

Thursday Thoughts - September 9, 2021

We sure have a lot going on in the world out there and tensions are running high. One thing that we want to guarantee you all is that we ALWAYS have the best interest in any decisions that we make in order to support learners. We also would like you to know that we are bound by outside laws, protocols and procedures that are not in our control.

Everyone in this building entered this profession because we TRULY LOVE KIDS AND we TRULY LOVE LEARNING. This is the HEART of WHAT WE DO. We BELIEVE that learning and growing is what will help empower our learners to change the world.

With outside protocols in place, we have seen some separation with school to home connectedness and openness in the nation. This presents some issues and challenges. Please allow us some time to adapt to coming out of our shells as we welcome visitors and families in. Please assume positive intentions in all that we do. If it seems otherwise OR you have questions or concerns about something we are doing, please email and set up a time to speak with us.

At some point we all need to come together to help make this world a better place for all stakeholders, but especially our littlest ones. We hope to find the start of this betterment at STEAM @ Tope.

Thank you so much for trusting us with your children. We understand that it is not easy in times like these to know exactly who to trust. Let's continue to come together to support these kiddos as best we can!

THE NEXT FEW WEEKS I WILL BE PROVIDING COMMUNICATION AROUND STEAM AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A STEAM SCHOOL. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO ME WITH ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR POINTS OF INTEREST!

Here is a link for our [**D51 STEM WEBSITE**](#)

What is STEAM?

STEAM is an education curriculum that provides emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. The STEM curriculum ranges from preschool to doctorate programs, contingent on resources that are provided to the schools and institutions. The focus of STEM is not just in the United States, but also globally. STEM-based learning modules are designed to increase students' curiosity in

pursuing higher education and specialized careers in those fields. Innovation and technology is constantly growing and being integrated into our daily lives.

Why STEAM is vital at the elementary level ~

Research has proven that children, who are exposed to STEM education at an early level, will be prepared to understand STEM concepts in their latter academic career. A child's understanding and familiarity of a subject at an early age molds their brain. Hence, the earlier the educators implement STEM lessons into their curriculum, the more chances of a child to develop a deeper understanding of these skills, and develop an interest for the future. Once these students are exposed to STEM, they will want to explore more opportunities in STEM. As studies show, by the time students reach the fourth grade, 30 percent of girls and boys have lost an interest in science related subjects. Once students have reached the eighth grade, nearly 50 per cent have lost interest in their future career plans.

STEAM TOPIC NEXT WEEK --- WHAT IS PBL?

Fall is quickly approaching and we have definitely experienced a change in weather! JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER that WE DO NOT HAVE A LOST AND FOUND. Please label your child's jackets, coats, gloves, etc. and it will be returned to them. THANK YOU!

Teacher Communication ~ We definitely support open communication with parents. By now, teachers should have communicated to families their process and protocol for contacting them. Please remember that mornings are not the best as there is limited time to get all learners in, hands washed, breakfast served and class started. If you would like to meet, please email a request to staff OR call the office. THANK YOU!

Healthy School Meals FREE all year! Why do parents still need to apply?

Healthy school meals are FREE for all students the entire school year! The question now is...why should parents still apply for Free and Reduced Meal Benefits? See the three reasons in our [ATTACHED](#) link. For further information, please read the [ATTACHED](#) article from the US Department of Agriculture. REASONS TO APPLY~

1. P-EBT Benefits: Your family may be eligible to receive additional funds to buy food for children in your household during the pandemic through the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Program.
2. D51 Discounts: Families can receive discounted school/test fees, bus passes, utilities and more.

3. D51 Funding: Additional resources to support healthy meals for students, afterschool programs and additional nutrition programs for students.

Privacy Reminder: All information provided is confidential and protected.

Families who qualify for meal benefits in the 2021-2022 YEAR will also receive the 30 day carry over eligibility for the next school year.

Looking for the school lunch menus? You can access them here digitally-

[https://schools.mealviewer.com/district/MesaCountyValleySchool District,CO](https://schools.mealviewer.com/district/MesaCountyValleySchoolDistrict,CO)

MORNING DROP OFF- We will continue to have **drop off time** as close to 8:50 as possible. Thank you for honoring this new system. **DO NOT DROP YOUR CHILD OFF PRIOR TO 8:40, WE DO NOT HAVE SUPERVISION AVAILABLE.**

Create a beautiful life at home with your child,

Carrie Bollinger

IMPORTANT DATES

September

13-17 STEAM Week!

17 - PTA Movie Night

21 - Watch DOGS Sign up event

24 - Student of the Month Assembly

27-28 NO SCHOOL

28 - Parent Teacher Conferences