



The Legacy. The Passion. The Opportunity.  
EDUCATING AND MOTIVATING LIFE-LONG LEARNERS  
WHO EXPLORE, CREATE AND ACHIEVE

## August & September Newsletter

### September Important Dates:

<b>August 20</b>	First Day for 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade ONLY & New to Skinner 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade students
<b>August 21</b>	First Day for returning 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Students
<b>August 21</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Mtg.
<b>August 31</b>	Good Standing Celebration for summer homework completion
<b>September 3</b>	Labor Day – NO SCHOOL
<b>September 6</b>	Back to School Night/Family BBQ @ 5:30 – 7:30pm
<b>September 11</b>	PTO / ELA-PAC Launch Meeting 6 – 7:15pm in Skinner's Library
<b>September 20</b>	Parenting Partners launches – 7 sessions – Session #1 from 6-8pm in Library
<b>September 21</b>	NO SCHOOL (Skinner Only) – Teacher In-Service day
<b>September 27</b>	Parenting Partners Session #2 from 6-8pm in Library
<b>September 29</b>	Jewels of Highlands Home Tour Fundraiser

### Welcome Back!

The Skinner Faculty would like to officially welcome you to the 2018-19 school year! Enrollment is as strong as ever, and we are looking forward to all the excitement this year will bring. We have a great schedule, students have three core+ class, and thanks to our families as tax payers, all of our students will be receiving a Chromebook to take home daily. Here is some additional information to get you started on the right foot:

#### Morning Drop Off & Afternoon Pick-up

- **6<sup>th</sup> grade:** 6<sup>th</sup> grade students enter and exit the West door(door #2).  
*\*Students dropped off after 7:30am should use the main entrance door.*
- **7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** 7<sup>th</sup> grade families drop off on 40<sup>th</sup> and Julian, also known as the Science Wing Entrance (Door # 24). Please drive west on 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Irving, drop off your child curbside and then turn left on Julian Street. Thank you for your cooperation.  
*\*Students dropped off after 7:30am should use the main entrance door.*
- **8<sup>th</sup> grade:** 8<sup>th</sup> grade students enter and exit the main doors (Door #1). Please do not park on 40<sup>th</sup> in the morning as this is the cause of much of the traffic congestion. Thank you for your cooperation.

Parents should pull up curbside to let students out of the car. Please **DO NOT STOP** in the middle of the street to load/unload as it is unsafe for students and it causes traffic jams. Thank you for your cooperation!

**Breakfast:** Students can eat free breakfast starting at 7:10(the door is locked until 7:10) in the cafeteria. Please enter through the back west cafeteria door for the morning routine, otherwise students wait on the front lawn until the first bell rings at 7:25am. Students can be dropped at the curb on 41<sup>st</sup>. Please do not pull into the parking lots.

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## Morning Drop Off & Afternoon Pick-up (continued):

### After School Options

All Skinner Scholars MAKE EVERY MINUTE COUNT! After school time is no exception. The school day ends at 2:45 and after school programming begins at 2:55 pm. *Students should have a clear understanding with families about after school activities and rides.* Students will not be allowed to linger in the halls or on the front lawn as there is no after school supervision unless a student is involved in an organized school activity. Options for after school are:

- Register with the Neighborhood Center and take advantage of tutoring and extra-curricular activities
- Attend Office Hours with grade level teachers (more info about designated days to come at the BBQ on 9/6).
- Get involved with Skinner Athletics (information to come at the BBQ on 9/6).
- Walk home OR get picked up by 3pm

*Parents should be aware that many students walk to McDonald's on 38<sup>th</sup> to wait for their ride. We do not have supervision at McDonald's and the establishment also does not have the staff to monitor middle school students. Skinner provides snacks after school for students who stay for Office Hours / PIE, or who attend the Neighborhood Center. Please talk with your child about making safe choices for after school.*

**\*\*Any student who remains on school property after 3pm will be placed into ASI, where a parent or guardian must sign him/her out**

### Athletics Information

During registration families received information about athletics and the multiple opportunities students have to explore this extra-curricular activity.

#### **As a reminder, here is what students need to participate in athletics:**

1. You must be a 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade student.
2. You must be academically eligible for the whole season.
3. You must pay a participation fee when your equipment is issued (\$25/sport).
4. You must have all of the following forms completed and signed by parents:
  - a. Physical
  - b. Parent Permission/Emergency
  - c. Code of conduct
  - d. Financial Responsibility

Questions: Please contact Robert Kelly, Athletic Director @ [Robert\\_Kelly@dpsk12.org](mailto:Robert_Kelly@dpsk12.org)

**The season starts soon! Get your physical up to date in order to participate!**

### Lunch Forms & Pricing

In order to maximize the funding Skinner receives that benefits ALL students, we ask that each family complete and submit a lunch form each school year. Thank you for taking a few extra minutes to complete this form so accurate data is processed for our school.

<https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application>

Skinner staff never see the information you report and do not know whether your family qualifies for free or reduced lunch unless you share that information with us.

#### **Here are the lunch prices for students**

K-5	\$2.00
8-6	\$2.50
9-12	\$2.75

Please make sure accounts are up to date. You can pay the cafeteria manager in person, or you can add money to your child's account here:

<https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/login/getmain?requestAction=home>

**Middle schools do not have a charging policy so it is imperative your child has a lunch from home or money in his/her account. Thank you for your cooperation.**



One of the best ways to ensure academic success for your child is to be sure they have access to engaging, interactive, and fun activities.

For more information about these programs join us at the Back to School Night, or the Neighborhood Center Open house on August 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:00 – 6:00 pm.

If you have questions feel free to contact Whitney Jones  
[whitney\\_jones@dpsk12.org](mailto:whitney_jones@dpsk12.org) or 720-424-1433.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Info Night/Orientation** **Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> from 6-7pm in the Skinner Auditorium**

All 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents are invited and encouraged to attend a night especially designed for you! The students had Academy to transition to Skinner, and this night is your turn. We received very positive feedback from 6<sup>th</sup> grade families last year about the information received during this evening session. We'll be sure to have plenty of time for Q&A. We look forward to seeing you there!

## **Family Back to School Night & BBQ - Thursday, Sept. 6th**

Come meet the amazing Skinner faculty on **Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30pm**. Skinner will provide the paper products, hot dogs, veggie burgers, and water bottles for the BBQ starting at 6:10pm. Please bring dish to share (last name letter A-H: Dessert; Letter I-U: Side dish/salad; Letter V-Z: Chips & Dip) *We will kick off the evening with short Grade Level meetings, please label your dish and drop off your potluck item in the back athletic field before your meeting.*

**The evening beings with meetings which will start promptly at 5:30pm** in the following locations:

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade = Auditorium, then on to individual Learning Family Classrooms**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade = Cafeteria**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade = PDC (on Second Floor)**

Around 6pm, families will transition to the field to enjoy dinner and socializing. Teachers will be available at designated tents, administration will be available for questions, and PTO will be available to sign up volunteers for the school year. Mark your calendar for this important time to get information about Skinner and your child's school year. We will see you there!

# High 5 For Skinner

Your involvement in school is crucial. If you are not already involved, it is very important to get involved in the school as a volunteer for a classroom, committee, and/ or school event. We know that students perform better and are more engaged with school when there is active parent involvement. We also know that with the demands of work and running a household, there are different ways that families manage staying involved and engaged with their child's academics and emotional well-being.

Skinner has spent the last four school years developing our system for parent and community involvement and our efforts are paying off! In our first year of promoting volunteering we had documented 5,500 hours of volunteer engagement and we know there were many more hours contributed by our community for the benefit of students.

## What is High 5 for Skinner?

Once again, we are asking that every family contribute at least 5 hours of volunteer / community engagement with Skinner Middle School. This involvement can happen in a variety of ways:

- Attend school events to support your child
- Volunteer in classrooms regularly
- Volunteer for school events occasionally
- Volunteer in the main school building or the Neighborhood Center

## Tracking Hours

Each time you come into Skinner to volunteer, you should sign-in at a designated computer. This helps track your hours that you are contributing to Skinner and your student.

As the year progresses and families hit the 5<sup>th</sup> volunteer hour, names will be displayed. Come see our display grow with all the hands that have given 5 for Skinner! A High 5! As you work your way up in volunteer hours, there are also additional perks! Attend Volunteer Training August 30<sup>th</sup> or September 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Skinner Library to learn more.

## Info for Background Check process

To ensure safety for all of our students, Denver Public Schools has a process for volunteers. In many cases, a background check is required. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) is posted to the Skinner Website. If you are considering attending a field trip this school year, or getting involved in a way that you would work with students, submitting this paperwork sooner than later is best. Forms can be obtained from the Skinner Website *and must be submitted online.*

## WANTED: Lead Volunteer

The Lead Volunteer works in collaboration with the principal and is a position that primarily helps coordinate and oversee the logistics of all the volunteer opportunities for Skinner. We are seeking interested individuals who have a current student to take this position for the 2018-19 school year. The commitment is approximately 5 hours a week, depending on the time of year.

Interested parents/guardians should communicate interest to the main office by phone (720.424.1420) or email [grant\\_varveris@dpsk12.org](mailto:grant_varveris@dpsk12.org). THANK YOU for considering!

Some of our teachers need volunteers for next week with setting up their classrooms and such. Please click on the link below to sign up and reach out to the teachers.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1sMC4T-29RJ09eXSWRZ8rBHGh2EveOieGZtKJ4OLbvQ8/edit#gid=0>

## Pre-Collegiate Program

Too early for your Middle Schooler to start thinking about careers? We don't think so...

Skinner's newest career and college oriented after school program will begin in mid-September. Working with neighboring businesses, community leaders, and colleges/universities, students will dive deep into potential careers through guided instruction, hands-on activities, and plenty of off-site trips.

The program will take place every Friday from 3-5 PM with occasional weekend commitments. More information and applications during Back to School Night.

Contact: Dirk Boden, [dirk.boden@8z.com](mailto:dirk.boden@8z.com), (720)217-7206

### Library News

PLEASE take a moment to complete this survey IF you ARE interested in participating in one of our parent-student book clubs for the 2017-2018 school year. Survey Link - <http://tinyurl.com/skinnerbookclub>

### Volunteer Training

#### SAVE THE DATE

Are you interested in volunteering this school year at Skinner? Come to the Library for a short training and complete any necessary forms.

August 29<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm – 6:45pm  
OR

September 20<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm – 5:45pm

### PTO / ELA-PAC Sept. 11, 6pm

Join us **September 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** in the Skinner Library for to learn about how PTO has supported Skinner over the last year and then enjoy our speaker series on 'just in time' topics. Our first guest speaker will be our very own Joe Waldon, Skinner's social worker sharing the coveted session on the adolescent brain and surviving the middle school years.

### CSC Nominations for Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents

If you are interested on serving on the Collaborative School Committee for the 2018-19 school year, please submit a written self-nomination to Principal Grant Varveris

You can submit via email [grant\\_varveris@dpsk12.org](mailto:grant_varveris@dpsk12.org) or call the school at 720.424.1420.

This committee of students, parents, and staff meets monthly to provide strategic direction in support of our mission and vision as stated in our Unified Improvement Plan.

**Deadline is August 31, 2018**

### Crossing Guards Needed

If you can support our safety efforts by volunteering from 7:10 – 7:40am or 2:40 – 3:10pm as a crossing guard, please contact Grant Varveris at 720-424-1410. Thank you for considering!

## **Plan to attend the 2018 Jewels of Highlands Home Tour on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> from Noon – 4 pm.**

Sponsored by Nostalgic Homes, the Jewels of Highlands Home Tour is our largest fundraiser of the year. It's a wonderful day out touring some of North Denver's finest private homes.

Do you own a business or know anyone who does? Sponsoring the Home Tour and receiving an ad in the tour booklet is a great way to reach hundreds of community members AND support our neighborhood middle school! Sponsorship packages can be customized to fit all needs. Please contact Rebecca at [Rebecca\\_caldwell@dpsk12.org](mailto:Rebecca_caldwell@dpsk12.org) or 720-424-1495 for more information

We need volunteers NOW and on the day of the tour! Please contact Rebecca at [Rebecca\\_caldwell@dpsk12.org](mailto:Rebecca_caldwell@dpsk12.org) or 720-424-1495 to volunteer!

## **New to Skinner Staff**

**Please welcome our returning staff and new staff. Skinner continues to have a low turnover for staff –  
THANK you staff and families!**

### **New Staff:**

**Haley Amichaux** – Hailey is joining our special education team after completing her time in Teach For America.

**Adam Houzner** – Adam is moving from our P and I team to lead his own AN classroom!

**Meghan Law** – Joins us after teaching for over 5 years outside of DPS.

**Rachel Mayer** – Rachel is joining our core plus team after several years at the Lookout Mountain school for boys and teaching in Central America.

**Kimberly Peters** – Joins us after several years in middle school in Cherry Creek.

**Lisa Polonski** – Lisa is joining the Skinner Team after time at Goldrich in DPS and teaching in Wisconsin.

**Joshua Volinsky** – Joining Skinner after much success in DPS in the Far Northeast.

**Peter Ventresca** – Pete joins us after several years in a DPS AN program.

**Teresa Hernandez** – Joins Skinner after several successful years at MLK here in DPS.

**Doretta Tootle** – Joining us a success in Parks and Rec and working with children.

**Marianna Barclay** – Just moved from Georgia and is excited to join Skinner.

**Melissa Tombaugh** – Joining us after several years working with children.

**Grant Varveris** – After 4 years as principal at University Park Elementary in DPS, Grant is back in middle school to help lead Skinner's continued success.