



BILL METZ ELEMENTARY
METZ MESSENGER

*Our mission is to
inspire the pursuit
of excellence, one
student at a time.*

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Principal Connection

First and foremost, I want to thank parents for all of your understanding, flexibility, and extra effort that you've had to put into this school year. You have had to adjust to different schedules, 3rd-5th graders working from home half a day, and around 95 students working from home full time with parental support. A school district task force met this past week to determine what the 2nd quarter of the school year needs to look like based upon parent and staff survey results, state and local regulations, and public health data. Based on all that information as well as the likely coming of cold and flu season, the school district has decided to continue the 2nd quarter pretty much like we operated during the 1st quarter. We also have a large number of students who were remote only learners for the 1st quarter returning to in-person learning for the 2nd quarter at each school. Schedules will remain the same for elementary and secondary students.

One of the most common comments on the parent survey was that we need to get all students back into school full time. I want you to know that we 100% agree with you, and we want to do this as soon as we safely can. I want to share some of the reasoning behind the school district's decision to help everyone understand. I want to commend staff, students, and parents for the 1st quarter success that we had with no positive tests within the district. If we continue to have this success during the 2nd quarter, then it is very possible we will be able to move to full in-person learning for everyone following the winter break. Our task force will meet again in early December to make that decision with current information.

Some of our key factors for the 2nd quarter decision:

- 1) Flu and cold season will likely ramp up during the 2nd quarter and could have an effect on the Covid-19 numbers.
- 2) The large number of students returning to in-person learning for 2nd quarter. We have around 50 elementary students returning which will increase class sizes and make distancing more challenging.
- 3) Our classrooms have been transformed to allow for distancing and we will need time to transform them back to normal. The two week winter break would allow for this if we are able to safely do it.
- 4) We are still about 50/50 as far as parent perspectives across the district for full in-person vs hybrid or remote only.

Superintendent Wiedeman will make the updated plan available on the school district's website and Facebook page.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- *Thursday, Oct 8th -
End of 1st quarter*
- *Thursday, Oct 8th
@ 6pm - School
board meeting*
- *Wednesday, Oct
14th @ 6:30pm -
PTO meeting at
Rain Brews*
- *Thursday, Oct 29th
- Monster March
and Halloween fes-
tivities in classrooms*
- *Sunday, Nov 1st -
Daylight savings
ends*

School Information

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Counselor's Corner

October is National Bullying Prevention Month, and we as a school are committed to stopping bullying. It is a difficult topic that can cause some very strong emotions. Sometimes there is confusion about what it is and what to do about it. For us as a community, it is very important to know how to handle it when it happens. We handle bullying differently from something that is mean or rude or a conflict between peers, which is why it is helpful to know that something that has happened is bullying.

Bullying has three key elements: (1) it is intentionally hurtful, (2) it is repeated often, and (3) it involves an imbalance of power that makes it one sided. There are many different types of bullying; verbal, physical, emotional, relational, and cyberbullying.

We have been teaching our students what bullying is for several years now, but last year we were lucky enough to receive a grant to help us implement a best practices, evidence based, bullying prevention program. We have a program called Second Step that educates students and staff about what bullying is and what to do about it. We will be implementing the program over four weeks in the classroom in October and early November. We are also working on ways for students, staff, or families to report bullying to the school and reacting to it consistently.

If you have any questions or suggestions for us as we are working to be more preventative in regards to bullying, please reach out. You can send me an email at ki-mal@monte.k12.co.us or call me at 719-852-4041 x4138.

Miss L - BME Counselor

Halloween Festivities and Monster March

We will be hosting Halloween festivities in the classrooms on Thursday, October 29th. Students can bring store bought snacks to share with their class. This year no homemade snacks are allowed according to the health department due to Covid-19. Unfortunately, no outside guests (such as parents and grandparents) can come to the classroom parties. Parents can be on the look out for more information about classroom parties from their child's teacher.

We will also having our annual Monster March to the Monte Vista Food Bank. Parents are allowed to watch as students march by on the sidewalks. They are not permitted to walk with the students this year though. Our 3rd-5th grade AM cohorts will march to the food bank around 10am. Our 3rd-5th grade PM cohorts and all 1st and 2nd grade students will march to the food bank around 2:30pm. Our goal is for students to each bring two cans or boxes of food with them to donate. We have approximately 380 students so if we reach our goal, then we can bless our community with 760 food items! Students can start bringing in items the week of October 26-29.



Is it
BULLYING?

When someone says or does something **unintentionally** hurtful and they do it once, that's
RUDE.

When someone says or does something **intentionally** hurtful and they do it once, that's
MEAN.

When someone says or does something **intentionally** hurtful and they **keep doing** it-even when you tell them to stop or show them that you're upset - that's
BULLYING.

