



CHERRY CREEK SCHOOLS SHINE ON ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS

More than 60% of Cherry Creek schools rank Excellent or High on the 2008 School Accountability Reports, released by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE).

CDE annually issues the School Accountability Reports, also known as SARS or School Report Cards, for each school in the state. They include information about the school's academic performance, CSAP results, safety and discipline incidents, student/teacher ratio, teacher qualifications and how taxpayer dollars are spent.

Seventeen Cherry Creek schools were rated as Excellent, 19 as High and 21 as Average. No Cherry Creek schools were rated Low or Unsatisfactory. Fox Hollow Elementary School moved from High to Excellent, and Laredo Middle School and Eaglecrest High School moved from Average to High.

CHERRY CREEK LEADER NAMED COLORADO ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Larry Bull, assistant principal of Eaglecrest High School in the Cherry Creek School District, has been named the 2009 Colorado Assistant Principal of the Year by the Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE).

CCSD HONORED FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

For the 11th consecutive year, the Cherry Creek School District has received the Meritorious Budget Award from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO). The award recognizes school districts for excellence in the preparation and issuance of a school system annual budget. The award honors the district's Budget Department, under the direction of Dan Huenneke.

In August, the Cherry Creek School District received ASBO's Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 15th consecutive year. The award is ASBO's highest recognition for school district financial operations, awarded only to school systems that have met or exceeded the high standards of the Excellence in Financial Reporting Program. The award honors the district's Accounting Department under the direction of Brad Arnold.

BOARD MEMBER HONORED

Aagje Barber, President of the Cherry Creek School District Board of Education, received the 2008 McGuffey Award from the Colorado Association of School Boards. The award honors outstanding school board members for their committed and passionate service.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PARTICIPATION GROWING

More than 10,100 Cherry Creek School District high school students have signed up for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes. Each year, more Cherry Creek students, including students of color, are taking AP classes and exams, which are rigorous college-level courses and tests administered through CollegeBoard. Many will earn college credit before they graduate from high school.

DISTRICT SEES BIG GAINS IN ACT SCORES

Scores on the 2008 ACT for 11th graders increased significantly on all subtests as well as on the overall composite score. In addition, the achievement gap between White and Asian and Black and Hispanic decreased slightly. This was the largest increase in ACT scores in recent years and means more Cherry Creek students are prepared to be successful in post-secondary education. The increase appears to be directly related to increased graduation requirements and deliberate steps taken by district high schools to have students take more rigorous courses throughout students' high school careers.

CHERRY CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT'S 2008 GRADUATES

Collectively, the Class of 2008 took more than 7,800 Advanced Placement tests.

To date, the Cherry Creek School District Class of 2008 has earned in excess of \$30 million in college scholarships and honors. Our 2008 class boasts:

- 34 National Merit Finalists
- 3 Air Force Academy appointments
- Gates Millennium Scholarship
- Western Association Evans Scholars Program
- Martin Luther King Scholarship
- 2 West Point appointments
- 3 Boettcher Scholars
- 5 National Hispanic Recognition Program recipients
- National Achievement Scholarship Program

PONDEROSA TEACHER NAMED AMERICAN STAR OF TEACHING

Melinda Krause, a fifth-grade teacher at Ponderosa Elementary School is Colorado's 2008 American Star of Teaching. She is one of 50 state winners selected from 5,000 nominees nationwide, based on their success in improving student achievement and using innovative strategies to make a difference in the lives of their students. Krause, who has been teaching for 11 years, received the award from Carolyn Snowbarger of the U.S. Department of Education during a surprise assembly at Ponderosa.

HAWLEY'S TALENT SHINES THROUGH ART

Each year the organizers of the First American State Bank Fitness Festival select a winner for their competition to design a logo for the event. This year's winner, Ryan Hawley, was extraordinary. Much of Hawley's body is affected by cerebral palsy, including his speech, his left arm and his legs. But by using his right arm to its fullest extent, Hawley is able to achieve his goals. He is a recent graduate of the district's Transition Services program, which serves students with special needs who have completed high school, but are still serviced by the district. Hawley plans to pursue a career in graphic design.



TWO CCSD STUDENTS WIN MEDAL OF HONOR ESSAY CONTEST

Two Cherry Creek School District students were recognized for their outstanding essays on "Why should all Americans be aware of the Medal of Honor?" Cherokee Trail High School Sophomore Christopher Buccieri wrote the winning high school essay and Kevin Noto, an eighth-grader at The Challenge School, won the essay contest for the middle school level. Thousands of essays were written by students from the 47 metro area schools that hosted Congressional Medal of Honor recipients on Sept. 18.

DISTRICT WELCOMES CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Ten of the nation's greatest heroes, Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, were recognized by Cherry Creek School District staff and community members during assemblies at the district's middle and high schools on September 18. The events were part of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's Annual Convention.

FOUR DISTRICT SCHOOLS NAMED DENVER'S TOP

Four Cherry Creek School District schools were listed as "Denver's Top Schools" according to the September 2008 issue of *5280* magazine based in Denver. Those district schools recognized were:

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Campus Middle School | Challenge School |
| Cherry Creek High School | Greenwood Elementary School |

According to the magazine, their list was created "using a combination of empirical data, panel recommendations, and nonquantitative evidence." While numerical rankings e.g. graduation rates, the Colorado Department of Education's school accountability rankings, and standardized test results were factored in, the magazine emphasized other factors as well.

DISTRICT ACADEMIC HONORS AND PROGRAMS

No Child Left Behind – Blue Ribbon Schools

Honors public and private K-12 schools that are either academically superior in their states or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. Willow Creek Elementary School was named a 2006 No Child Left Behind – Blue Ribbon School by U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings. Willow Creek, which also received Blue Ribbon honors in

1999, is one of five schools in Colorado and 250 schools nationwide to be recognized in 2006. Blue Ribbon Schools:

- Campus Middle School, 99-00
- West Middle School, 94-96
- Indian Ridge Elementary School, 89-90
- Willow Creek Elementary School, 98-99, 06-07
- Cherry Creek High School, 92-93
- Eastridge Community Elementary School, 98-99
- Smoky Hill High School, 90-91

AVID – Advancement Via Individual Determination

Did you know that all of the middle and high schools in the Cherry Creek School District are AVID schools? That five of Colorado’s ten National AVID Demonstration Schools are in CCSD? And that CCSD has more National AVID Demonstration Schools than any other district in the world?

AVID is an in-school, academic support program that prepares students for college eligibility and success. It goes hand-in-hand with Cherry Creek Schools’ commitment to ensure that all CCSD graduates are college-ready, regardless of the path they plan to follow after high school.

John Irwin School of Excellence

Thirteen schools in the Cherry Creek School District have been named John Irwin Schools of Excellence for 2007 by the Colorado Department of Education. Many of those schools have received the award every year since its inception in 2004. The award is given to the top 8% of schools at each level - elementary, middle and high school - in the state based on overall academic performance.

- Belleview Elementary School, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007
- Challenge School, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007
- Cherry Hills Village Elementary School, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007
- Cottonwood Creek Elementary School, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007
- Coyote Hills Elementary School, 2007
- Dakota Valley Elementary School, 2004
- Dry Creek Elementary School, 2004
- Greenwood Elementary School, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007
- High Plains Elementary School, 2004
- Homestead Elementary School, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007
- Indian Ridge Elementary School, 2007
- Willow Creek Elementary School, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007
- Campus Middle School, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007
- West Middle School, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007
- Cherry Creek High School, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007



CHERRY CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS

Enrollment: About 50,000, Oct. 2008
Diversity: 36% are students of color

This year’s graduating class, the Class of 2009, will be the first to graduate meeting more rigorous graduation requirements passed by the Board of Education in 2006. These requirements are in line with the more rigorous admission requirements adopted by Colorado state colleges and universities. College prepared — world ready!

CHERRY CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT STAFF

Teachers w/Bachelors: 31.9% Teachers w/Masters: 67.2% Teachers w/Doctorate: .9%

Director of Instructional Technology Dave Craven was named the **State Administrator of the Year** by the Colorado Association of Educational Office Professionals. From leading the redesign of the Cherry Creek School District’s new Web site, to implementing online tutorials, to playing the guitar at holiday parties, Craven has earned the respect of those who work with him and their appreciation for the environment he has created at the Student Achievement Resource Center.

99% of Cherry Creek School District teachers are considered “Highly Qualified” by No Child Left Behind. “Highly Qualified” means that teachers of core academic subjects are state certified, hold a bachelor’s degree and have demonstrated subject area competency.

For the second year in a row and the third time in nine years, an **Overland High School** student and teacher have received Never Forgotten Fund scholarships in the same year. Overland High School 2008 graduate Cathy Lam and theatre teacher Shari Vanhaselen received 2008 Never Forgotten Fund scholarships in memory of Columbine student Daniel Mauser and teacher Dave Sanders. Overland High School has received at least one Never Forgotten Fund scholarship every year since the award was established in 2000.

Two Cherry Creek Schools teachers were honored by the Colorado Council of Teachers of Mathematics conference for their outstanding work teaching mathematics. Lana Hansen, from **Willow Creek Elementary**, and Carrie Heaney, from **Sky Vista Middle School**, were selected to receive the elementary and secondary Outstanding Mathematics Teachers in region 3.

Cherry Creek High School was the recipient of the 2008 Advanced Placement Siemens Award and received \$1000 for its math, science and technology departments. CCHS has been recognized as one of the nation's leading high schools in AP participation in those fields. The award was presented by the Siemens Foundation, which recognizes one high school in each of the 50 states each year. Siemens is a world leader in industry, energy and healthcare, employing 400,000 people in 190 countries around the world.

OTHER DISTRICT RECOGNITION

In Cherry Creek Schools, just **4.94 percent of the general fund** is designated for central administration and services.

The **Cherry Creek Schools Foundation** received a \$25,000 grant from the Energy Corporation of America (ECA) Foundation to fund the Reading Together literacy program in the Cherry Creek School District. ECA is a privately-owned, international energy company headquartered in the Denver Tech Center.

CHERRY CREEK COMMUNITY

Parents, retirees, businesspeople and other members of the Cherry Creek community are going “behind the scenes” in Cherry Creek Schools to meet the people, visit the places and explore the programs that help make Cherry Creek one of the finest districts in the country. As members of **Leadership Cherry Creek**, they are learning first-hand about important issues including staffing, curriculum development, assessment, transportation, safety and security, technology, long-range planning, maintenance, construction, budgeting, and school finance.

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