



*Dedicated to Excellence*  
Cherry Creek Schools

#### In Today's Message

- Living Our Core Values – Shoutout to CCIC
- Safety and Security
- Mental Health Day-Treatment Facility Update
- Video Looking Back at Last Year's Highlights from CCSD Athletics

Dear CCSD Community,

Two weeks into the new school year I see great learning, relationship-building, and fun happening in schools. It feels great to have students back in classrooms.

#### Living Our Core Values

I am thrilled to see our Core Values in action at schools this year. Schools are [welcoming students back with so much enthusiasm and encouragement](#), and it is obvious that kids feel engaged. Students at the CCIC are practicing a Growth Mindset in how they approach new career pathways and innovative, hands-on classes. I was so impressed by the [Infrastructure Engineering and Business Services students who gave a tour to U.S. Congressman Jason Crow](#) this week and talked about their vision for a better future. Endeavor Academy alum Kanye Herron spoke to the congressman about the [Summer Leadership Academy](#) and empowering youth with a seat at the table when discussing challenges that impact them.

#### Safety and Security

Our top priority is ensuring all students and staff feel safe and supported at school. I know many parents are anxious about their kids' safety in schools, especially after the horrific school shooting in Uvalde, TX, last year. [This story from Nelson Garcia at 9News](#) addresses some of those concerns and discusses the many ways we are working to keep your loved ones safe every day. We have strong partnerships with law enforcement and worked hard this summer to reinforce training with our security team. We installed new push-button locks on all classroom doors earlier than expected and in time for the start of the school year. We are also making progress on the construction of secure vestibules at all elementary and middle school entrances. Voters approved both projects as part of our 2020 bond initiative.

#### Mental Health Day-Treatment Facility Update

This summer, CCSD partnered with Children's Hospital Colorado and the CU Department of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado School of Medicine to provide clinical care at the new mental health day-treatment facility the district is building. [Read more about the partnership and groundbreaking facility here](#). This project is one of the many ways CCSD focuses on the Whole Wellbeing of students.

#### Video Featuring Key Moments from CCSD Athletics Last Year

Finally, as we begin a new season of athletics and activities, I want to share [this video highlighting the effort and talent our student athletes](#) displayed last year.

I look forward to the year ahead and sharing more with our community about how CCSD staff in every school and department are grounding their work in the [Core Values](#) to ensure all students thrive personally and academically.

Best wishes,  
Christopher Smith,  
Superintendent