

Cheyenne Mountain Junior High School



November 2019

Dear CMJH Community,

Can you believe we are already midway through the first semester and a quarter of the way through the school year? I am always amazed how quickly the year flies by once we get into the normal rhythm and routine of school. By now, our students should have a firm grasp on their teachers' expectations and what is needed to be academically successful at CMJH. Likewise, all students should be very aware of and meeting our behavioral expectations.

Unfortunately, this is also the time of year where we begin to get very concerned about students who are not performing well in all their classes. As the semester progresses, it becomes increasingly hard for students to raise poor grades. Therefore, if you have a child who is struggling in one or more of his/her classes, please consider the following:

- Contact individual teachers about your child's performance. Your child's teachers are obviously the most qualified to help decide what can be done to improve grades and performance.
- Help ensure your child is utilizing Access, before school, and after school to strategically meet with teachers to receive additional support.
- Make sure you and your child are using the parent/student portal (teachers' electronic grade books) to monitor grades and homework completion and teachers' web pages to access assignments and additional resources.
- Contact your child's counselor to help create a plan that will result in more success

Remember, students must pass English, math, science, and social studies both first and second semester to be promoted to the next grade level

Weather delays, school cancellations, and inclement weather: As the weather gets colder, we may have days that require a late start or a school cancellation. All delays and cancellations are posted on the District website and announced by local radio and TV stations. People can also sign up for "Flash Alerts" which is a system that sends an email with school closure information and any District emergencies. Parents can sign up for these alerts through the District website under the "District Information" tab and then clicking "Delays and Closures." People must update their "subscription" (it's a free service) each year. If we end up having a 2-hour delay, the front doors of the school will open at 9:15 and classes will begin at 9:40. On regular school days where it is extremely cold (less than 25 degrees) or the weather is just plain bad, we will allow students to come in the building early. If students come in, they must stay in the commons area until the 7:15 bell rings, and students MAY NOT use their cell phones or electronics while in the building. Likewise, at 2:50 PM, we will ask students to either leave the building or stay in the library until their ride arrives. Students will not be allowed to stand in the foyer of the building. After 2:40, students are allowed to use their phones, so all you need to do is text them to let them know when you'll arrive, they can sign out of the library, and meet you out front.

Care and Share Harvest of Love Food Drive: This year, our annual food drive will be from Nov. 13th-Nov. 20th. Care and Share is a food bank in Southern Colorado that distributes food to over 300 agencies; these agencies then give the food directly to people in need. CMJH Student Council and their sponsors, Ms. Amy Bales and Ms. Beth Gorab, spearhead the food drive. They will be conducting an ACCESS class competition, awarding prizes to the top three donating classes. Canned goods and non-perishable items are greatly appreciated, but monetary donations

1200 W Cheyenne Road Colorado Springs, Colorado 80906
719-475-6120 Fax: 719-475-6123
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have the greatest impact on our community. In fact, for every \$1 donated, Care and Share can purchase approximately 10 lbs. of food which is the equivalent of 8 meals. CMJH, year after year, is one of the top donation raising middle level schools in the area. Let's do it again this year!

Winter Dance: This year's Winter Dance is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 6th from 6:00-8:00 PM, and the charge will be \$5.00 per student. While this is not a formal dance, most of our students take the opportunity to dress up more than usual; most of the girls wear dresses, and most of the boys wear slacks and a collared shirt (boys may not wear shorts or hats). Our normal dress code applies: "Clothing must not bare traditionally private parts of the body, must cover everything from chest to mid-thigh, and shoes must be worn at all times." Additionally, "clothing may not be sheer, strapless, backless, and undergarments shall not be intentionally visible." If students show up in an outfit that does not meet the District dress code, they will not be allowed into the dance and will be asked to change before entering. If students have a question about their outfit, they can ask Mr. Watkins or Mrs. Johnson prior to the dance. This dance, like all of our dances, is for current CMJH students only; guests are not allowed. The dance will end promptly at 8:00, so please be on time to pick up your child. Please know that this dance will be attended by 250-300 students, so the traffic at pick-up time will be very heavy. Please have a plan with your child about where you will pick him/her up.

Final Exams: While they are still 6 weeks away, it is important to remember that **every** teacher administers a final exam in his/her class. Final exams will be administered Dec. 16th-Dec. 19th. For many students, this is the first time they have experienced comprehensive tests that may include material from the entire semester. Prior to final exams, we will utilize a "freeze day" in Access to help student create their own "final exam preparation plan." Teachers will also furnish students with study guides or reviews to help them prepare for the exams. At the junior high, we use the mantra "study early and often," so preparation should begin weeks prior to the actual exams. Finally, to help ease overwhelm with students, we will be on a modified schedule for Dec. 17th-Dec. 19th where students will only take two final exams per day. Students will come to school at the normal time with tests beginning at 7:40, and they will be dismissed for the day at 10:15. The actual schedule for the week can be found on the CMJH website under the "Our School" tab under "Hours and Schedules." If you know your child will be absent during any part of finals week, please contact your child's teachers and me so that we can work with your child to set up a plan to take early exams or set up make-up exams.

Important dates/events:

*10/30/19- Fall Concert for Thunder!, T-Bird Singers, and Show and Jazz Choir- 7:00 PM in the CMJH commons

*10/31/19- Halloween Dance- 2:40-4:00 in the CMJH commons

*11/6/19- 12-week progress check

*11/12/19- "Cafe Cabaret" by Performing Arts classes- 7:00 PM in the CMJH commons

11/15/19- Harlem Wizards vs. D12 Staff basketball game- 7:00 PM @ CMHS gym

*11/18/19-11/22/19 Girls' Basketball registration window

*11/25/19-11/29/19- Thanksgiving Break

*12/3/19- CMJH and CMHS Jazz Bands concert- 7:00 @ CMHS auditorium

*12/6/19- Winter Dance- 6:00-8:00 PM in the CMJH commons

I want to thank everyone who took the opportunity to come in and meet with your child's teachers during parent/teacher conferences. I again want to express my appreciation to you all for everything you do for your children, our school, and our school community. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, concerns, or feedback.

Sincerely,

Greg Watkins
CMJH Principal

1200 W Cheyenne Road Colorado Springs, Colorado 80906
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Child Find Evaluation

If you suspect your child has a disability or are concerned about your child's ability to learn, communicate, socialize, interact, see, hear or move, you are encouraged to contact your school to determine whether a Child Find Evaluation is necessary. Child Find is the identification, assessment and determination of eligibility for services for students who may have a disability or impairment. For more information please click on the following link: <https://www.cmsd.k12.co.us/childfin>

PTO Corner

Hi CMJH Families,

I can't believe that we have already had 3 snowstorms, are approaching our Halloween dance and are just weeks away from Thanksgiving Break. Time flies- I hope you and your student(s) have settled into a JH routine and are enjoying our fantastic staff and classes.

Thank you to all who have contributed to our One and Done Campaign. It is never too late-if you would still like to help our school, please send your check to the front office and it will find it's way to the PTO.

Directories have been sent home- thank you, Maggie Bowring, for a huge job-if you believe you should have one and do not, please let Maggie Bowring or Beth DePeppe know. There are a few extra left, please contact one of us if you'd like to snatch one before they are all gone.

Thank you to Nina Ballenger for selling Spiritwear during conferences- if you missed out and your student would like a sweatshirt/ t-shirt/ shorts, please check in the office for a form.

PTO was able to deliver lunch to the JH Staff during conferences. A big shout out to Jami Jones and Denise Connors for putting together a delicious lunch to keep our staff going through a very long day.

The Halloween dance is just around the corner- thank you to Emilie Simon for coordinating food, drink and helpers. Check your latest PTO blast of you'd like to contribute or check in with Emilie.

If you are not receiving PTO blasts, sign up by going to: <http://cmjh.cmsd12.org> and access the PTO link.

Thank you to all the parents who have answered our food requests quickly and with delicious results- you are phenomenal!

Box Tops are still being collected, with a twist this year-now you simply scan your receipt using your BoxTop App. Go to: BTFCOM to download and learn about the new program. For those of you who like to clip, don't despair- you can still do so and send into school.

PTO is still looking for a president for next year- please contact Beth DePeppe if you would like to learn more.

Upcoming PTO dates(1:30 in the JH library):

October 30

November 20

January. 22

February 26

March 18

April 22

Enjoy our change to fall weather- please let me know if you have questions or concerns, thank you,

Beth DePeppe
PTO President

Creek Club Meeting Dates 2019-2020

Current as of 9/4/2019

- September 11 New Member welcome meeting 3-4:00 @ Canon.
- September 25 3:00-4:30 pm Regular time
- September 27-28 **Training at Starsmore** - (shirts handed out) Fri- 4:30-8, Sat. -8:30-3:30
- October 2 3 pm-5:00 pm (fish census and CPW video recording - wear shirts!)
- October 16 wear shirts to each meeting Regular time 3:00-4:30 pm**
- November 13 wear shirt to each meeting 3:00-4:15 pm (meetings shorten after time change)
- Dec. 11 wear shirt to each meeting 3:00-4:15 pm (meetings shorten after time change)**
- Jan 15 wear shirt to each meeting 3:00-4:15 pm (meetings shorten after time change)
- January TBD – Skyway Family Science Night (presenters only) 5-8
- Jan 29 (RW annual site visit/inspection - WEAR YOUR SHIRTS) 3-5**
- Feb. 12 wear shirt to each meeting 3:00-4:15 pm (meetings shorten until time change)
- Feb 26 wear shirt to each meeting 3:00-4:15 pm (meetings shorten until time change)
- Feb TBD Gold Camp Family Science Night (presenters only) 5-8
- March 11 wear shirt to each meeting 3:00-4:15 pm (meetings lengthen after time change)
- April 8 wear shirt to each meeting 3:00-4:30 pm
- April 22 wear shirt to each meeting 3:00 - 4:30 pm
- April 25 Earth Day Service Project (WEAR SHIRTS) 9 AM-1PM
- May 13 wear shirt to each meeting 3:00 - 4:30 pm

VOLUNTEERS AND PARENTS NEEDED TO ORGANIZE Saturday service project in spring.

* All things subject to change as needed. Pay attention to announcements and TBTV for the latest info.

Mr. Eick
CMJH Science Teacher
NJHS Co-Advisor
Cheyenne Creek Conservation Club Advisor
719-475-6120, x. 147

1200 W Cheyenne Road Colorado Springs, Colorado 80906
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Spring Break 2020 Italy, France, Spain

Dear Parents and Students,

We want to invite you to join us again on another adventure – this time to Italy, France, and Spain for the 19th annual world-cultures trip, which has had tremendous response, participation, and success over the years. This trip is open to any former or current student and/or parent(s) and family -- including grandparents, siblings, and friends, and parents are, of course, welcome and encouraged to travel with us. In 2020, we will explore the Italian Riviera to Cote D'Azur to Provence, to Costa Brava and Barcelona

From March 21 to March 29, 2020, we will visit the major, famous, historical, and scenic sights of Italy, France, and Spain. Our basic itinerary: **Day 1** Fly to Italy. **Day 2** Ciao Milan

Meet your tour director, travel to the Italian Riviera & check into hotel. **Day 3** Cinque Terre excursion - Cinque Terre ("five lands") is a series of five traditional fishing villages strung along the scenic cliffs of the Italian Riviera. Colorful houses and gorgeous views line the road between the five villages (Monterosso, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola, and Riomaggiore), where wine-making, olive-farming, and anchovy fishing still occupy most of the residents' energies. **Day 4** Italian Riviera-- Côte d'Azur -- Travel to Côte d'Azur via Eze;

Parfumerie visit in Èze; Travel to Antibes; Antibes Old Town dinner. **Day 5** Côte d'Azur and Nice - The Côte d'Azur's largest city spills down the hillsides to pebble beaches that line the shore. Your Tour Director will show you around the narrow pedestrian streets and tiny squares of "Le Vieux Nice" (Old Town), which is sprinkled with old palaces and mansions. Stroll down the Promenade des Anglais, which runs parallel to the water. Backed by Nice's grand hotels, the Promenade was built in the 19th century for the British who flocked here en masse. St. Paul De Vance -- St. Paul de Vence is a beautifully preserved medieval hill town, and its terra cotta roofs and cypress- and palm tree-dotted landscape have attracted prominent artists for over a century. A favorite hotel was the Colomb d'Or, where painters often paid for their room and board in artwork -- the dining room still displays works by Picasso, Modigliani, and Matisse. Check out Matisse's other work in a more traditional setting in Nice, where you'll visit the Matisse Museum. But before you arrive at the coast, stop by a traditional confiserie in Pont du Loup, where you can taste artisan jams and jellies—a lovely compliment to a freshly baked baguette. **Day 6** Travel to Provence -- Lush lavender fields, olive groves, terra-cotta roofs, and ochre walls lit by golden sunlight...Your Tour Director will guide you through the splendor that is Provence. Explore legacies of the Roman Empire like the Pont du Gard aqueduct, a sophisticated work of engineering that is intact after more than 2,000 years, and visit the Nîmes amphitheater. Built by the Romans, it was once the site of gory gladiator and animal combat, and is still used today for performances and bullfights (some things never change). Also see the medieval ruins of Baux-de-Provence. Avignon, Aix-en-Provence city walk, Pont du Gard visit, Nîmes amphitheater visit, Les Baux de Provence, Van Gogh Museum visit and travel to Montpellier area for the night.

Day 7 Provence—Barcelona -- Travel to Barcelona via Figueres and visit the Dali Museum; Barcelona city walk -- Mercat de la Boquería, Las Ramblas, Columbus Monument and Tapas dinner. **Day 8** Barcelona -- See brilliant Barcelona, a city of graceful Gothic churches, wrought-iron balconies and wide, grand avenues filled with outdoor cafés. Throughout the city, daringly innovative buildings sit side-by-side with the medieval past. A licensed, local guide will show you some of the high points of this architectural showcase. First stop, the pointy spires of the La Sagrada Familia (Church of the Holy Family), a half-finished church complex that became the obsession of Barcelona's famously eccentric architectural genius, Antoni Gaudí. At the top of Güell Park, another of Gaudí's masterpieces, is a terraced area where you get a wonderful view of the park and Barcelona City. The vibrant colors of the tiles are breathtaking. Then step back to the past with a journey up to Montjuïc (Hill of the Jews), a fortress built atop an ancient Jewish cemetery. This was the site of numerous battles to control Barcelona, and also the location of the 1992. **Day 9** End tour and fly home.

Students who take educational tours have classroom lessons come to life as they explore what they have seen and heard in class. They also gain new perspective on other cultures and their own, which is critical during this evolution of the world community -- the world is much smaller than it has ever been. From these experiences, students gain valuable life skills through independent exploration, under the watchful eye of chaperones, and realize their abilities to make a positive contribution to the world. Additionally, more and more competitive colleges are looking for international travel; Harvard requires that all of the incoming freshmen have passports.

These trips have sold out quickly in the past, so don't hesitate if you are interested.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Pierce or Mrs. Milliron. It is important to note, this trip is not sponsored by Cheyenne Mountain Junior High or Cheyenne Mountain School District 12

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HARVEST OF LOVE

This year's Harvest of Love food drive to benefit Care and Share will take place from November 13-20. Student council will be sponsoring an ACCESS class competition with prizes for the top 3 classes. While we welcome and appreciate food donations, please know that cash is of the greatest benefit to our community.



Tech Support for Parents!

Being the age of social media and devices, it can be difficult to know as parents how to navigate this with our teens. Below is an article that shares statistics, and offers suggestions as well as strategies to support you as a parent of a teen and your teen's use of digital devices.

https://smartsocial.com/social-media-statistics/?utm_source=Smart+Social+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=fdf3653011-teen_social_media_stats_update&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_40b34a3ccb-fdf3653011-195761485&mc_cid=fdf3653011&mc_eid=f84ff1e05f