



BILL METZ ELEMENTARY
METZ MESSENGER

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 9

APRIL 8, 2019

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

Principal's Connection

Our annual state testing is coming up for 3rd-5th grade students this week and next. Our 3rd grade students take three sessions in ELA (English Language Arts) and three in Math. Our 4th grade students do ELA, Math, and three sessions of Social Studies. Our 5th grade students take ELA, Math and three sessions of Science. Schools around the state are evaluated according to how students perform. We also use the students' results to help us determine their learning needs for the next school year, which is why we want students to try their best. You can help by having your children get a good night's sleep each night of our testing window (April 8th—18th). Also, avoid sugary breakfast foods that cause students' blood sugar to rise and then "crash" leaving them without energy.

We will be working on creating a rough draft of class lists for next school year this Friday, April 12th. The last day for parents to complete and turn in an Education Needs Form is this Thursday, April 11th. You can print one off of our website, the MV app, or pick one up from the office. Please remember that it is against board policy to request specific teachers; however, you can let us know if your child has a special academic, social, or behavioral need for us to consider when placing your child. There are many factors that we look at when balancing classes such as gender, ethnicity, reading and math performance levels, behaviors, and who does/doesn't work well together. Your child's current teacher has a lot of say of which class they go into next school year along with collaboration from the specials and intervention teachers, counselor, behavior interventionist, and principal.

2018-19 Yearbooks

Yearbooks are on sale in the school office. They are \$17.50. Yearbooks will be delivered to students the last week of school. Please make checks payable to Bill Metz Elementary or have exact change when purchasing.

**IMPORTANT
UPCOMING
DATES:**

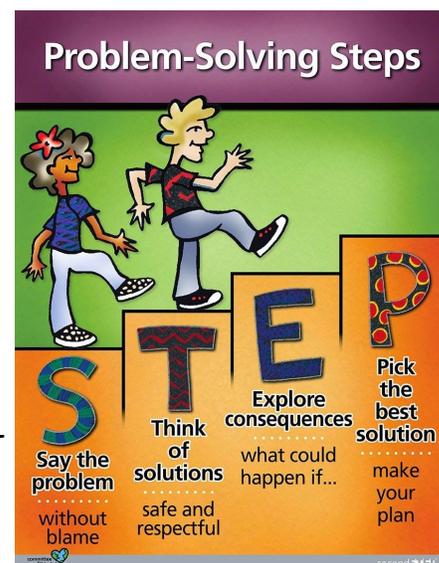
- 4/8-4/18 - State testing in 3rd-5th grades
- 4/11 @ 5:30pm - School board meeting
- 4/11 - Last day to turn in Educational Needs Forms
- 4/18 - 5th grade boys night
- 4/25 - 3rd grade Farm safety day
- 4/30 @ 3:45pm - Parent School Improvement Team meeting

School Information

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Counselor's Corner

Classroom counseling time: The 2nd and 3rd grades have been talking about when we feel a strong emotion such as anger, sadness, embarrassment, worry or fear to use a calming down strategy. Some of the strategies we have practiced are belly breathing, counting, positive self-talk, taking a break, getting a drink of water. Now, in 2nd-5th grade we are now going to be learning about how after we calm down and still have a problem how to solve the problem using the problem solving STEP. This is the problem solving process we are using from social emotional learning curriculum that is research based to help students develop the skills to succeed so that they avoid using violence to solve their problems.



Should students have smartphones? I am sure that if you have not already bought a phone for your child, you have been considering doing so. There are many different thoughts about this among school professionals, parents, and child psychologists. Many child psychologists have seen a rise in depression and isolative behaviors at the same time there has been a rise in children using smartphones. There is a movement called Wait Until 8th (<https://www.waituntil8th.org/>), which urges parents to delay giving children a smartphone until 8th grade or later. They have much more research than I could include here, but it centers around the development of the brain and social developmental stages in children and adolescents not being ready for the effects of being online. This movement does not exclude buying a cell phone at all, but urges for a basic phone if you decide to buy one.

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End of Year Field Trips Coming Up

1st grade: May 20th at the Great Sand Dunes

2nd grade: May 15th in Pueblo

3rd grade: May 8th in Colorado Springs

4th grade: May 1st & 2nd in Denver

5th grade: May 21st in Colorado Springs

