

# FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Dear Students and Families,

Each year, Denver Public Schools releases the School Performance Framework, or SPF, for each school in the district. "The SPF measures many important aspects of what we know makes a great school – such as how satisfied students and parents are, how much students have improved their scores on state tests from year to year, and how well the school serves and challenges all of its students. The SPF is like a report card for schools, letting us know where we are making progress and where we need to focus on improving. The SPF puts special emphasis on student academic growth, or how much progress students have made from one year to the next..." (<https://spf.dpsk12.org/en/>)

In the spirit of being transparent, I would like to personally share that our rating **from the 2018-2019 school year** is red. We have a lot of work to do; however, there are also huge celebrations in our data. For example, we meeting expectations for post secondary readiness and graduation rates.

I want to remind you that our school colors are BLUE and GREEN! This rating does not define our community or our identity. I am not disheartened by the color of our rating, I am motivated and ignited! The crew on this ship is strong, passionate, skilled, and student-driven. The staff is working hard to engage our students, inspire our families, and deliver a top notch education that prepares our students for the post-secondary pathway of their choice. We are the only COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL in Southwest Denver, and we will thrive! My only question is, are you with me?? Because I am IN! **What I need from you, students** is:

- TO ATTEND EVERY CLASS EVERY DAY (except if you are sick, have an emergency, or a religious obligation of course),
- Ask questions if you don't understand,
- Go to tutoring or office hours for help or a quiet place to study,
- Get involved in a club, sport, or activity, According to a study completed by the University of South Mississippi, involvement in athletics, music programs, and clubs increases success rates on GPA, SAT scores, and attendance.
- AND GIVE ME FEEDBACK by attending Real Talk With Tiffany.

With Gratitude,  
Tiffany Almon  
Principal

**We are Stronger Together! ¡Somos más fuertes Unidos! ĐOÀN KẾT LÀ SỨC MẠNH**

## UPDATES and REMINDERS:

- ★ Parent teacher conferences are drop in from 4 - 7 PM in the cafeteria, main hall, and room 111 on October 15th and 16th. Please come and learn about how your student is progressing in their coursework.
  - There will be a Signs of Suicide presentation and Title 1 presentation in the auditorium and tons of school programming information to learn all night.
- ★ **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS ON:**
  - October 18th -- exchange day for teachers for parent teacher conferences
  - October 21st -- professional development day for teachers
  - October 22nd -- professional development day for teachers
- ★ Fridays are **COLLEGE SPIRIT DAYS** wear your college gear!
- ★ Free College Application Day is 10/15/19 click [here](#) for more information. Students, get a pass to go to the Future Center to complete at least one college application on this day!
- ★ Students can earn 1.0% point towards their attendance by attending City Year AftEr School tutoring from 3 - 4 in the cafe. You must have a permission slip signed by parent/guardian to attend after school (you can get a permission slip from Ambrosia in the main office). If you have an off period, you can work with City Year in the cafeteria on homework or Khan Academy and earn 0.5% points towards your attendance. You must work the entire off period to earn this 0.5% point.
- ★ Students are welcome to join their teachers or other staff members for lunch AND to receive support before, after school, and during lunch; but, **a pass is required**. Students can receive a reusable pass from the teacher/staff member they wish to visit or the library and Future Center during the school day.
- ★ Robo calls will go home when a student has an unexcused absence. Please excuse absences within 24 hours. Reach out to Tiffany (720-423-4330) if you are experiencing issues with our attendance line. We aim to provide excellent customer service, and I need to know when we are not meeting this expectation.
- ★ If you need to pick up your student, please **come into the main office** and we will call your student's class to send them down. For security reasons, we prefer that you come in rather than calling our main line.
- ★ Students are required to wear **lanyards** and bring their ID each day so that staff can easily identify upperclassmen and Freshmen with permission who can leave campus for lunch. This also helps to quickly identify who has an off period when schedules are printed on the back of student i.d.s.
- ★ Students with a valid driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance can purchase a parking pass for \$20 in the main lobby beginning Monday. We require students who park in our student lot to have a parking pass.
- ★ If you would like to join the Commander Connection, our parent/guardian teacher student association, please email Tiffany at [tiffany\\_almon@dpsk12.org](mailto:tiffany_almon@dpsk12.org).
- ★ **Talking to youth about marijuana**  
Fall is finally here, and many Colorado teenagers and families are looking forward to the many fun activities that come with fall, including homecoming, football games, dances and parties. These activities provide a great opportunity for parents to have a conversation with their teens about their expectations involving marijuana. SMART Colorado has put together a great resource that provides parents with tips on how to talk to their kids about marijuana. You can view that resource here: <https://rb.gy/522c0e>.

**We are Stronger Together! ¡Somos más fuertes Unidos! ĐOÀN KẾT LÀ SỨC MẠNH**

## Important Dates

10/15: Parent Teacher Conferences 4 - 7PM

10/16: Parent Teacher Conferences 4 - 7PM

10/18: no school for students due to parent teacher conference exchange day

10/21: no school for students due to teacher professional learning

10/22: no school for students due to teacher professional learning

For a list of games and events see our [Calendar](#)

# Commanders Show P.R.I.D.E.

**P** professionalism

**R** respect

**I** inclusion

**D** dedication

**E** excellence

**We are Stronger Together! ¡Somos más fuertes Unidos! ĐOÀN KẾT LÀ SỨC MẠNH**