

"We all need people who will give us feedback. That's how we improve."

-Bill Gates



Principal's Corner

Dear Merrill Students and Families,

Thank you parents for taking time to complete our online parent survey. The survey was comprised of 5 questions:

1. Communication with my child's teachers is adequate in terms of quality and quantity of communication.
2. My child's teachers respond to my questions and concerns in a timely manner.
3. Merrill has effective systems of communication to share information with parents.
4. I think the Advisement class is a meaningful experience for my child.
5. I know and understand the intent of the Personal Success Factors.



Feedback for parent communication was mixed with some respondents stating that they receive regular communication from teachers and others stating that they have not heard from any teachers. A few respondents were disappointed with the lack of information on teacher web pages. In an effort to keep parents informed on student progress and what they are learning in the classroom, we have pulled down all teacher webpages and will be working with teachers over the next month to create a unified look to

November 6th
November 13th

Events

DPS Great Schools Expo

November 10th
Sports Authority Field
6:00-8:00

Restaurant Night

November 11th
SmashBurger
5:00-8:00

PTO

November 12th
6:15-7:30

Athletics

Volleyball

November 12th
3:45 at Slavons

Flag Football

November 12th
3:45 at Slavons

all webpages and expectations for content and regular maintenance of each website.

Feedback for the Advisement program suggests that families are pleased that we've added this support this year. However, many respondents remarked that they are unaware of what is really happening in the class. In an effort to keep parents more in the loop about the Advisement program, the Jaguar Journal will begin to publish Advisement Talking Points that connect to the previous week's Advisement lesson. This will allow parents to discuss Advisement goals with their children. Also, the Jaguar Journal will include more detailed descriptions and intended outcomes of the period, including student feedback and pictures of the actual lessons.

-Amy Bringedahl; Principal

Mark Your Calendar

November 11th 5:00-8:00

Restaurant Night at SmashBurger

November 12th 6:15-7:30

PTO in the Library

November 19th 6:30

Band Concert

November 20th

International Fashion Show

November 23rd-27th

Thanksgiving Break

After School Programming

Thank you for supporting your child in participating in after school programs and clubs. With the exception of Beginning Italian, all offerings occur between 3:45 and 4:45. Here is the list of current programs and clubs and room numbers running through December:

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cheer Prep (Auditorium) Stop Motion Animation (105) Beginning Italian (205) Gay-Straight Alliance (224)	Smart Girls (Library) Smart Boys (Library) Pokemon Club (213) Video Gaming Club (104) Book Club (209)	Stop Motion Animation (105) Yearbook Club (105) Anime Club (220)	Fitness Bootcamp (Cafeteria)

If your child is interested in a program or club but did not attend the first session, they may start this week. They simply need to show up on the given day and time and then complete a confirmation form and turn it into the program/club supervisor. If you have any questions about after school programs or clubs, please reach out to Courtney Wickham at courtney_wickham@dpsk12.org.

Attendance

Grade Level	11/1-11/7
06	94.5 %
07	93.8 %
08	90.1 %

As we move into the winter months, plan ahead for the cold weather so that we can continue to improve our attendance numbers. Thank you parents for your continued partnership!

PTO News

- **"Makin' Copies!"** Do you have an hour to help out? Teachers need copy machine support daily from 2:00 - 3:00. Please sign up [HERE](#) for an hour shift if you can.
- One of our custodians recently had a house fire that has displaced him and his wife. We are looking for any support you can give. There is a box in the main office for donations. Thank you!
- The November PTO meeting has been CHANGED to Nov 12th @ 6:15, instead of the 19th.
- Please direct PTO questions to ptomerrill@gmail.com



Advisement

Sixth and Seventh grade Advisement classes will brainstorm ways they can contribute to their surrounding community and identify a feasible topic and purpose for a community service project. If you have an idea for a service learning project, please reach out to Courtney Wickham at courtney_wickham@dpsk12.org.

Eighth grade students will use this week's Advisement to complete the required DPS Transitions Survey that will provide both Merrill and high schools with valuable information about our students' readiness for high school. More information about the survey and results will come from Ms. Barlow via Counselor's Corner.

Restaurant Night



Help support Merrill by eating at [Smash Burger](#)
Wednesday, Nov. 11, 5pm – 8pm

1120 S Colorado Blvd / (303) 757-4301
Smashburger will give \$1 per entree to Merrill. Fliers will be at the door.

Spread the word with your friends and family on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Thank you!

Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Students may arrive at school as early as 7:30 AM, and should be dropped off on Iowa, which is on the south side of the building. Students will walk from Iowa to our blacktop, where all students line up in the morning for school.

Students may be picked up in front of the school on Monroe at 3:35 PM. Please note that C3 parents are picking their students up on Monroe starting at 2:45. The parking lots on the north side (off Florida) and south side (off Iowa) are for staff only. Please do not use it to park. Thank you.

Because we do not have supervision after 3:50, students MUST be picked up no later than 3:50 every afternoon. Thank you for your support.

Also, please park along the sidewalk. FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN, NO DOUBLE PARKING.

Merrill Community Fund



Want to support Merrill? Make a contribution to the Merrill Community Fund to enrich opportunities for students. What can you give – \$5, \$25, \$100, more? For more information, please visit <http://merrill.dpsk12.org/mcf/>.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Counseling Corner

Upcoming Events for 8th graders interested in attending a Magnet School next year:

- Denver School of the Arts applications due October 12th-November 20th, open houses throughout November
- Denver School of Innovation and Sustainable Design Open House 10/29
- Kunsmiller Creative Arts Academy Fridays at 9am by appointment with counselor

Stay Connected



Don't miss out on what happens on a daily basis at Merrill. Follow us on [Facebook](#), Instagram ([MERRILL JAGUARS](#)) and twitter ([@merrill_jaguars](#)).

What's Up at the High Schools?

Each week we will highlight events happening at our surrounding high schools. We encourage our families and students to get out and support our community!

- **Showcase Evening for 8th Grade Students and Parents:** See for yourself why the world gathers at South to excel, on Thursday, November 19th from 6:00 to 8:00. [CLICK HERE](#) for more details.
- **Youth Wrestling:** We are starting up our youth wrestling program again and are looking for middle school wrestlers! We start Nov 9 and practice Mondays and Thursdays from 6:15-7:45. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up!
- **Shadowing and Touring:** [CLICK HERE](#) to schedule a shadowing experience at South!



Shadowing and Touring: [CLICK HERE](#) to schedule a shadowing experience at Thomas Jefferson High School!

Jaguars on the GO!



On Tuesday, all **AVID** students had the opportunity to visit the DU campus to learn about college life. Students first learned about the who, what, when, where, and how of college -- and learned importance of their current middle school academics as building blocks for high school and beyond. Students then were able to ask questions of a panel of students from the Center for Multicultural Excellence. They asked questions about the high importance topics of Ramen Noodles (Ramen Noodles are not a staple, because with so many pizza coupons, college kids find themselves eating endless pizza at the start

of the year) and attending classes (necessary for success!). The students took a campus tour and ended their afternoon in the dining hall - where they experienced what a true college buffet is like - ice cream machine and all. AVID students left DU excited about the opportunities that college will bring to them in the future.

Also on Tuesday, the longboarding class had an excellent field trip. The field trip started out with a two hour extreme sports camp at Progresh in Thornton, CO. The camp consisted of numerous trampoline skills and games, parkour and street running events, extreme scootering and jumping and performing tricks into the airbag. The students had an amazing time. Following our trip to Progresh, the class went to the KOTA longboarding factory to see how longboards are made. The students were exposed to skills such as woodworking, staining, sanding, forming, painting as well as starting a business and sales. Overall, the longboarding class had an eventful day and learned a lot!



Staff Spotlight

Heba Nebhan



Merrill Middle School is very fortunate to have Ms. Heba Nabhan as an esteemed member of its faculty. Ms. Heba, who was born in Cairo, Egypt and is fluent in Arabic, first joined Merrill last year as an ELA para-educator. In the spring, however she transitioned to the role of Community & Family Liaison. Ms. Heba is a proud graduate from the University of Iowa where she earned her bachelor's degree in social work. She is excited to begin her master's work next August.

As the Community & Family Liaison at Merrill, Ms. Heba is responsible for fostering communication and engagement between parents, students, and the Merrill Community. She provides information to families about available resources and oversees community outreach initiatives as well as school-wide events like the upcoming International Fashion Show.

Ms. Heba loves to go hiking on the weekends and considers herself a lover of the outdoors. Weather permitting, she keeps herself busy by discovering new hiking trails. Ms. Heba, an internationally savvy tea drinker, adores Hanging Lake where the view from the top is stunning and definitely worth the toil to reach.



What are her hopes for Merrill students?

Ms. Heba believes that with proper encouragement and empowerment from both school and home, all Merrill scholars can gain the necessary confidence to become tomorrow's leaders. Merrill has many bright students who will one day truly make a difference in this world, and she is thrilled to be a part of their development.

Sports



Page

Excellence in Athletics

Flag Football

The flag football defeated Hamilton in a highly competitive and close game on Monday, October 26, on the All-City Field at South High School by the score of 27 - 19. The team overcame adversity and was able to get their 1st road win of the season against a tough opponent. On Thursday, October 29, 2015, they faced Roberts at home in another tough game. The Jaguars were able to overcome another tough opponent and pull out a victory by the score of 20-13.

Volleyball

Girls Volleyball had their first win over Roberts on Thursday! The girls won all three of their matches. Up next are the Roadrunners from Place! We hope to see you at the game!

Next Week's Games

Flag Football

November 12th
3:45 at Slavens

Volleyball

November 12th
3:45 at Slavens