

Edison

A 21st Century Neighborhood School



November 2019

Sally Whitelock, Principal | Benita Cervantes, Assistant Principal | Lea Barone, Volunteer Coordinator

A message from the principal...

STATE OF THE SCHOOL ADDRESS

Edison Community,

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 daily work to assess the needs of our students and ensure quality instruction for everyone. 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 2018-19 Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) testing in September. In April 2019, 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), 63.4% of Edison's 3rd-5th grade students scored in the "Met or Above Expectations" category, an increase of 4% from 2018.

- 61% of 3rd graders scored "Met or Above Expectations" (increase of .9%)

- 66.7% of 4th graders scored "Met or Above Expectations" (increase of 6.4%)
 - 63% of 5th graders scored "Met or Above Expectations" (increase of 5%)
- On the Mathematics Assessment, 50.6% of Edison's 3rd-5th grade students scored in the "Met or Above Expectations" category, a decrease of .9% from 2018.
- 54.7% of 3rd graders scored "Met or Above Expectations" (decrease of 6%)
 - 50% of 4th graders scored "Met or Above Expectations" (increase of 6.4%)
 - 46.6% of 5th graders scored "Met or Above Expectations" (decrease of 3.4%)
- Additionally, 5th grade students took the science CMAS with 47.9% 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: 53 (increase of 7.5)
- Math - Overall: 41.5 (increase of .5)

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 2018-19 school year at grade level, as well as MGP for STAR assessments (goal: above 70% at grade level, MGP above 50):

STAR Reading assessment:

- 1st grade: 82% at grade level or above, MGP: 82
- 2nd grade: 85% at grade level or above, MGP: 74
- 3rd grade: 70% at grade level or above, MGP 44
- 4th grade: 68% at grade level or above, MGP 43
- 5th grade: 60% at grade level or above, MGP 65

STAR Math assessment:

- 1st grade: 84% at grade level or above, MGP: 76
- 2nd grade: 83% at grade level or above, MGP: 59
- 3rd grade: 60% at grade level or above, MGP 64
- 4th grade: 75% at grade level or above, MGP 39
- 5th grade: 74% at grade level or above, MGP 55

The Colorado Department of Education rates schools each year with a report card called the School Performance Framework (SPF). Based on CDE data, Edison is rated:

- Overall: Meets
- Growth: Meets

DPS creates their own 'report card' on schools, also called the School Performance Framework (SPF) which includes two years of data and is based primarily on CMAS MGP data, but also includes CMAS status, Early Literacy growth, Early Literacy status and

engagement data (attendance, student satisfaction and parent satisfaction). It is important to note that even though Edison made growth among many indicators within DPS's SPF, this is not reflected in Edison's SPF due to the two year data structure.

Edison's SPF ratings were:

- Overall: Approaching (Accredited on Watch)
- Student Progress Over Time - Growth: Approaching
- Student Achievement - Status: Meets
- Parent and Student Engagement and Satisfaction: Approaching
- Attendance Rate: Meets
- Family Satisfaction Survey: Approaching: Overall 77.1% positive response rate
- Student Satisfaction Survey: Approaching: Overall 83.6% positive response rate
- Academic Gaps - Does Not Meet

The teachers, school leaders, and staff at Edison know that we need to improve 'achievement growth' according to CMAS MGP, especially in math, as well as increase achievement and achievement growth (MGP) for our students of color and students 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;
- Ensure culturally responsive culture and instructional practices throughout our school.

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:

October 31 Happy Halloween!
All November Every "Wish it was Still Summer" burger at Barbed Wire Reef gets 10% to Edison.
November 7 CSC meeting in the conference room at 4:30 PM
November 7 PTA meeting in the auditorium 6:00 PM
November 7 Picture make-up day
November 14 Build-it Night in the cafeteria at 5:30 PM
November 15 School Tour at 9:30 AM
November 19 RIF book giveaway
November 21 Thanksgiving Lunch in the cafeteria
November 21 Science Fair set up at 3:30-5 PM, Public view 5-7:00 PM
November 22 Science Fair during the school day in the gym
November 25-29 No School due to Thanksgiving Break
December 6 School Tour at 9:30 AM
December 10-13 Scholastic Book Fair in auditorium
December 13 Bagels and Books at 8:00-8:30 AM in the gym
December 13 Book Character Dress-up Day
December 13 School Tour at 9:30 AM
December 20 Read-a-thon kick-off and PJ Day
Dec 23-Jan 6 Winter Break

School lunch menus can be found at:

www.schoolcafe.com/dps. Then you can log in as a guest or create an account.

If your student's bus is late in the morning or afternoon, call the Transportation Department at:

Please call 720.423.4624.

Upcoming Events

Parent Information Seminar- Safety

Please join us at the PTA hosted Parent Information Seminar on November 7 at 6:00-7:00 PM in Edison's auditorium. Our special guests will present on internet safety for children, teaching our children problem solving skills and school safety policies and practices.

Agenda:

6:00-6:20 – Brian Dino will present on internet safety for children

6:20-6:40 – Dr. Gina Coffee will present on teaching children problem solving skills and how to deal with bullying behaviors.

6:40-7:00 – Melissa Craven, DPS Director of Emergency Management, will present on school safety

Exhibitions

Edison proudly teaches science and social studies units through Project Based Learning. Students learn the science or social studies content through literacy, activities and experiments. Then, students pursue a passion within the content. Students engage in research and solving a problem or persuading others in order to make a difference in our world. Lastly, students present their projects and learning in an exhibition at the end of each unit. Each grade level will have one or two 'big' exhibitions which we will invite parents to participate in. Please plan to join your child's class in their celebrations of learning...

ECE:

Kindergarten: Where are we in the World in January, Energy Cycles in May

1st Grade: Holidays & Traditions in January, Animal Adaptations in February

2nd Grade: Earth Events in November, Sound & Motion in February

3rd Grade: Space in February

4th Grade: Poetry Recital in October, Colorado History presentation and performance in May

5th Grade: Breaking Barriers in April, Wax Museum & American Revolution performance in May

Build-it Night

Edison's annual Build-It-Night is scheduled for Thursday, November 14 at 5:30-7:30 PM in Edison's cafeteria. 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 plan to attend this fun event, please consider volunteering to help set up by arriving a little early, or staying after to support clean up - all help is appreciated! Please go to:**

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/10c0f4baaac22a3fc1-build>

Thanksgiving Lunch

We look forward to seeing many of you on Thursday, November 21 for a wonderful Thanksgiving lunch served by our fantastic cafeteria staff. 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 21 will be:

ECE-11:45

K – 11:30

1st – 11:00

2nd – 12:20

3rd – 12:00

4th – 1:00

5th – 12:40

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 Thursday, November 21 from 3:00-5:00 please join the students in Edison's gym to learn about their scientific research projects and celebrate their learning.

Friday, November 15—Last day to withdraw your intent to participate in the fair. Please withdraw your intent by notifying classroom teachers or by emailing Mr. Slama or Ms. Pitman.

Monday, November 18—Completed Science/STEM Fair packet is due. The packet may be submitted electronically or as a hard copy. Please submit to classroom teachers.

Thursday, November 21 —Bring your project to the gym between 3:30 – 5:00 in order to set up. Your space will be at the tables designated by grade level. Look for your name placard and project packet. This will be your set up spot! Fair open to the public from 5-7:00 PM.

Friday, November 22- Science Fair during the school day.

If you are interested in being a volunteer judge for the science fair, please sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4baaac22a3fc1-science4> and email Emily_Pitman@dpsk12.org or Jan_Slama@dpsk12.org

Read-a-thon – COMING SOON!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Usborne Book Fair. We raised \$1377 in book credits for the school!

Mr. Carter and the Literacy Committee will be getting kids jazzed about reading and the upcoming Read-A-Thon starting in November. Between Usborne and Scholastic Bookfairs and the Read-A-Thon, we raised over \$11,000 for books and literacy supplies last year!

Next dates to remember:

- November 19 RIF Book Giveaway
- Late November/early December: Students set personal reading goals during library time
- December 11-13 Scholastic Book Fair
- December 13 Books & Bagels event
- December 13 Book or Story Character Day
- December 20 Pajama Day/R-A-T Kickoff
- December 21 - January 6 Read-A-Thon

Eagle Readers read over 237,000 minutes and raised \$8000 during last year's Winter Break! We're hoping to break that record this year in our 5th 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! 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 for families. 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.

A Message from our PTA...

We are a very fortunate community indeed! Our 4th Eagle Run and 2019 Fall Harvest Fest showed the collective might of Edison's kids, teachers, administration and families. Together we make Edison GREAT!

Eagle Run update:

Thanks to all of those that participated, volunteered and attended these great events - Eagle Run raised over **\$35,000** for our school and Fall Harvest Fest brought in over **\$9,000** that will go directly into the classrooms.

Volunteering needs:

Build It Night

Thursday, November 14, 5:30PM-7:00PM, Cafeteria

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

Volunteers needed, please sign up at:

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

Literacy Committee

Join the Literacy Committee this year! Contact Anne at edisonreadathon@gmail.com to assist with the following:

RIF - Reading is Fundamental Book Distribution - PTA funds a book giveaway twice a year, in November and April.

Volunteers needed to set-up November 18th and then volunteers throughout the school day during the event

on November 19th. Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4baaac22a3fc1-rifbook4>

Scholastic Book Fair - 50% of book sales returned to Edison for classroom libraries; December and May; will require volunteers to assist Mr. Carter for set-up, tear-down, and running point of sale. More volunteer details to come.

Read-A-Thon - Students read over Winter Break; 100% of funds (minus prizes) go to classrooms for literacy supplies, classroom library books, and the school library. **Looking for more volunteers** to assist Anne Spires DeLong; We'll start working on the event in November, ends in February. About 5-10 hours in total. Great chance to work from home or office anytime! Also looking for book-related donations for prizes.

Science/STEM Fair

Friday, November 22, 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.

If you are interested in being a judge for the science fair, please sign up at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4BAAAC22A3FC1-science4> or email

Emily_Pitman@dpsk12.org or Jan_Slama@dpsk12.org

All events are sponsored by the PTA!

Connect with us online or through social media at:

Facebook – Edison Elementary Denver

Instagram - @edison elementarydenver

Online - <https://edison.ptadenver.org>

PTA Board:

President - Jessica Maddy-Key ptaedisondenver@gmail.com 303.725.4679

Secretary – Holly Murtaugh edisonptasecretary@gmail.com

VP - Valerie Recore edisonvpdenver@gmail.com

Treasurer - Ben Latham edisonptatreasurer@gmail.com

Important Information

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/index.php/events/details/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/>.

School Psychology Awareness Week (SPAW) is November 11-15, 2019. This year's theme is "**Find Your Focus**," which can have a variety of meanings such as paying attention, being able to see an idea more clearly, identifying an area of interest, or being persistent and determined in one's effort. Focusing can help us set goals, identify action steps, communicate needs, and engage in discussions that help create the connections necessary for students to develop critical academic and social emotional skills.

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 **new DPS/Edison Weather Delay and Closure policies**.

Weather Delay Schedule for ALL Schools: In the event of adverse weather conditions that would impede the Transportation Department's ability to safely access students, a "**Weather Delay Schedule**" will be implemented. The goal for this delay schedule is to provide buses/students an additional 2 hours to access school safely. If DPS has a **Weather Delay, school will begin at Edison for ALL students at 10:40 AM**. Morning buses will begin pickups at bus stops 2 hours later than the normal pick up time. **Discovery Link will provide care for their registered students from 8:30 AM until 10:40**

AM when school starts. *Breakfast will not be served on Weather Delay days, however, there will be cold breakfast food items for students in need of breakfast.*

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 or delayed this information will be communicated in the following ways: local television and radio stations, DPS messenger, dpsk12.org, and the district's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. *Please check one of these sources; please do not call the school to get this information.*

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 and ClassDojo messages to communicate school closures during the school day. You can also check the district website at dpsk12.org. Weather information will be prominently displayed.

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.
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Opportunities to GIVE to Edison

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

Direct Ask Campaign: The Edison PTA asks all Edison families to strive for a contribution of \$300 per year. We know every family is different, however we hope families will consider a donation as generous as possible. Our goal is 100% family participation. Families can make a one-time donation or split into recurring monthly donations.

To contribute, you can give through any of these convenient methods:

- Venmo ID: @EdisonElementaryPTA
- Online at the PTA or Edison websites: <https://edisonptadenver.org> or <https://edison.dpsk12.org>.
- Snail Mail or Drop Off: Edison Elementary, Attn: PTA Fundraising, 3350 Quitman Street, Denver, CO 80212

**Check to see if your employer provides matching of qualified contributions made; we are a qualified 501c3 organization!

King Soopers Rewards: Register Edison PTA as your Community Rewards partner for King Soopers!

How do I enroll? 1) Go to www.kingsoopers.com 2) Sign-in to you digital account (or create one if needed); 3) Select 'Community Rewards' from the side menu; 4) Enter "Edison Elementary PTA" into the 'Find an Organization' search box; 5) Find 'Edison Elementary PTA' with address [3350 Quitman St, Denver, CO 80212](https://www.kingsoopers.com) and select 'Enroll'; 6) You're all done!

Box Tops: The new and improved Box Tops mobile app uses state of the art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to your school's earning on line at: <https://www.boxtops4education.com/>

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/>.

Amazon Smile: What's that? You can get the benefits of Amazon Prime AND be a fundraiser at the same time?! AmazonSmiles provides a .05% benefit on qualifying purchases made via our link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7150820>

We appreciate your continued support!