

Edison

A 21st Century Neighborhood School



November 2018

Sally Whitelock Principal

Benita Cervantes, Assistant Principal

A message from the Principal...

STATE OF THE SCHOOL ADDRESS:

In the fall of each school year all schools in Colorado receive CMAS data and schools in DPS are "graded" with a report called the School Performance Framework (SPF) based on data from the two previous years. Though I and the teachers at Edison understand the importance of high stakes tests like the CMAS and use this data to support our curriculum and instructional decision making, we also have other student achievement data to help us with instruction and differentiation in the classroom. At Edison, we give assessments throughout the year to measure student growth including: guided reading levels, Aimsweb, STAR reading & early literacy, Accelerated Reader, written assignments, interim assessments, STAR math, and unit assessments, which we use to make informed decisions. We also rely on the daily work of students to assess the needs of our students and ensure quality instruction for all students. We are very proud of the achievement of Edison's students and would like to share this information with you:

The Colorado Department of Education released the results of the 2016-17 Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) testing in September. In April 2017, 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students across the state took the CMAS test to determine their academic achievement in reading, math and science (5th grade only).

On the English Language Assessment (Reading), 59.7% of Edison's 3rd-5th grade students scored in the "Met or Above Expectations" category, an increase of 4% from 2017.

- 60.8% of 3rd graders scored "Met or Above Expectations" (increase of 3%)
- 60.3% of 4th graders scored "Met or Above Expectations" (increase of 5%)
- 58% of 5th graders scored "Met or Above Expectations" (increase of 4%)

On the Mathematics Assessment, 51.5% of Edison's 3rd-5th grade students scored in the "Met or Above Expectations" category, a decrease of .8% from 2017.

- 60.8% of 3rd graders scored "Met or Above Expectations" (increase of 6%)
- 43.6% of 4th graders scored "Met or Above Expectations" (decrease of 3%)
- 50.0% of 5th graders scored "Met or Above Expectations" (decrease of 5%)

Additionally, 5th grade students took the science *CMAS* with 51.9% of 5th grade students scoring in the "Met or Exceeds Expectations" category.

The Colorado Department of Education also provides schools with Median Growth Percentile data. The Median Growth Percentile is a rating for 4th and 5th grade students which compares each student's growth on *CMAS* to students that scored like them the prior year, with a score of 50 being the median score and a score of 40-60 being moderate growth and over 60 being high growth. Edison's MGP for 2018 was:

- Literacy - Overall: 45.5 (decrease of 6.5)
- Math - Overall: 41 (decrease of 6)

Edison also monitors the achievement level and growth of each student in grades 1-5 throughout the year with STAR reading and STAR math assessments. Individual reading and math goals are set for each student. Following are the percent of students who ended the 2017-18 school year at grade level, as well as, MGP for STAR assessments:

STAR Reading assessment:

- 1st grade: 90% at grade level or above, MGP: 88
- 2nd grade: 80% at grade level or above, MGP: 68
- 3rd grade: 74% at grade level or above, MGP 57
- 4th grade: 64% at grade level or above, MGP 50
- 5th grade: 65% at grade level or above, MGP 68

STAR Math assessment:

- 1st grade: 91% at grade level or above, MGP: 85
- 2nd grade: 84% at grade level or above, MGP: 63
- 3rd grade: 75% at grade level or above, MGP 51
- 4th grade: 75% at grade level or above, MGP 50
- 5th grade: 77% at grade level or above, MGP 55

The School Performance Framework (SPF) is a 'report card' that DPS creates on each school based primarily on *CMAS* MGP data, as well as, *CMAS* status, Early Literacy Growth and status, and engagement data (attendance, student perception and parent perception). Edison's SPF ratings were:

- Overall: Accredited on Watch
- Student Progress Over Time - Growth: Not Meeting
- Student Achievement - Status: Meets
- Parent and Student Engagement and Satisfaction: Meets
 - o Parent Perception Survey: Overall 84% positive response rate
 - o Student Perception Survey: Overall 87% positive response rate
- Academic Gaps - Not Meeting

The teachers, school leaders, and staff at Edison know that we need to improve 'achievement growth' according to *CMAS* MGP in both reading and math, as well as, increase achievement and

achievement growth (MGP) for our students of color and student who receive free/reduced lunch. We have several strategies, which we believe will work to positively impact this data, which include:

- Retain teachers in 4th and 5th grade by building strong teams, coaching, and building relationships;
- Implement platooning in 4th and 5th grade (teachers specialize in math/science/SS or literacy);
- Use personalized learning to increase differentiation, student engagement, student leadership and critical thinking;
- Continue to provide rigorous instruction in reading and math, using text based questions, exemplar responses and written responses, and math application tasks;
- Provide push-in reading & math interventions, small group paraprofessional support, and after-school tutoring to students below grade level who are in our target populations;
- Establish a hybrid, integrated HGT program within Edison which ensures a growth mindset and challenging instruction for all students.

In addition to our intentional focus on achievement, school culture, student engagement and parent engagement are keys to our success at Edison. We believe that all students at Edison need to enjoy learning, participate in project-based learning, and engage in collaborative learning opportunities. We value all of our families and recognize that "it takes a village to raise a child." We also value collaborative decision making between the school and the parent community and want to formally invite parents to attend our CSC meetings and PTA meetings. We encourage parents to volunteer in classrooms, participate in community events and join us for student celebrations of projects (exhibitions). Lastly, please check the Edison website for updated information, read the Edison and classroom newsletters, and share ideas with us through email or face-to-face visits. Thank you for partnering with us.

Sincerely,

Sally Whitelock, Principal

Mark Your Calendars:

- November 1 CSC meeting in the conference room at 4:30 PM
- November 1 PTA meeting in the auditorium 6:00 PM
- November 8 Picture make-up day
- November 8 Build-it Night at 5:30 – 7:30 PM
- November 9 English Language Acquisition Parent Advisory Meeting at 8:00 AM in Mr. McConnell's room
- November 9 School Tour at 9:30 AM
- November 15 Thanksgiving Lunch in the cafeteria
- November 16 Science Fair during the school day in the gym

November 16 School Tour at 9:30 AM
November 19-23 No School due to Thanksgiving Break
December 7 School Tour at 9:30 AM
December 14 School Tour at 9:30 AM
December 21 Read-a-thon kick-off and Book Character Dress-up Day
December 24-January 4 Winter Break
January 10 CSC meeting in the conference room at 4:30 PM
January 10 PTA meeting in the auditorium 6:00 PM – Parent Information Seminar
January 11 School Tour at 9:30 AM

School lunch menus can be found at:

<http://foodservices.dpsk12.org/whatson-menu.php>

Build-it Night

Edison's annual Build-It-Night is scheduled for Thursday, November 8 at 5:30-7:30 PM in Edison's auditorium. Please join us with your children to build fun tool boxes or bird houses. This is a free event. All kits and tools will be provided by the PTA. If you are interested in volunteering to support this fun event, please go to: <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/10c0f4baaac22a3fc1-build>

Thanksgiving Lunch

We look forward to seeing many of you on Thursday, November 15 for a wonderful Thanksgiving lunch served by our fantastic cafeteria staff. (The deadline to sign up was 10/18.) Please be aware that we may run late because it is hard to serve high numbers of people in our small cafeteria kitchen. We appreciate your patience.

The lunch schedule on Thursday, November 15 will be:

ECE: 11:00
Kdg: 11:30
1st: 11:00
2nd: 12:30
3rd: 12:00
4th: 1:00
5th: 12:45

Science Fair

Has your student shared information with you about the science fair? We encourage all students to participate in the science fair. Students will work on and complete this fun enrichment activity at home. Please look for information that went home in Thursday folders and support your children in scientific investigation. On Friday, November 16, please join the students in Edison's gym to learn about their scientific research projects and celebrate their learning.

Please sign-up and find additional information about the science fair at:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C48A9AF22AAFE3-20181>

Read-a-thon – COMING SOON!

Eagle Readers read over 65,000 minutes during last year's Winter Break! We're hoping to break that record this year in our 4th Annual Read-A-Thon! Using the same team names as the Eagle Run, classes will challenge themselves to reach a class goal, and the classes with the highest participation will receive a class party! Plus, the reader who reads the most minutes per grade will receive a prize! Plus, Eagle Readers who read at least the minimum amount suggested per grade will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win fantastic prizes! Another huge success last year was that our Read-A-Thon raised over \$10,000 for literacy supplies thanks to generous donors! This year, our goal is to raise at least \$10,000 for more books. Our library, book room, and classroom libraries constantly need to be refreshed. We will be sending home sponsor request forms before Thanksgiving break to be returned the following week. Then, Read-A-Thon committee members will reach out to your sponsors by mail or email and share information about the Read-A-Thon - we know it's a busy time of year! Eagle Readers will read over the 18 days of Winter Break and return Reading Logs when we come back to school in January. Prize winners will be announced at the Family Dance in February.

Hybrid Integrated HGT Model Update

Last year, the Edison community decided to implement an integrated, cluster grouping model for our HGT/GT students to ensure that we are meeting the needs of the whole child: academics, social-emotional and growth mindset.

In order to keep this mission in the forefront of our teaching and professional learning, we have made a commitment to certify all of our teachers with a DPS GT certificate. We partnered with the GT department to create a monthly class for our teachers. Teachers are integrating GT strategies into their weekly lesson planning and are being coached on best practices for GT students. Additionally, our partnership with the Imaginarium is ongoing and is focused on student agency and voice. Teachers are implementing personalized and project-based learning, which brings critical thinking, problem solving and creativity into our classrooms. The focus of our professional development and curricular planning meetings is planning for our highest learners and then scaffolding up so that all children in the classroom receive the same high level of teaching and learning while addressing their individual needs. We strongly believe that the professional development provided to teachers by the GT department and Imaginarium are helping us to ensure that all students at Edison are challenged and engaged.

Within each school day, we are differentiating instruction to challenge our students who are advanced and/or identified as GT/HGT. We are continuing to have advanced math classes so that the curriculum, projects and homework are challenging all of our mathematicians. We are providing small group reading instruction at students' reading levels to ensure that all of our students are growing in reading. We are creating personalized, project-based learning experiences to engage our students in critical and creative thinking. We are proud of our GT/HGT programming and are striving to continue to innovate and improve it to provide your children with the very best education every day.

We are gathering achievement data to monitor our students' growth, which will support decisions as we move forward. Your feedback, questions and concerns are always welcome. If you have other questions about our programming, professional learning or anything relating to your child's education, please let us know. We are here to support you and your students in any way we can.

Letter to the community

Mrs. Whitelock, the teachers, parents, students and all of the Edison Community,

As many of you know, our daughter Madeline, an alum of Edison, was recently diagnosed with a genetic disorder resulting in an aggressive form of thyroid cancer. One day prior to her thyroidectomy, we visited Edison for "Madeline Day." In visiting with the first graders Madeline spoke about her cancer journey, wanting to be a doctor, being a former student at Edison and the normal, 11 year old world of Incredibles 2, pizza and playing outside. As we walked the halls lined with Madeline Day posters, students popped their heads out of their classrooms murmuring "There she is!" Teachers stepped out, hugged Madeline, asking if she had a minute to come into their class. Thinking our daughter would tire of talking to so many people about her situation and answering: does it hurt, are you sad, are you going to be ok, can you still play soccer, we wanted only to protect her. But, with each class, and literally every few feet walking the halls, reading and photographing every Madeline Day poster, she seemed to absorb the well wishes, and love, gaining a huge ear to ear smile. By the end, Madeline didn't want to leave, and skipping down the hall, she commented, "I feel like [Katy Perry](#), I feel famous!"

Through all of this, we've explained to Madeline that the universe is giving back to her what she has given out, love, empathy, compassion and warmth. We would like to thank the entire Edison community for the overwhelming support and love that you've shown to us. The outpouring of cards, gifts, playdates, visits, food, calls, texts, prayers, positive thoughts and fund-raising has left us speechless and profoundly grateful. Words cannot convey what it has been like to see an entire ECE class dressed as doctors, receive visits from teachers and friends, have Mrs. McConnell bring over bags of handmade cards, and the tremendous results of your fund-raising efforts. We are eternally grateful for the outpouring of love and concern for our daughter Madeline and if we could, we'd stop each of you at school, in the neighborhood streets and parks, hug you and say thank you.

We have entered into a very long journey and Madeline is doing well and remains upbeat and energetic. Edison remains a very special place in our hearts and we thank you all for your amazing love and support.

Sincerely,
Carlton Bonilla, Christa Conrad, and our Sweet Madeline”

Mental Health Minute

by Dr. Coffee, Edison School Psychologist, gina_coffee@dpsk12.org

As we enter the holiday season, the city of Denver offers many holiday activities: <https://www.denver.org/things-to-do/fall-winter/thanksgiving-weekend/>. In addition, for the Thanksgiving holiday, the Salvation Army is hosting a free Thanksgiving meal and is in need of volunteers: <https://denverconvention.com/events/details/the-salvation-army-thanksgiving-dinner>. Finally, Edison is partnering with the Epworth Foundation in the delivery of Thanksgiving baskets to Edison families. The Epworth Foundation is preparing 5000 baskets for Denver families this year, and it costs the foundation approximately \$30 to prepare each basket. If you are interested in donating funds for baskets or volunteering your time to help prepare baskets, please see the Epworth Foundation website: <http://www.epworthfoundation.org/thanksgiving.html>.

School Psychology Awareness Week (SPAW) is November 12-16, 2018. This year’s theme is **“Unlock Potential. Find Your Password!”** The theme emphasizes how we can each find our own “password,” or personal key for unlocking any number of challenges and opportunities in our lives to help us thrive. Our goal is to highlight how identifying strength words can assist students in unlocking resources, reaching potential, and developing proactive or preventative skills to thrive in school and life. The idea is that a “password” can help us set goals to help create critical academic and social-emotional skills. Words such as “imagine,” “encourage,” “learn,” “connect,” and “contribute” are examples of passwords that can push us forward in developing those critical skills.

Unlocking potential can take many forms. It can mean taking action to speak up when bullying occurs, engaging in learning, trying a new activity or skill, cleaning up trash on the playground, doing something kind for a classmate or neighbor, or making new friends. These actions empower children, create compassion, strengthen connections, and build resiliency—all traits that are critical for academic and social-emotional success. Unlocking potential to grow as an individual and to make the world even a little bit better can have a long lasting impact.

There are many ways families can help children take action to make positive changes. As parents and caregivers, you can:

1. Talk to your children about passwords to help them unlock potential—key words or phrases to help them take steps toward positive change. Password ideas include: dream, laugh, connect, imagine, create, encourage, share, listen, help, explore, try, speak up.
2. Help your children develop positive relationships with peers and adults, and model respectful, caring behaviors with others.
3. Help your children identify their strengths and interests and learn new skills. Emphasize that learning and growing require trying new things and that success comes from small steps to a long-term goal.

4. Encourage goal setting and mapping out a plan for achieving the goals. Talk with your children about steps they have taken, what worked and what didn't, and what they might do next.
5. Praise attempts, as well as success, and make sure that you focus on the effort or hard work put into the success. Emphasize the importance of deliberate practice that talent is developed over time through skillful practice.
6. Create an environment at home that allows your children to explore building (playing with blocks, helping with projects, and more), drawing (crayons, finger paints, paper), and music (on the radio, with children's instruments, or through formal training through school or community resources). This may help to identify special interests.
7. Help your child work through setbacks, or lack of self-confidence, by helping to identify negative thoughts that may suggest concerns about his or her ability to be successful. As a parent, you can help children see what the small steps are and how persisting and overcoming obstacles is a part of succeeding. Help your child realize that setbacks are not permanent or all-encompassing.
8. Seek out support systems available in the community to help your children learn new skills and thrive, such as tutoring or mentoring programs. Encourage your children to participate in community activities that may help them to develop positive behaviors, such as being grateful. In particular, volunteer activities may encourage the development of positive behaviors. Consider participating in community events yourself as a role model.
9. Encourage your children to participate in school and community activities that may help them to develop positive behaviors, such as being grateful. In particular, volunteer activities may encourage the development of positive behaviors. Consider participating in community and school events yourself as role a model.

Finally, please be aware that Safe2Tell Colorado not only provides a safety reporting system where you can anonymously report anything that concerns or threatens you, your friends, your family, or your community (hotline: 1-877-542-7233), but also offers an online parent resource center with information about safety topics such as suicide and youth, bullying, and trauma: <https://safe2tell.org/?q=parents>.

Weather Delays and Closures

Since winter is right around the corner, we want to make sure that parents understand the DPS/Edison Weather Delay and Closure policies.

Weather Delay Schedule for Identified Schools: In the event of adverse weather conditions that would impede the Transportation Department's ability to safely access students, a ***"Weather Delay Schedule for Identified Schools"*** will be implemented beginning this school year. The goal for this delay schedule is to provide buses/students an additional 60 minutes to access schools that start at 8:30 a.m. or later. If DPS has a **Weather Delay, school will begin at Edison for ALL students at 9:40 AM.** Morning buses will begin pickups at bus stops 1 hour later than the normal pick up time. Discovery Link will provide care for their registered students from 6:30 AM until 9:40 AM when school starts. Breakfast will still be available to students as they arrive to school one hour later than usual.

School Closing: If schools are to be closed due to weather conditions, the district is committed to making a decision as early as possible. The decision to close is made by the Superintendent based on information provided by representatives from transportation agencies, the weather bureau, city and county law enforcement and DPS Transportation. If school is cancelled, this information will be

communicated in the following ways: local television and radio stations, dpsk12.org, and the district's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

Severe Weather During School Day: DPS will closely monitor severe weather conditions and forecasts throughout the day to ensure student safety. Should severe weather begin during the school day, bus routes will run in the same order as normally followed in the afternoon. Depending on conditions, arrival times at home may be delayed. You can reach the district transportation department at 720.423.4624 for your student's bus arrival time any time it's late. After-school activities (athletic events, enrichment programs, Kaleidoscope, etc.) may be modified or cancelled as a result of the weather conditions. Edison will send IC messages to communicate school closures during the school day.

Opportunities to GIVE to Edison

There are a variety of VERY easy ways that you can donate to the Edison PTA and school, without spending a penny! Please support us any way you can!

- **Box Tops:** Collect those box tops year round and submit twice annually to help provide funds to classroom accounts for ALL teachers. The first collection date is Friday, October 26.
- **King Soopers or Safeway cards:** Purchase a pre-loaded gift card for \$10. **Before** the cashier rings you up, ask them to add money to your card, then pay with it. *5% of reloads come back to the PTA General Fund.*
- **Amazon Smile:** What's that? You can get the benefits of Amazon Prime AND be a funds raiser at the same time! AmazonSmile provides a .05% benefit on qualifying purchases made via our link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7150820>

If you would like to donate directly to Edison's PTA or the school, some other ways include:

- **Make a Direct Donation:** You may always make a donation, either one-time or recurring through PayPal, Venmo, Square, or a check. Check to see if your employer provides matching to qualified contributions made; we are a qualified 501c3 organization!
- **Donors Choose:** Check out the many Donors Choose projects that teachers have posted on Donorschoose.org and donate. You can find all current projects through the link on Edison's home page at <http://edison.dpsk12.org/>.

We appreciate your continued support!

Traffic and Parking

Safety is our first priority at Edison and this starts with drop off and pick up of students. In order to make sure that all students are safe and accounted for at all times, please keep the following in mind:

- ECE students are to be dropped off and signed-in in the classroom each morning and then picked up and signed-out at the kindergarten playground each afternoon;
- Kindergarten students are to be dropped off/picked up on the southeast side of Quitman Street and enter/exit the building with their teachers by the kindergarten playground on the south side of the school;
- 1st-5th grade students are dropped off/picked up on the playground on the east side of the school or on the northwest side of Perry Street in the Kiss and Go/Greet and Get lane (polka-dotted);

- School buses park on the east side of the school on the southwest side of Perry Street. Please do not park or even pull over in this area;
- The parking lot is for DPS staff ONLY, please do NOT park, drop off or pick up students in the parking lot.
- All parents/community members must enter the building through the front doors, check-in at the office and get a visitor/volunteer badge.

Kiss and Go Lane: Parents who do not want to park and stay with their 1st-5th grade students on the playground in the morning may drop off their students in the student drop off lane between 8:30 AM and 8:40 AM. We ask parents to NOT park in the Kiss and Go /Greet and Get lane on the northwest side of Perry Street, outside the fence by the playground/community garden.

Greet and Get Lane: In order to help with afternoon traffic, parents who have 1st-5th grade students can sign up to have their child/ren ready and waiting at the pickup area at 3:30 PM on the northwest side of Perry Street, by the playground/community garden. Registration forms are available throughout the year in the office. The following guidelines apply:

- This is only for cars. Walkers and students of parents who park will be picked up on the playground.
- Parents should pull over on Perry Street, stay in their car, and move forward as space allows.
- Cars may only stop long enough for their child/ren to get into the car.
- Cars must continue to move and leave the parking lane immediately after picking up their children.
- Parents must pick up children at 3:30 PM. If children are not picked up on time, the teacher will bring them to the office and parents will need to find parking and come in to the office to pick the students up and sign them out.
- Only adults listed on the permission slip will be able to pick students up.
- Cell phones must not be used in the Greet and Get lane and all Colorado Motor Vehicle laws (seat belts, car seats) must be observed.
- Parents wishing to use the Greet and Get lane will need to fill out a permission form and return it to their student's teacher so that the teacher will know to send the child to the Greet and Get pick up area at 3:30 PM. These forms are available in the office.

[A Message from our PTA...](#)

Hello Edison Families-

We are a very fortunate community indeed! Our 3rd Eagle Run and 2018 Fall Harvest Fest showed the collective might of Edison's kids, teachers, administration and families. Together we make Edison GREAT!

Thanks to all of those that participated, volunteered and attended these great events - Eagle Run raised over \$30,000 for our school and Fall Harvest Fest brought in over \$9,000 that will go directly into the classrooms.

Upcoming Events – Can you help?!

Build It Night *WARNING: We need volunteers or this event will be CANCELLED*

Thursday, November 8, 5:30PM-7:00PM, Cafeteria

Bring your tools and your kids too, and build kits from Home Depot. They make great holiday gifts!

Science/STEM Fair

Friday, November 16, During School, Gym

All Grade level students are invited to showcase their engineering project or scientific method experiments for Judges. Best projects are invited to participate in January's District Science Fair.

RIF (Reading Is Fundamental)

Tuesday, November 13, During School, Auditorium

Twice a year, all students come to the Auditorium and choose a new book for FREE!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4baaac22a3fc1-rifdistribution5>

All events are sponsored by the PTA!

Connect with us online or through social media at:

Facebook – Edison Elementary Denver

Instagram - @edison elementarydenver

Online - <http://edison.dpsk12.org>

PTA Board:

President - Jessica Maddy-Key ptaedisondenver@gmail.com 303-725-4679

Secretary – Katie Malarkey edisonptasecretary@gmail.com

VP - Chris Campbell and Lynda Lastowka edisonvpdenver@gmail.com

Treasurer – Ben Latham edisonptatreasurer@gmail.com