



Douglas County  
School District

Learn today. Lead tomorrow.

# NEWSLINE

A weekly news source from Douglas County School District

[www.dcsdk12.org](http://www.dcsdk12.org)

August 20, 2009

## Photo of the week ...



Superintendent Christensen gets in line with (L to R) siblings Zander and Mackenzie Danyliw, twins Andrew and Connor Woodring and (in back) Ryan Tierney and Elliott Herrmann.

## District continues its exceptional record with newly released ACT scores

More good news about District scores were released this week! The ACT Assessment is a test to measure how well students have mastered the Colorado Model Content Standards and is administered to all 11th grade students in Colorado. As the ACT is a good predictor of how well a student will do in his or her first year of college, it is often used by colleges to determine admission.

In 2008-2009, 3,426 juniors took the ACT in the District, 26 more than the previous year. Results show that DCSD continues to outpace the state average on the four tested areas (English, Reading, Math and Science Reasoning) by 1.7 to 2.0 points. The District's average score improved to 21.5.

Some specific improvements include:

- DC Oakes, Castle View, Chaparral, Eagle Academy, Rock Canyon and ThunderRidge all improved their overall composite scores.
- Castle View, Eagle Academy and ThunderRidge showed gains in all four subject areas.
- Eagle Academy saw a 1.2 point gain in their composite scores, a significant jump.

"These results further validate the hard work of our students and teachers," says Superintendent Jim Christensen. "These scores are exemplary and a testament to the high quality of our education community. We should all be very proud."



## Ready to roll at Buffalo Ridge

Superintendent Jim Christensen dropped by **Buffalo Ridge Elementary** this week and posed with the youngsters who were lined up and ready to start the school day!

## 2nd Annual Colorado Rapids Community Night

This year's DCSD Colorado Rapids Community Night, sponsored by the Douglas County Educational Foundation, will be held on Saturday, September 5, 2009.

The Colorado Rapids will host Toronto FC at Dick's Sporting Goods Park, starting at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for seating in the South Stands, a \$20 value, and parking is included with the cost of each ticket. Additionally, \$2 of each ticket sold will be donated back to the DCEF directly benefiting Douglas County Schools!

To order tickets contact your local DCSD school or visit <http://schools.dcsdk12.org/dcef> and click on the Colorado Rapids Night ticket link.

## School board candidate forum – know your candidates

Four seats on the Douglas County School Board are up for election this November. Please join us for a chance to meet the candidates and hear their views on education in Douglas County. Audience members will be given the chance to ask questions of the candidates following a moderated question and answer portion of the forum.

All School Board candidates have been invited to participate. Douglas County runs a "district-wide election" for School Board seats. All registered voters may select one candidate in each district.

**District B:** John Carson; Sue Catterall

**District D:** Kat Cammack; Kevin Leung; Kevin Williams; Daniel Gerken

**District E:** Douglas Benevento; Kristine Turner

**District G:** Emily Hansen; Meghann Silverthorn

Please be aware that more candidates may declare closer to the date of the forum; these individuals will be invited to the forum as soon as their information is posted.

**When:** Monday, August 31, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**Where:** Chaparral High School Auditorium

The Fall '09 election is mail-in only. Mail-in ballots will be sent to the homes of registered Douglas County voters in early October by the Douglas County Clerk and Records Office. Voters may select one candidate in each of the four districts that are up for election; therefore they will be able to vote for a total of four candidates. Election day is November 3.

For more information, feel free to contact Courtney Smith, Douglas County Federation, at 303.688.3381.



## BOARD BRIEFS

*This section summarizes highlights of the August 18 Board of Education worksession not featured elsewhere in this publication.*

- **Cresthill Middle School** received a \$3,500.00 grant award as a result of the 2009-2010 Developmental Disabilities Mill Levy grant program. The grant was written by Susan Quatrocelli, the school psychologist at CMS and the grant money will be used to provide middle school students with developmental disabilities to engage in service learning projects in their community.
- The Douglas County School District has a new Homeless Student Liaison. **Dawna Searcy** is joining **Learning Services** and the **Student Wellness** team as the **Homeless Student Liaison**. This is a grant-funded position that helps identify homeless students, remove potential barriers to their education, and coordinate services through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Assistance Act. There has been over a 60% increase in identified homeless students so far this year in comparison to this time last school year. Once students are identified as homeless, the liaison supports the students in a number of ways, such as helping them enroll in school, arranging transportation, providing basic school supplies, assisting with referrals to community agencies for other services, and promoting the awareness of homelessness in the community. A podcast has been created to help educate school staff on the McKinney-Vento Act. To access this training go to [www.dcsdk12.org](http://www.dcsdk12.org) > CSCD Main Page > eTraining > Homeless: McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Please contact Dawna with questions concerning homeless students or services for families experiencing homelessness. 303.387.0206 (office), 720.883.8243 (cell), or email at [dawna.searcy@dcsdk12.org](mailto:dawna.searcy@dcsdk12.org).

### ADMINISTRATION

Jim Christensen, *Superintendent*  
 Bill Hodges, *Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources*  
 Annette Fante, *Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services*  
 Steve Herzog, *Chief Operating Officer*  
 David Hart, *Chief Finance Officer*  
 Randy Weldon, *Chief Information Officer*

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kristine Turner, *President*  
 Emily Hansen, *Vice President*  
 John Carson, Clifton Stahl, Ryan Stuart,  
 Timothy L. White and Justin G. Williams, *Directors*

- The Board approved the appointment of Scott Braun and Kevin Larsen as voting members and Brenda Hull as a nonvoting member of the District Advisory Committee for Highlands Ranch region.
- The Board approved the Intergovernmental Agreements for a coordinated election between: Elbert County and the School District, and Douglas County and the School District. Director District seats B, D, E and G will be on the November 3, 2009 ballot.
- Directors approved revisions to the Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning Intergovernmental Agreement 2006-2011 as presented. The sponsoring districts create a board of cooperative educational services for the purpose of operating an expeditionary learning school.

## News, Information and Resources

### *Transportation changes in effect*

DCSD recently redesigned bus transportation routes for the 2009-10 school year to parallel the transportation systems of other Colorado districts. Changing to a new system will result in \$2.4 million in savings, which represents 4% of the \$58 million in budget cuts made in DCSD.

Feedback was gathered through a Community Stakeholder Survey was posted online where more than 7,000 community members gave their opinions. Well-attended community meetings in Castle Rock, Highlands Ranch and Parker were also held in the winter and spring, 2009.

During those meetings, staff shared information regarding preliminary routes for the 2009-10 school year. They gathered feedback regarding pick up and drop off locations, and discussed redesign efforts.

Stops were selected using standards put out by the Colorado Department of Education (*Rules for the Operation of School Transportation Vehicles*), with student safety being the primary concern.

Finalized bus routes are posted on the District website. Locations continue to be revised to address any problems with congestion or to allow a higher level of safety while still adhering to the Magnet and Corridor system that has been successful in other school districts.

### *SMS annual 5K Walk/Run this Saturday!*

Sierra Middle School is hosting its 6th Annual 5K Walk/Run on Saturday, August 22 at 8 a.m. at Sierra Middle School. Cost to participate: students \$10 and adults \$20 (\$15 and \$25 on race day). T-shirts and a 7 day pass to 24 Hour Fitness for each registered participant. Refreshments, awards, DJ, and Prizes. Proceeds will benefit the American Heart Association and Sierra's Wellness Center.

### *Call for nominations for school directors*

The Board of Education of Douglas County School District in the Counties of Douglas and Elbert calls for nomination of candidates for school directors to be placed on the ballot for the regular biennial school election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2009.

Nomination petitions may be obtained at the Douglas County School District Administration Office, 620 Wilcox Street, in Castle Rock. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Completed petitions should be submitted no later than 4 p.m. on August 28, 2009 to: Nona Eichelberger, Secretary, Board of Education; Douglas County School District Re. 1; 620 Wilcox Street; Castle Rock, CO 80104; 303-387-0258.

### *Save the date: Youth Congress 2009*

The Partnership of Douglas County Governments will be holding **Youth Congress 2009** on Saturday, October 3 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Villa Parker, 10936 North Pine Drive, in Parker. Help change the world! Highlights of the day include meeting your elected officials, meeting the founder of PeaceJam, learning policy process, helping influence laws and meeting other involved youths. Participants will also receive volunteer credit hours and awesome take-aways. If you are between the ages of 13 and 19, you can be a youth delegate. RSVP to Carla Turner at 303.688.4825 x5327 or [cturner@douglas.co.us](mailto:cturner@douglas.co.us).

If you have comments, questions, suggestions, or a submission to *Newsline*, contact:

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 phone 303.387.0033 • fax 303.387.0107 • email [communications@dcsdk12.org](mailto:communications@dcsdk12.org) • [www.dcsdk12.org](http://www.dcsdk12.org)