

Good Afternoon Blue Heron Community,

Welcome to the 23/24 school year! For those of you who are returning, we are so excited to have you back at Blue Heron. For our new families, we are thrilled to have you join the Aviator Family!

Before I get started with lots of information, I want to take a quick moment to introduce myself. I am the proud principal of Blue Heron and am excited to make this community my new home. This will be my 18th year in education; during this time I have been a high school social studies teacher, dean of students, assistant principal, and principal. My family resides in Jeffco and are part of the Dakota Ridge articulation area. When I'm not working, I love to spend time with my family (Tom, Colton - 8 years old, Addison - 6 years old, Marley - goldendoodle, and Max - shih tzu). We love to travel, play board games, and spend time outdoors camping, fishing and hiking. I look forward to getting to know each family here at Blue Heron over the next year. It is my goal to make sure we have a strong community and school partnership. If you need anything, please reach out at any time throughout the year. I am always available and willing to help make your child's year a successful one!

I try to keep weekly communication as concise as possible, however, the first couple will be a little lengthy since there are some changes for this year! Blue Heron's main communication to families will be through weekly emails (sent on Fridays) and Friday Folders that will come home with your child. Please make sure to review both of these each weekend. In addition, we have four different social media accounts that Blue Heron events and happenings will be posted to: Facebook - Blue Heron Aviators, PTA Blue Heron and Instagram - Blue Heron Aviators, Blue Heron Elementary PTA.

Annual Update/Check-In - Opens on August 2nd

Each year, all Jeffco families are asked to complete the Annual Update process. This gives families the opportunity to confirm their household information (address, phone numbers, emergency contacts, etc), their student's information, and sign the agreements required each year. It is important to make sure that campus information, including emergency contacts, is updated and correct in case of an emergency. To complete your Annual Update you will need to login to [Campus Parent Portal](#) and then select More > Online Registration. If you need help please refer to [this guide](#). Here are a few other items we encourage you to take care of as well during the Annual Update:

- Pay [Student Fees](#) in Campus Parent Portal (does not open until August 2nd)
- Complete a [Meal Benefits Application](#) (not required, but all families are strongly encouraged to apply as this application will help with additional education funding for schools and may allow for waivers of school-related fees)
 - This has formerly been the Free & Reduced Lunch Application and is housed in SchoolCafe
- [Register Bus Riders](#) (if needed)
- Add Money to [SchoolCafe](#) (if you want your student to be able to purchase a la carte items)

If you need assistance in completing any of the items above, please contact our main office at 303.982.2770.

School Hours

Don't forget that this year Jeffco Schools has moved to Healthy & Equitable Start Times district-wide. Blue Heron Elementary's school day will be from 7:45am-2:35pm. Any student who would like breakfast can enter the main doors beginning at 7:25am and head to the cafeteria. The main doors will open at 7:35am for all students to enter and all students need to be in their homeroom classroom ready for the day to begin by 7:45am. If a student is tardy (arrives after 7:45am), a parent/guardian will need to sign them in at the main office security window.

First Day of School

The first day of school for all students will be on Tuesday, August 15th. The Blue Heron staff will be out front to greet students when they arrive beginning at 7:25am. We are asking that students find their homeroom teacher out front and wait with them to enter the building as a group. Families will be notified of their child's homeroom teacher via email from the teacher at 9:00am on Thursday, August 10th.

Our PTA will also be hosting a Boo-Hoo/Woo-Hoo Breakfast for our kindergarten parents/guardians and new families in the school's library from 7:25-8:00am. Come grab a bite to eat and meet other families.

School Supplies

[Click here](#) to view the supply list for each grade. We ask that students bring all of their supplies either to our Back to School Social on August 11th or the first day of school, August 15th. If you ordered an EduKit in the spring, there is nothing you need to do. Please keep in mind that

backpacks are not included in the kit, and both headphones and a computer mouse were optional. If you did not select these items, you will need to purchase both and send them with your child.

Important Dates/District Calendar

We love when our community and families get involved at our school and with their student's learning. [Click here](#) to access the 23-24 Blue Heron's Important Dates. This list is not yet finalized or complete, but a great start. We will be sending home a hard copy with your child in their first Friday folder. In addition, [click here](#) to access the updated 23-24 Jeffco Schools calendar. The most important dates to pay attention to are the dates where students will not be in school:

- August 18, 21
- September 4, 22
- October 19, 20
- November 13, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24
- December 8, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29
- January 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 15
- February 16, 19
- March 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25
- April 26
- May 3

School Meals

Thanks to the passage of [Healthy School Meals for All \(HSMA\)](#) by Colorado voters, all students in Jeffco Public Schools who attend a school participating in the National School Lunch Program will now have access to healthy and nutritious meals at no cost beginning in the 2023-24 school year, regardless of income eligibility. View [this webpage](#) to learn more about what meal service will look like for students in the 2023-24 school year. This means that all of our students are able to receive a free breakfast (served from 7:25-7:45am) in the morning as well as a free lunch during the school day.

Construction Update

I am excited to announce that our summer construction is wrapping up. The two biggest things you will notice is a new gym floor and a new main office space. Our main office was changed to help make our building more secure. We now have a secure vestibule with a security window for visitors to use instead of coming all the way into the building. Both of these projects will be completed prior to students returning on August 15th.

Summer MeetUps

Our wonderful PTA has planned fun before school starts MeetUps to get everyone together with other friends & families from your grade. This will be a great chance for the kiddos to see some familiar faces before starting back to school the following week. This event is also a great opportunity to meet/see some of the Blue Heron staff. The grade with the biggest turnout will get to silly string me at recess on the first day of school!

Where: Sunset Park (5900-5916 W Grant Ranch Blvd, Denver, CO 80123)

When:

- Kindergartners - Monday, August 7th from 5:00-6:00pm
- 1st & 2nd Graders - Tuesday, August 8th from 5:00-6:00pm
- 3rd & 4th Graders - Wednesday, August 9th from 5:00-6:00pm
- 5th Graders - Thursday, August 10th from 5:00-6:00pm

Plan to bring a picnic dinner and blanket for your family. The Kona Ice Truck will be there for dessert, if you choose.

Back to School Social

We will be hosting a back to school social on Friday, August 11th from 3:00-5:00pm. This event is an open house. We encourage families to drop by to explore the school and find your homeroom classroom, meet your teacher and Blue Heron staff, drop off your school supplies and take a peek at many different community partners.

Spirit Wear

It is time to start browsing to find your favorite Blue Heron Spirit Wear. [Click here](#) to visit our spirit wear catalog and to order. There will be a back to school sale from August 8-September 7 where everything will be 30% off.

Upcoming Dates

August 2 - Annual Update & Check In for the 23/24 School Year Opens

August 7 - Kindergarten Meet Up @ Sunset Park, 5-6pm

August 8 - 1st & 2nd Grade Meet Up @ Sunset Park, 5-6pm

August 9 - 3rd & 4th Grade Meet Up @ Sunset Park, 5-6pm

August 10 - Kindergarten Assessment Day, 7:30am-12pm ([please sign up for a time slot](#))

August 10 - 5th Grade Meet Up @ Sunset Park, 5-6pm

August 11 - Back to School Social, 3-5pm

August 15 - First Day of School, Begins at 7:45am

August 15 - Boo-Hoo/Woo-Hoo Breakfast in Library, 7:25-8am

August 18 - No School - Assessment Day (sign up will be available at a later date)

August 21 - No School - Assessment Day (sign up will be available at a later date)

August 22 - Back to School Night, 6-7pm

I look forward to getting students in the building and having an incredible 23-24 school year!

Regards,

Sarah Gagnon

Principal

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Principal

Blue Heron Elementary School

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[Website](#) | [Facebook](#)