



## Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year!

The staff and I are getting geared up and excited to start school this year and are feverishly making preparations for kids to walk through the doors on the first day of school on August 8. If you are new to our school, welcome and if you are a continuing family, welcome back. This letter will have a lot of information that I hope to separate into usable chunks so you can scroll to the most applicable sections. If you need to reach someone at our school and do not have their email address, please send an email to [sede\\_info@dcsdk12.org](mailto:sede_info@dcsdk12.org) and we will get your email to the correct staff member. If you have general questions or questions regarding enrollment that email is your best resource.

### Staff Roster

New staff members are in italic

<b>Kindergarten</b> Hannah Hearn <i>Allison Rothfield</i>	<b>1st grade</b> Emmie Rooney	<b>2nd grade</b> Lexi Shriver <i>Alex Beaubien</i>
<b>3rd grade</b> Noelle Bowyer	<b>4th grade</b> Jeannie Abbas Theresa Costigan	<b>5th grade</b> Joni Rummell <i>Anna Norman-Wikner</i>
<b>6th grade</b> Todd Lowry	<b>Specials</b> Jen Tucker (Art) Sam Walker (Music) Bill Richmond (Library/Tech) Kim Rankin (Sustainability) <i>Maddie Duren (PE)</i>	<b>Interventionists</b> Marni Rueger Kori Kirk Marlene Hay
<b>Special Education</b> Micki Shaar (SSN) Connie Kaupp (Mod Needs) Mary Barth (Mod Needs) Peggy Owen (IAS) Caty Draper (Speech Pathologist) Jill Purdy (OT) Hal Anderson (school psychologist)	<b>Mental Health</b> Maureen Martinez (counselor) Dixie Payne (Behavior Tech)	<b>Special Education Assistants</b> Cheryl Kinne Susan Joines Kristi Wiebe Samantha Nuñez Lauren Weinrich Jen Tucker 4 vacancies



<p><b>Kitchen</b>          Jenny McCoy          Cherrilyn Schroeder</p>	<p><b>Preschool</b>          Linda Seid (ECSE)          Lauren Barnes (Speech Pathologist)          Laurie Richter (OT)          Cathy Robinson (EA)  <i>TBH-(SA)</i></p>	<p><b>Office Staff</b>          Rochelle Sheffield (Admin. Asst.)          Gnessa Lowry (Registrar)          Noah Rodriguez (Liaison)          Linda Meyers (RTI/GT)          Deric Hodges (Building Engineer)  <i>Kris Hedstrand (School Nurse)</i>          Jeff Johnson (Principal)</p>
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**Special Education Education Assistant (EA) Vacancies**

We are currently 4 staff members short in our EA staff. This position is very important to the success of both our moderate needs and severe needs programs. If you are interested in learning more about these positions, please contact me, Jeff Johnson ([jeff.johnson@dcsdk12.org](mailto:jeff.johnson@dcsdk12.org)). The rate of pay for this position ranges from \$17.62/hour to \$26.29/hour with a maximum hire rate of \$21.96/hour. A high school diploma or the equivalent is required for this position. This position is eligible for full time benefits and the benefits are outstanding. In addition, this position mostly follows the student school calendar so breaks and vacations closely match students' time away from school. To view the open positions, please visit the [DCSD Job Vacancies page](#) or the specific [Sedalia vacancies](#).

**Open House**

Students will learn who their teachers are for this year either by checking the parent portal in Infinite Campus or by coming to the open house on Monday, August 7 from 3:30-5:30. Students are welcome to bring school supplies during this time to lighten their loads on Tuesday.



## **Safety**

During school days and times, all visitors must stop by the office prior to moving into the body of the school. Most of the time, our office staff is able to help our visitors with whatever they need right there! We know some parents want to walk their child to class, help them hang up their backpacks, and get organized for the day. As a parent, I completely understand. Our teachers and staff are also trying to build independence with our students and allowing our team to help build that capacity with our students is certainly appreciated. If you anticipate your child will struggle to start the day, please reach out to our counselor or their teacher.

## **Income Eligibility for Support**

This year, students throughout Colorado will not have to pay for breakfast or lunch. This may lead some families to not apply for the “free lunch” program that they have used in previous years. However, applying for this program provides assistance to families beyond meals. This program also provides relief or forgiveness for all school fees. Without applying and receiving approval, families will be responsible for all school fees including transportation costs. If you need assistance applying for this program, please contact our front office staff.

## **School Attendance**

School is a dynamic place for learning. Teachers make plans for every lesson every day and they make adjustments to the lessons based on the real-time feedback from students. The conversations kids have cannot be replicated which makes attendance each day incredibly important. When students are absent we often get requests from parents for makeup work or worksheets to offset absences. If teaching and learning were that simple, you would not need



us! Douglas County School District's policy for attendance states a student is considered truant after 4 unexcused absences in a month or 10 absences in one school year. Please talk with your child's teacher if they are going to be absent as well as our registrar, Gennesa Lowry. We really want your kids to be at school every day!

### **Parent Involvement**

We have two parent groups that are open to all parents. Our Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) and our School Accountability Committee (SAC) meet quarterly and last year we combined these meetings. If you would like more information, please contact our PTO president, Meghan Watts or our SAC Chair, Zach Watts. Volunteering your time is one of the most valuable ways to participate in your child's education.

### **Express Check-In**

Express Check-In is required for all students each year. Parents should have already received information on how to complete this process. If you need any assistance, please contact our front office staff using the email at the top of this message. We are aiming for 100% completion of Express Check-In by the end of August!

I hope you will seek me out and introduce yourself or say hello during the open house and throughout the school year. We are honored to have you and your children attend Sedalia and look forward to this school year.

Thank you,

Jeff Johnson