

Points of Pride

- **Habitat:** CRE's schoolyard habitat project continues to grow. The habitat creates many learning opportunities every day in our Science and Inquiry Initiative.
- **Band, and Orchestra:** Our school is lucky to be able to offer students the opportunity to learn how to play an instrument through our band and orchestra programs, which are offered during the day to fourth, fifth and sixth graders.
- **Choir:** CRE singers performed in a 300-member choir for an audience of 1,000 in November.
- **Sock Hop:** CRE offers a program that aligns to the Douglas County Music and PE curriculum. Students perform dances at a day and evening Sock Hop as part of the school's Fall Celebration.
- **Student Council:** Intermediate students work with teacher sponsors to plan spirit days and student events, and serve as role models in the school.
- **Early Literacy Intervention:** This opportunity is available to first graders who are on ILPs. Students work with experts in early literacy development to bring them to grade level proficiency.
- **Outdoor Education:** Castle Rock Elementary offers an outdoor education program that aligns to our School of Science and Inquiry curriculum. Fourth grade students go overnight to Glenwood Springs to explore Colorado history, geography and earth science. Fifth grade students spend three days at Keystone Science Camp where they explore the scientific process. Sixth grade students spend four days at Camp Cheley in Estes Park where they explore natural resources, wildlife, and ecology.
- **PBS:** Thanks to our school's Positive Behavior Support initiative, we have hundreds of ROCKS Stars at CRE! Our Stars consistently display behavior that is Respectful, Organized, Community-oriented, Kind, and Safe.
- **Theatre:** KidStage is an after-school enrichment that provides theater and acting classes for kids! The curriculum includes concentration, teamwork, improvisation, movement, voice and theater terminology. At the end of the session, KidStage performs a show run by the students.
- **Reading Together:** In our continuing effort to build strong readers, CRE has implemented this program by training sixth graders to be reading mentors for second grade students. The program benefits not only the mentored, but also the mentors through modeling and teaching while building self-esteem in reading.
- **Science Planning Time Grant and Science Specials:** In an effort to provide the most effective and highest quality education possible, CRE staff has extra planning time to work on creating in-depth, inquiry-focused science lessons.
- **World Languages:** Castle Rock Elementary has the World Languages program as part of its daily schedule this year. These classes are designed for complete Spanish immersion. No one speaks English, including the classroom teacher, who becomes another student in class.

About Our District

Douglas County School District is the third largest school district in Colorado and we remain one of the highest achieving and fastest growing districts in Colorado.

Superintendent Jim Christensen and the Board of Education attribute this continued success to a focus on students. Engaged parents, outstanding teachers and staff contribute greatly to student learning in our District. Our Vision is to help students acquire the knowledge and abilities to become responsible citizens who contribute to society.

In addition to the information found in this school report, state-required accountability and accreditation information is also available in the Colorado Department of Education's "ONE REPORT," linked to the District web site at www.dcsdk12.org. Or, send an email to communications@dcsdk12.org for additional information.

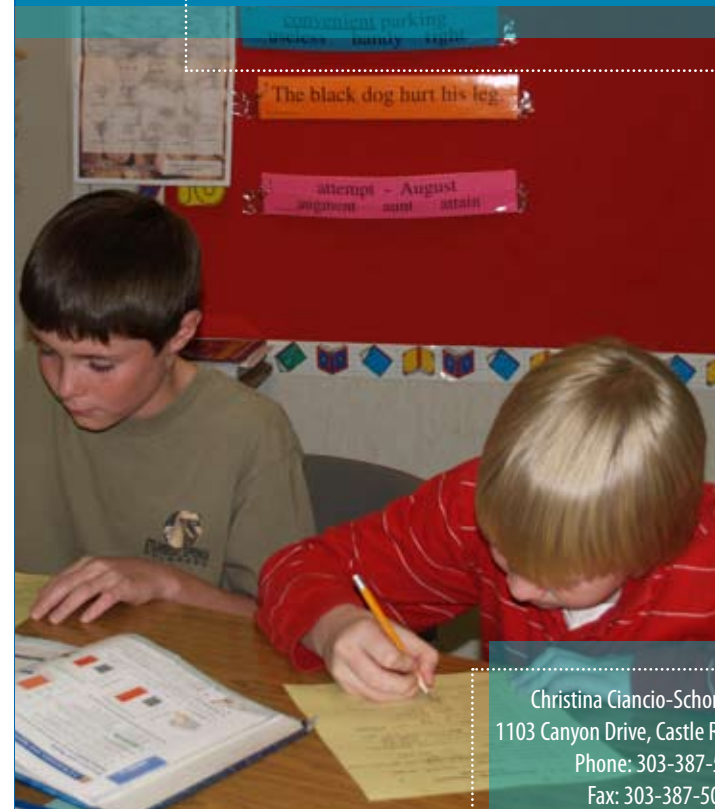
We have outstanding students in our District who go far beyond what required reports can tell us. We celebrate their successes daily. Thank you for being part of our school community!

School Mission Statement

The mission of Castle Rock Elementary is to create and maintain a safe, respectful, and caring environment in which students are challenged and supported in their pursuit of academic excellence. We encourage inquiry and critical thinking in all academics. We inspire and model lifelong learning.

Inspire, Desire, Inquire!

Castle Rock Elementary School



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Principal's Perspective

Castle Rock Elementary School (CRE) is a community of learners pursuing higher levels of understanding to meet individual and school goals. Our school supports an embedded staff development model that provides science and literacy learning opportunities and support for our teachers within the context of their classroom environments.

A primary focus at CRE for more than a decade has been to help all students improve in reading and writing. A District initiative, Literacy Instructional Framework for Teachers (LIFT) helps reinforce our understanding about teaching literacy. CRE continues to work to support strong literacy instructional understandings and practices, through the use of the LIFT framework.

In tandem, CRE continues to work on our Science and Inquiry initiative. This year, staff development opportunities at CRE include classes on how to use science notebooks in the classroom and staff development to help teachers implement the 5E (Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate) Model of instruction into their classrooms through the use of Lesson Studies. Through the inquiry instruction opportunities and the after-school activities, teachers and students continue to develop a deeper understanding in the purpose and importance of science. In addition, staff aim to enhance students' critical thinking skills.

We continue to make the connections between best literacy practices and science and inquiry instruction the focus at CRE. We are convinced that when we combine science, inquiry instruction and literacy skills, students will have the personal motivation and techniques to learn more effectively. Children need to – and love to – learn about the world around them. Providing rich and meaningful literacy experiences within the context of science helps increase student engagement. In this way, we can effectively develop scientific understandings, while reinforcing skills in critical thinking and the power of observation.

In addition to science and inquiry, and literacy professional development, many staff members are participating in staff development opportunities in the area of technology. Our school is continually working to increase the technology available to the staff and students in order to enhance student learning in all areas. At CRE we want the teachers to use technology in meaningful contexts. We have a full-time educational assistant assisting the Computer Resource Teacher (CRT). This allows the CRT to directly collaborate with teachers in classrooms to enhance CRE's mission statement: Inspire, Desire & Inquire. We also have library times set aside so the librarian, CRT, and teacher triad work together. They use the Big 6 Research Model in the library with print resources and district databases like World Book and eLibrary. This collaboration helps students structure and manage information literacy as 21st century citizens.

CRE is now in its fourth year of the state supported Positive Behavior Support initiative. This is a school-wide program involving staff, students and families, designed to focus on positive behavior expectations. We work toward improving student behavior through positive recognition when they are doing the right thing. Our Castle Rock Elementary ROCK Stars program focuses on Respect, Organization, Community, Kindness and Safety (ROCKS).

Castle Rock Elementary continues to implement continuous quality improvement action plans and closely monitors student progress to meet these goals. The School Improvement Plan (SIP) talks about all these points of pride in greater detail. This living document marks and guides our progress using the continuous quality improvement model so that we can effectively meet these goals.

Along with the SIP, the School Advisory Committee and State Report Card guide and document direct connections in all that we are doing to improve student achievement. Our goals are focused on reading, writing, math, and science and inquiry.

CRE is an exciting place to be! We are proud of our student achievement goals and our progress toward them. We are also proud of the many other opportunities available for children at CRE. Our outdoor education programs begin in fourth grade and continue through sixth grade. We have an outdoor habitat learning lab that has been recognized by the National Wildlife Federation as an official schoolyard habitat site. Our students created the site plan, organized work days, and created this lab on our school grounds. CRE also works hard to develop a passion for theater, music, art, technology and physical education in our students.

We are proud of the hard work and dedication of our parent community, as evidenced by their active participation in the Site Accountability Committee, the Parent-Community Group, and our vast parent volunteer pool.

This document highlights our school goals and well-earned Points of Pride!

Christina Ciancio-Schor

Principal

Goals and Measures

2007-2008 SIP Goals

Science: Increase the number of students demonstrating proficiency to 50% or above.

Language Arts: Increase the number of students demonstrating proficiency in reading and writing to 85% or above.

Math: All students will demonstrate proficiency in math, meeting or exceeding District standards of 80% to 83% (depending on grade level).

- ♦ Everyday Math extension activities

Inquiry and Critical Thinking: Increase the number of students demonstrating critical thinking within inquiry instruction in science, reading, and writing.

- ♦ Professional development around science inquiry, science notebooks, assessment and Quality Criteria will be offered to staff.
- ♦ Extension opportunities in science.
- ♦ Students will participate in outdoor education (4-6th grades).
- ♦ Students will participate in additional inquiry instruction via the planning time grant.