



# Free Horizon Montessori PK-8

15920 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue • Golden, CO 80401  
303.982.0275 Telephone 303.982.0274 Facsimile  
www.FreeHorizonMontessori.org

August 9, 2019

Hello Free Horizon Families,

**Welcome to the 2019-20 school year!** We are excited to welcome our new families and look forward to re-connecting with those who are returning. We have a truly special school community, and we are glad you've chosen to be a part of it. We also have an amazing team of rock-star educators who have been working diligently to prepare engaging learning spaces and activities for our students. You will find our 2019-20 staff list attached, along with a welcome letter from your child's teacher. You will notice that there are a handful of unfilled positions at this time. We are in the midst of interviews and have alternative plans in place should we not find the right people to hire between now and the start of school.

**As many of you know, we had several capital improvement projects slated for the summer.** We are so grateful to Jeffco and the Jefferson County voters for the facility enhancements funded through both 5A and 5B funding. Summer is an especially busy time in Jeffco, as the district manages literally hundreds of projects simultaneously in an effort to minimize disruption to learning during the school year. At Free Horizon Montessori, Brandon Leslie, our amazing Facility Manager, worked tirelessly to coordinate everything all while also fulfilling the usual annual summer deep cleaning items along with Sandee Beall, our fabulous part-time Custodian. We will provide an update on all of the projects at Back-to-School Night, but we need to share information about one now.

During last spring's Bomb Cyclone event, the large HVAC unit on top of the two-story portion of our building sustained damage, moved, and caused a roof leak. Engineers inspected and deemed everything functional and they put mitigating measures into place to assure structural stability until the full repairs could be completed this summer. Common with construction projects on buildings of this age, unanticipated things came up. The good news is that the roof repair is complete. The bad news is that there were unexpected issues with the footers that support the HVAC unit, so it will not be able to be put back into place until late August. While we have room coolers in each of the classrooms, they are not as efficient as our full-building unit, so the rooms located in the 2-story portion of the building are quite a bit warmer than usual. Please keep this in mind when coming for Back-to-School Night as well as helping your child make clothing choices for the first few weeks of school. We also encourage all children to bring water bottles marked with their names to keep in the classrooms in order to stay hydrated. Thankfully our new bottle filler fountains are working well!

**Speaking of Back-to-School Night...** We made some adjustments this year based on feedback from our families and in order to better accommodate our working guardians. Every family should attend one session in the gym, and one session in each child's classroom at the scheduled times. The same information will be repeated in each of the sessions listed below. Our Specialist Teachers and Learning Resource Team Teachers will be in the hallways, so be sure to take time to say hello. So that our older students hear the same information to understand we are all part of their learning team, we ask that our 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders attend with their guardians. Younger children are welcome as well, though no childcare will be provided. All children need to remain with their guardians for the entirety of the evening. Remember, only water is permitted in the gym and classrooms on this evening. Back-to-School Night will be held on Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>.

5:05 – 5:50	Principal's Welcome & School-Wide Info in the GYM	
5:55 – 6:15		Teacher Presentations in Classrooms
6:20 – 6:40	Principal's Welcome & School-Wide Info in the GYM	Teacher Presentations in Classrooms
6:45 – 7:05		Teacher Presentations in Classrooms
7:10 – 7:30		Teacher Presentations in Classrooms



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**A critical matter of respect and safety:** We have more than 450 students enrolled and expect parking to be difficult. We encourage walking, carpooling, or using the parking lots at nearby Westblade Park. Remember to park legally in designated spaces only, reserving handicap spaces for those with placards. If you park on the streets near the school, be mindful of signage and assure that your car is not within 5 feet of any driveway. Please, be respectful of our neighbors. Our neighbors are a critical link in keeping our school safe – they are more likely to look out for our children if they feel respected by us.

If you still have school supplies to deliver, you can do so in the Cafeteria on Back-to-School Night. Be sure to budget enough time to attend the gym and classroom sessions in addition to dropping off your child's supplies. We are extremely grateful to our families for their generosity in providing supplies that fit their means. See our Sign-Up Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090d4daaaa2aa64-ms6th8th> for any items we still need, noting there are tabs across the top for different levels.

**Remember, registration paperwork is due to the front office before your child can attend school.** Find complete information on our website at <http://freehorizonmontessori.org/> and clicking on the "Registration" icon below the homepage photo. If you have not yet turned in your child's registration paperwork, please drop it in the black mailbox near the front door of the school between 7:00 am and 6:00 pm on Monday.

**Finally, remember that we have a phased start of school.** Children entering kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade along with any children in 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade who are new to Free Horizon Montessori attend on Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> starting at their regular start time and dismissing at 2:00 pm. Breakfast and lunch will be available for purchase. Our first regular day of school for all students in all grades, and the first day of Before and After Care for those who are registered is Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Here's to a wonderful school year! We can't wait to welcome you and your children back to school!

Enthusiastically,



Kresta Vuolo  
Principal



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