



# The Meeker Message

## October 1, 2021



### School Hours:

Mondays:	8:45 am to 3:10 pm	(May arrive on/after 8:30 am)
Tuesdays through Fridays:	7:45 am to 3:10 pm	(May arrive on/after 7:30 am)

**Main Line/Attendance: 970-348-2000**

**Health Clinic: 970-348-2026**

**Principal: Cathy Nelson**

**Assistant Principal: Alison Ferguson**

**Dean of Students: Kelly Atkinson**

**Office Manager: Tami Naylor**

**Secretary: Margie Calderwood**

## Principal Nelson's Post:

Dear Meeker Families,

We have successfully completed our first full month of the 2020-2021 school year at Meeker! What a UNIQUE but AMAZING month it has been for our staff and students! We have never been prouder of our students for keeping one another safe by wearing their masks and staying in their cohorts during recess. Our incredible teachers have adapted their teaching styles as we have had a few isolated quarantines in some of our classrooms. Teachers are needing to teach in person as well as to teach remotely for students who are at home due to testing and/or quarantining.

Thank you, parents, for not sending your child to school with a cough, sore throat, fever, runny nose, headache, etc. Thank you for communicating illnesses and testing results to our health clerk and school nurse to ensure we are continuing to monitor and track this as a building. We also appreciate when you are on school grounds and in close proximity to our students that you are wearing your mask to keep one another safe.

We want to thank you for attending your child's conference virtually or in person. We hope you learned about the goals your child is striving to achieve this school year. We appreciate the time you spent having conversations around your child's strengths and areas of growth. We know that we are a team that needs to work together to ensure your child's success.

We would like to remind you that school does begin at 7:45 but our students are welcome to enter the building at 7:30 as we have an early entry routine to ensure our students are successful in focusing on being a learner for the day. If your child does arrive earlier, he/she will be sent home with a note asking not to arrive prior to the 7:30 time.

As stated prior to the school year, as a district we would re-evaluate volunteers towards the end of September. After careful consideration, volunteers are allowed back into our buildings. Volunteers will be allowed to support buildings starting October 1. All volunteers should wear a mask at all times regardless of vaccination status and should check their temperature at a visitor kiosk upon arrival. As per past practice, volunteers still need to register through Raptor prior to the start date and sign-in during each visit at your Raptor station. If you are interested in volunteering in our school you are welcome to call the office or your child's classroom teacher for further information.

We have two positions open at Meeker that we want to hire as soon as possible. The first position is a parent liaison. This position is hired by the Family Center Director, David Reyes and you can find more information and the posting on the district website. We also have the need for a full-time special education assistant for our Students with Significant Needs program. This position is posted on our district website. Please apply for either position if you are interested and meet the qualifications.

We all love reading! How awesome would it be if we could read stories to our children that also exemplify the 7 Habits? Included in our newsletter this month you will find a list of recommended books to read with your family. They are categorized by grade level and give you the title and author of the books. You can find these books at our local public libraries through the High Plains Library District. Library cards are free and checking out books brings unlimited potential to you and your children! It would be wonderful to share these classic stories together!

With how our Spring ended, our students have some academic challenges that lie ahead for them this year. We appreciate your support in helping them read every single night for a minimum of 20 minutes. Our data is showing that our students in Kindergarten-Third Grade are behind right now in reading from where we would expect them to be. The data below shows the number of students who are reading on grade level in each grade versus the number of students who are reading below grade level. Our teachers are working so incredibly hard during the day to help your students catch up and we greatly appreciate your help in the evenings to help your students get their 20 minutes of reading in.

**Kinder-3rd Reading Data for Beginning of the Year**

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>% of Students Reading on Grade Level</b>	<b>% of Students <b>NOT</b> Reading on Grade Level</b>
Kindergarten	29%	71%
1st Grade	34%	66%
2nd Grade	53%	47%
3rd Grade	48%	52%

**Attendance Update:**

We want to continue to thank everyone who is keeping students at home when they are exhibiting minor symptoms, though we know that this can be frustrating, it is ensuring that we are not spreading germs or having to quarantine due to a possible exposure. It is important that you call your student in if they are going to be absent as this allows the absence to be counted as excused and lets us know where the student is and that they are safe.

Students should be arriving to school on time by 7:45 every morning. Our doors open at 7:30 and we are so grateful to all of you that get your students to us by 7:30 so that they have time to come inside calmly, eat breakfast, and prepare for a great day of learning. Students who are late to school are missing important community building work as well as additional time that the teacher has to work one on one with students. Mrs. Oestreich will be reaching out to families whose students have more than 4 tardies to come up with a plan to ensure that we are supporting your family and helping get your students to school on time.

Students who have missed 4 days of school in a month, unexcused, are considered high risk for absences and missed work during the year. Students who currently have more than 5 unexcused absences will be asked to meet with Mrs. Ferguson or Mrs. Oestreich during the next two weeks. We will work with your family to try and problem solve so that we can ensure that your student is getting to school consistently on a weekly basis.

We appreciate all your positive feedback in our first several weeks of school and we are looking forward to a year filled with achieving grade level goals and watching your child grow as a leader!

Respectfully,

Cathy, Alison, and Kelly



### CALENDAR:

10.6.21 McTeachers' Night  
10.7.21 Picture Make-Up Day  
10.11.21 – 10.12.21 No School for Students

### IMPORTANT COVID INFORMATION:

There is some confusion on when to keep a student home from school. See the following guidelines:

We need you to keep your child home if your child **or someone in your home** is showing one of these *major symptoms* of COVID-19:

- Feeling feverish or having chills or a temperature of 100.0 F or greater
- New or unexplained persistent cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Loss of taste or smell

In addition, please keep your child at home and contact your child's healthcare provider if they or someone in your home is experiencing **two or more** of these *minor symptoms*:

- Sore throat
- Runny nose or congestion
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If your child or someone in your home is **testing for COVID-19**, please keep your child home until the test results show a negative test. Please contact our Health Clerk or Nurse here at school if someone is testing so they can give you further guidelines. Thank you for helping keep our school safe!

### PARENTS, PLEASE COMPLETE:

In order to ensure that we have the most current information on file for our students, we are asking **all current D6 families** to review and update the information we have on file annually. This online process replaces paper forms you've received in previous years for each student and will cover all students in your household at once. Requests for transportation will now be accepted as part of this process. Please go to: [ANNUAL STUDENT DATA UPDATE](#) Families NEW to Greeley-Evans, please see: [ADMISSIONS](#)

### MEEKER ONLINE STORE! Check it out!

Scan the QR code and see what apparel you can purchase for your student for MEEKER SPIRIT!

