

MARY E. PENNOCK ELEMENTARY
3707 Estrella Street, Brighton, CO 80601 • (720) 685-7500
Principal – Valerie Ortega
Assistant Principal – Terra Shea

October 14, 2020

Dear Pennock Families,

We have come a long way together! Since the onset of the pandemic, the wheels have been turning in the right directions and we have great student engagement both in person and with our online students. The success is attributed to the partnership we have formed in bringing all things together.

Healthy School Environment:

The 27J Schools [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) was recently released which shows the success we are having at Pennock thus far with our layers of protection in place. Thank you for being diligent in sending healthy students to school! Although the daily survey has gone away, we are relying on parents to follow guidelines so that we keep in-person learning safe for all. The students and staff are doing an excellent job of following safety protocols with social distancing, hand sanitizing, wearing masks, and remaining within cohorts. We are so proud of all efforts-They are making a difference! We also have incredible attendance and online student engagement. The online platform takes considerable time/support from parents/guardians and students. We cannot thank you enough for your patience, support, and understanding as we've gotten this first quarter up and running successfully!

Second Semester

With the end of 1st quarter approaching, we are no longer making enrollment changes until 2nd Semester. District leaders/principals are now having conversations around planning for the second semester. It is likely at Pennock that parents will be sent a letter after Nov. 1st to keep the current enrollment as is (whether online or in-person), or to request a change from online to in person or vice versa. Our goal is to meet the needs of the students and to manage classroom adjustments to make the least impact overall to class size/personnel adjustments. More information will be forthcoming.

Parent Survey

27J and Pennock Elementary rely heavily on parent feedback as we strive for continual improvement. We use the data we receive and reflect upon current systems/practices that are working and where we can make adjustments to better meet the needs of our students/Pennock Community. It is very helpful to us to use the data you share to address needs for our building. I invite you to share your voice & engage in the 27J Parent Survey.

[27J Parent Survey Link](#)

Fall Pictures

Purchased picture packages will be delivered to Pennock the week of October 26th. We will distribute them to in person students and have them available for online student pickup during normal business office hours 7:30-4:30. We will send information to online families when they arrive.

Picture Retake Date has been moved to Nov. 11th from 9:00-11:00 AM for all in- person or online students.

Fall Conferences

All conferences this first quarter will take place virtually during the weeks of October 19th thru November 6th. Teachers will be sharing Sign Up Genius links and information. you can access grade level schedules at [sd27jorg/page/27](#) (Go to Grade Level Tab--conference schedules are listed for individual teachers under the grade level). We look forward to sharing your child's progress. We are not having a book fair this year in accordance with social distancing guidelines.

Interested in Substitute Teaching?

Please contact Human Resources for inquiries regarding opportunities to sub in 27J. We are in need district wide.

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Halloween at Pennock Friday, Oct. 30th

Our Collaborative Advisory Team has agreed to host Halloween this year in the following manner:

- Students grades Pre School - 5th Grade have the option to come to school wearing a Halloween Costume for the day. There will not be time allowed to put costumes on at school so plan accordingly.. We must keep cohorts separate and do not have space available in bathrooms to accommodate changing at school. Students may bring individually wrapped (purchased) snack treats/candy that they are able to carry into school during morning lineup. Classroom parties will be held from 2:30-3:15 PM. AM and PM Preschool will have parties the last 45 minutes of their sessions.
- Sorry--Non-essential visitors (parents/guests) are NOT allowed in the building for parties or to drop items off due to social distancing guidelines. There will not be a parade for the same reason.
- Alternate space/activities will be provided for students who do not celebrate Halloween. Students may come in regular school attire.
- Halloween masks do not replace Covid masks. Covid masks must be worn, so heavy makeup is discouraged for student comfort. No weapons real or facsimile may be brought to school. If they are, they will be confiscated for parent pick up at a later time and are subject to disciplinary action. Be safe and keep unnecessary items at home.
- Please make sure students have appropriate indoor/outdoor shoes with their costumes
- Online Halloween information will be shared directly with students from the online teachers

Vision/Hearing Screening (Same link English/Spanish)

In light of the pandemic, our vision and hearing screenings will look a little different this year, as staff/student health and safety is our priority. The state recommends we provide screening to specific groups of students as well as to students with an identified concern. Please help us identify if your student needs a screening by completing a form provided in the link below. **Please complete this form by October 23rd.** Thank you for your help and understanding as we make adjustments to our process this year.

A la luz de la pandemia, nuestras pruebas de la vista y del sentido auditivo serán un poco diferente este año, ya que la salud y la seguridad del personal/estudiantes es nuestra prioridad. El estado recomienda que proporcionemos exámenes a grupos específicos de estudiantes, así como a estudiantes con una preocupación identificada. Por favor, ayúdenos a identificar si su estudiante necesita una evaluación al completar el formulario proporcionado en el siguiente enlace. **Por favor complete este formulario antes del 23 de octubre.** Gracias por su ayuda y comprensión a medida que hacemos ajustes a nuestro proceso este año. ¡¡Gracias!!

[Vision and Hearing Screening Form](#)

Nutrition Services:

GREAT NEWS!! The USDA has extended several waivers through as late as December 31, 2020. The waivers allow school nutrition programs to serve free meals to all students into the fall months. This unprecedented move will help ensure-- no matter the situation-- children will have access to nutritious food as the country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting September 1st, all meals have been free of charge for all students. A La Carte items are still available for purchase. If you are in need of assistance after Dec. 31st, please make sure you have completed a free/reduced nutrition application. [Free and Reduced Nutrition Application](#)

Thank you again Panther Nation for your partnership and support! We look forward to serving our students and community together. Our staff is working hard to plan and deliver effective instruction in two different platforms. We have overcome many challenges and have created opportunities for students to learn and grow despite the pandemic. Kudos to team Pennock all around--students, parents, and certified and classified staff!

Valerie Ortega, Principal