

A Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Students,

Our first semester will be ending within the next several weeks (December 21, 2018), and our young Falcons have developed their wings and are soaring to new middle school heights. Our sixth graders have transitioned well and are gaining the necessary habits and study skills that are foundational for middle school success. Our seventh graders are focused on learning, taking new risks, and enjoying their friends and their teachers. Our eighth graders are demonstrating meeting the benchmarks for college and career success and 21st Century skills. Preparing our young Falcons for college and career readiness is the most important work we do at Falcon Creek Middle School. Life beyond middle school is different from what it used to be. Our students must think about their passions and interests and begin planning for their future. Whether our students are interested in attending a four-year university, the military, a trade school, or other opportunities in the workforce, it is essential for students to talk with their families NOW about careers and the world of opportunities to be fully ready for their post-secondary life.



I want to give a big shout out to our PTCO and all of our volunteers who helped make our Fall Color Battle a great success. Our PTCO raised \$27,000.00 that will go directly towards grants for our Falcon Creek teachers and students. Also, thank you to our Veterans and their families from the Falcon Creek Community who joined us for our Veterans Breakfast Celebration. Their stories of courage and commitment were so inspiring for all who attended. It was truly a great honor to be in your presence. We also acknowledged our students who created art work that depicted our Veterans' great service to our country, two students who share a distinct passion and love for veterans and military personnel, and our phenomenal Band students and Falconnaires, who performed at the breakfast. Every Veteran and family member received a package of notecards that featured a reproduction of the students' artwork.

November was a very busy assessment month. Students took the ACT/Aspire Test through their reading, writing, math, and science classes. As you recall, the ACT/Aspire is a District Assessment that gives the parent and the school data on how well each student is doing towards meeting the Colorado Academic Standards. In addition, all Cherry Creek Middle Schools administering the NNAT Test (Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test) to all 6th grade students for the purpose of identifying students for Gifted and Talented. Second Grade is the only other time that school-wide testing is administered for Gifted and Talented identification. The NNAT Test assesses a student's thinking and reasoning ability rather than what he/she is learning in school. The NNAT Test was coupled with the ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills) which is a predictor of high academic achievement.

Before closing, I would like to congratulate over 400 of our amazing students for their commitment to high standards in academics, sports, technology, and the arts, as reflected in our First Quarter Honor Roll, the Cardboard Challenge, our Track and Basketball programs, our Robotics competitions, our Math League, the Grandview High School Feeder Steam-a-Palooza, and our many music performances.



Keep it up, students! I am so appreciative of their hard work and the support that you, as parents provide every day!

As we head into this holiday season, I wish you all health and happiness. Falcon Creek remains an incredibly close community of educators, parents, and students. I am so thankful for this and for all of you.

Warmest regards,

*Alan Lavizzo
Principal*