



Skinner Middle School Newsletter

August - September 2014

*The legacy, the passion, the opportunity
Educating and motivating life-long learners who explore,
create and achieve.*

Welcome Back to School!

Ms. Koyama, Ms. Meier, and the Skinner Faculty would like to welcome you to the 2014-15 school year! We are excited to have just met our incoming 6th graders during 6th Grade Academy. The combined graduating Classes of 2021, 2020, and 2019 make up the largest Skinner enrollment the school has seen in the past 8 years!

We are looking forward to seeing all of our amazing Skinner Scholars in a few short days! The Skinner Staff have been preparing all summer for another incredible school year.

Important information to note for the start of the school year:

- **First Day of School:** 6th graders begin on **Monday, August 25th**.
New to Skinner 7th & 8th Orientation – Monday, August 25th
7th & 8th graders begin on **Tuesday, August 26th**
- **Breakfast:** Students can eat breakfast for free starting at 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.
- **Family Back to School Night & BBQ:** Come meet the amazing Skinner faculty from 5:30 to 7:30pm on **Thursday, September 4th**. Skinner will provide the paper products, hot dogs veggie burgers, hamburgers, and water bottles starting at 6:15pm. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. We will kick off the evening with Short Grade Level meetings in the building and then 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

Upcoming Important Dates for August - September

Monday, August 25th	First Day of Classes for 6 th grade – Summer Homework Due ORIENTATION DAY for <i>new to Skinner 7th & 8th graders</i>
Tuesday, August 26th	First Day of Classes for 7 th and 8 th grade Summer Homework Due for 7 th and 8 th grade
Friday, August 29th	August Celebration for students in "Good Standing" (<i>Good standing</i> = homework completed & submitted)
Monday, September 1st	NO SCHOOL – Labor Day
Thursday, September 4th	Back to School Night & Family BBQ 5:30pm – 7:30pm *Back (North) Field
Tuesday, September 9th	PTO / Volunteer Kick-off Meeting
Monday, September 15th	Picture Day
Friday, September 26th	NO SCHOOL – Skinner Only – Teacher In-Service Day

Picture Day



September 15th

Students are required to come to school in Skinner dress code for any picture day. Students are allowed to change his/her top layer right before picture time if a different shirt is desired for school pictures.

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 2:50 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 PIE with grade level teachers (more info about designated days to come at the BBQ on 9/4).
- Get involved with Skinner Athletics (information to come at the BBQ on 9/4).
- Walk home OR get picked up by 3pm

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

Before and After School Student Pick-up/ Drop-off Reminders

As we begin a new school year, we would like to bring the safety of our students during before and after school pick-up and drop-off to the forefront of our minds.

For the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff, Skinner has **two morning drop-off locations** for students.

Back of the building

41st Street is the prime morning drop-off location for students who wish to take advantage of Skinner's free hot breakfast. Parents should pull up curbside to let students out, as pulling into the parking lot causes safety hazards for students.

Front of the building

Students can also be dropped-off on 40th Street, in the front of the building. Parents should pull up curbside to let students out, as stopping in the middle of the street to load/unload causes traffic jams and unsafe conditions for students.

Skinner has **one afternoon pick-up location** for students. In order to ensure appropriate supervision, students are asked to exit the front of the building on 40th Street. It is suggested that students and parents have a conversation regarding afternoon pick-up locations, as 40th Street becomes very congested. IF your child is not outside when you arrive, please drive around the block to keep traffic flowing. Do not stop in the middle of the street to pick up students.

Thank you for helping Skinner Staff keep all students safe!



Get Your Student Involved in the Skinner Neighborhood Center

One of the best ways to ensure academic success for your child is to ensure they get extra academic support when needed and get involved in after-school activities. To register your student for tutoring or other extra-curricular activities, please call the Neighborhood Center at Skinner Middle School at 720-424-1435, or stop by between the hours of 10am to 6pm. Don't miss out!

Programming for 2014-15 will begin 9/15 for tutoring and 9/22 for all other programming.

**Register your student during the Family BBQ
on 9/4.**

Parents & Guardians Give Us a High Five !!!

Make a difference in your child's future by getting involved at Skinner **at least 5 hours a year**. There are many opportunities to lend a helping hand with ongoing classroom activities or school-wide events. A team of volunteer organizers will be coordinating this effort, and you will be receiving information by e-mail to sign up to help. To receive more information about how to register as a Skinner volunteer, please contact or Dirk Boden, [Dirk Boden@dpsk12.org](mailto:Dirk.Boden@dpsk12.org), 720-424-1435.

**Mark Your Calendar for PTO Dates - these also
count toward your volunteer hours !!!**

September 9th Kick-off meeting 6pm
October 28th
January 13th
March 10th
May 12th



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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 school year developing our system for parent and community involvement and our efforts are paying off! Last school year we had documented 3,000 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?

This school year 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 5th volunteer hour, names will be displayed. Come see our display grow with all the hands that have given 5 for Skinner! A High 5!

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 attached to this newsletter and will also be 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 at the main office or the Neighborhood Center to verify your identity.

Lunch Forms

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. Last school year our Free and Reduced lunch rate dropped 6%. It is important that this information is as accurate as possible as that is how we seek grants and other opportunities for our students and our programming.

CSC Nominations

If you are interested on serving on the Collaborative School Committee for the 2014-15 school year, please submit a self-nomination to the Principal, Michelle Koyama. You can submit through email Michelle.Koyama@dpsk12.org or call the school at 720.424.1421.

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, 2014

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 6th, 7th or 8th 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 James Duran, Athletic Director

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

Cheerleading Tryouts: 9/2 – 9/5

Parents As Academic Partners

Denver Public Schools is committed to having effective teachers in every classroom to improve student achievement and growth. We recognize that in order to fulfill our vision of "Every Child Succeeds," we must embrace parents as academic partners. Shared responsibility for student achievement is critical to our success.

What parents can do to support student achievement:

- Set high expectations for your children's achievement and emphasize the importance of college and career
- Establish a set time and place to complete homework and read on a daily basis. All Skinner Scholars have a minimum of 30 minutes of independent reading homework each night.
- Make sure your children attend school every day and arrive on time, ready to learn.
- Limit and guide the amount of "screen time" your children experience daily. This includes computer games, watching television, playing video games, etc.