be available within the parent portal of PowerSchool

Monitoring Student and Staff Health



As the Julesburg RE-1, we will continue to monitor our student and staff health on a daily basis. All areas, especially those that are frequently touched, will be disinfected frequently throughout the day. Students will wash their hands and use hand sanitizer as needed. Being sure that a child is well enough to go to school can be tough for any parent. Having a cough or mild congestion does not necessarily mean that a child cannot handle class and other activities. Attendance is extremely important for your child's growth and achievement; however, they need to be well in order to do their best. If your child is exhibiting a fever, diarrhea, vomiting, a persistent cough and heavy congestion, please keep them home and notify the school so we can prepare for them to be absent. Students should be fever free for 24 hours, with no fever-reducing medication within that 24 hours in order to come to school and to be their best. The school will contact parents if we have not heard from a parent when a student is absent. Never hesitate to contact the school with any questions regarding whether or not your child is well enough to come to school. You know your child best. A child who has the sniffles but has not slowed down at home is likely well enough for the classroom. However, one who has coughed all night and has a hard time getting up in the morning might need to take it easy at home.

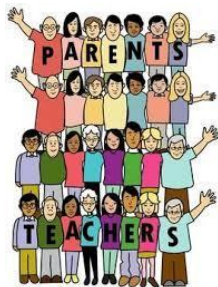
Physical Education (P.E.), Vocal and Instrumental Music

Students will still continue to attend music and P.E. daily. We will also take advantage of good weather by having P.E. classes outside as much as possible. Please make sure your child has a pair of tennis shoes to wear



for P.E. each day. Tennis shoes are the most safe for this type of physical activity. These tennis shoes WILL remain at school. This is especially important in an effort to protect and maintain our new gymnasium floor. Ms. Kopp will also be scheduling a parent meeting for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents (and new 6<sup>th</sup> grade students) to learn about the band program and to select an instrument for the school year.

What Parents Can Do To Help Your Child Have a Successful School Year:



1. Make early and frequent contact with your child's teacher.
2. Help your child get to and from school safely.
3. Balance independence and support. Remember, we are raising our children to be educated, self-sufficient adults. We need to be present, and support our children with guidance and allow them to try the skills we teach them. They may succeed at first and they may fail at first. Everything is a learning experience. Learning what to do when we fail is such an important skill in resiliency.
4. Make a home for everything. When your child walks in the door, shoes get put on the shelf/closet/etc., backpack gets hung up, planner is checked and homework is completed (if needed). This routine helps keep your child organized and builds a sense of personal responsibility and accountability.
5. Create a structured time and place for homework and/or reading.
6. Become a familiar face at school. Never hesitate to come in, introduce yourselves, attend events and say hello. It takes a village to support and prepare our students for the future and we welcome the partnership with you.
7. Be sure your child is getting adequate sleep each night.
8. Model and encourage an excitement for learning.
9. Be involved. Be supportive. Be proactive. We are in this together!
10. READ!


SCHOOL SUPPLY CHANGES FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR



As with any new project, change will happen. In an effort to move forward with the new building, new instruction, and fostering a new way of approaching instruction, learning, creativity and imagination, we have a new plan for school supplies. This year, we are asking families to provide their child with a clean new pair of tennis shoes that will remain at school for PE. This is what is best for your child to perform their best in PE each day as well as to maintain the new gym floor. It is also important for families to make sure their children have adequate clothing for the weather we experience in Colorado (winter coats, hats, gloves, boots, etc.) Obviously those items will go home each day...we just want families to prepare. As for school supplies, we are asking families to pay a \$25 supply fee for each child and then the school will purchase the supplies that are most necessary for the academic success and growth of your child(ren). There are multiple benefits to the change, but here are the ones we found were most notable:

- Parents will spend much less with this \$25 fee than to purchase all of the supplies as they have done in the past. Economic times are tough right now and we want to do our best to help our families.
- Teachers have thoughtfully planned for the most important and necessary supplies which will benefit your child's education and there will be less wasted.
- Classroom design in our new building will look much different and will overall be so much more beneficial to our learners. There will be time for individual and collaborative work and the idea of



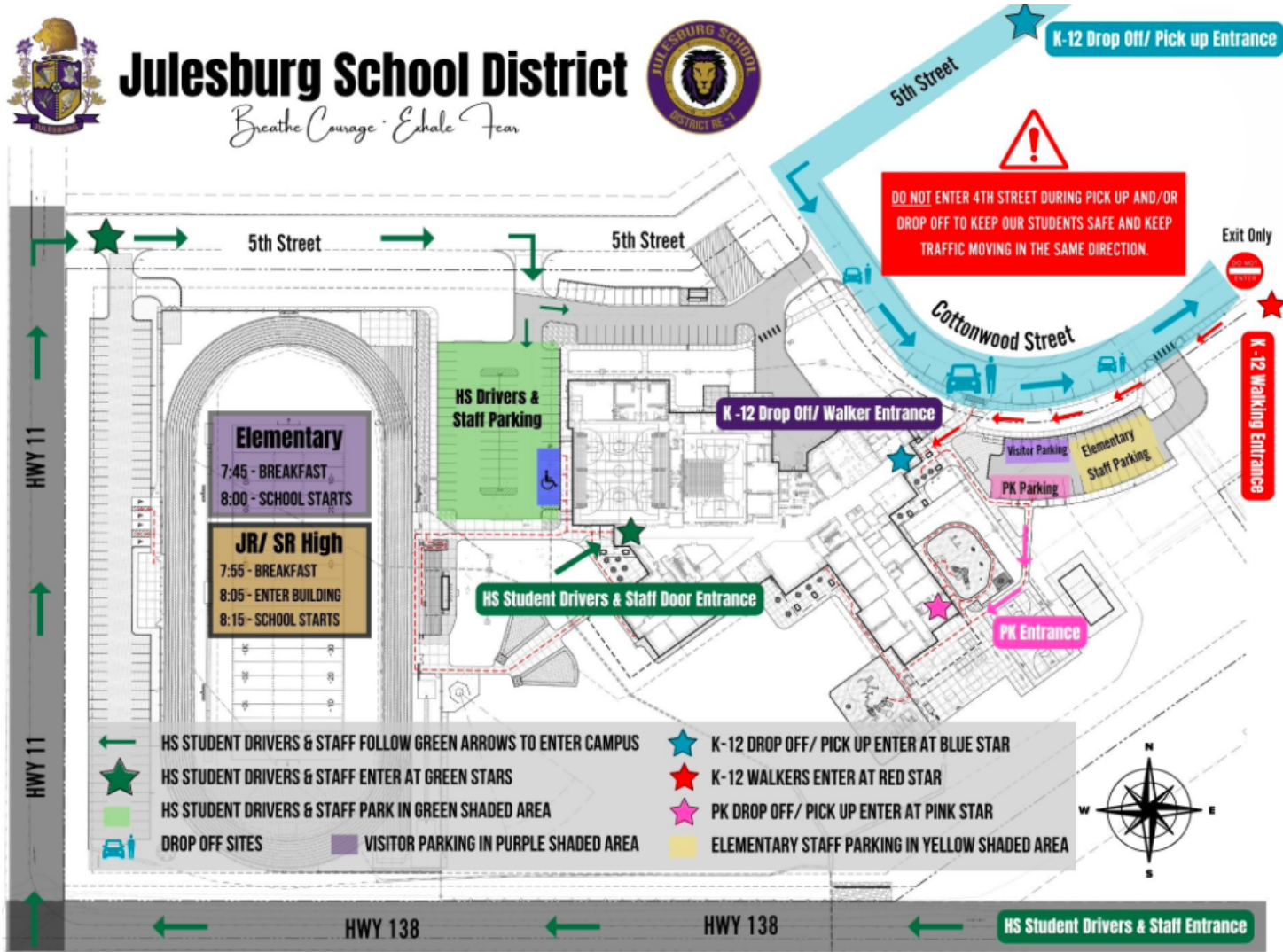
	<p>students having access to multiple supplies specifically designed and planned for those projects, assignments, etc. will be much more advantageous to our learners.</p> <p>*Families, if you are in need of any assistance with this fee, please do not hesitate to email <a href="mailto:palic_rh@julesburg.org">palic_rh@julesburg.org</a> and we will be happy to help.</p>
<p>NEW PowerSchool Parent Portal Electronic Registration</p> 	<p>We are excited to announce a new and efficient way to register AND update required school paperwork. The Julesburg School District is now utilizing PowerSchool for new families to register as well as for current families to update information. All other paperwork such as; permission for seconds, permission to photograph and post student photos on our website, electronic device check-out, field trip permission, etc. will all be filled out electronically. This can all be accessed through your PowerSchool Parent Portal.</p> <p>When you attend your scheduled time at our Teacher/Family Meet and Greet, you will receive a letter with you PowerSchool username and password for the Parent Portal. You will still be able to access grades, lunch money owed (for seconds if purchased), and now you will be able to update your own personal information as well as completing necessary school paperwork.</p> <p>Thank you and please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have.</p>





# Julesburg School District

Breathe Courage · Exhale Fear



**Elementary**  
 7:45 - BREAKFAST  
 8:00 - SCHOOL STARTS

**JR/ SR High**  
 7:55 - BREAKFAST  
 8:05 - ENTER BUILDING  
 8:15 - SCHOOL STARTS

- HS STUDENT DRIVERS & STAFF FOLLOW GREEN ARROWS TO ENTER CAMPUS
- HS STUDENT DRIVERS & STAFF ENTER AT GREEN STARS
- HS STUDENT DRIVERS & STAFF PARK IN GREEN SHADED AREA
- DROP OFF SITES
- VISITOR PARKING IN PURPLE SHADED AREA
- K-12 DROP OFF/ PICK UP ENTER AT BLUE STAR
- K-12 WALKERS ENTER AT RED STAR
- PK DROP OFF/ PICK UP ENTER AT PINK STAR
- ELEMENTARY STAFF PARKING IN YELLOW SHADED AREA



## Drop Off/ Pick Up Map 401 COTTONWOOD STREET