



Feedback needed about your child's school

Your child's school may be included on a list of recommended options for possible repurposing of buildings, school closure, and/or boundary/transportation modifications. There are currently 45 different options; some are mutually exclusive and not all could be implemented. For every million dollars reduced, up to 20 teaching jobs could be saved. A complete list of options is available on the district's Web site at: www.jeffcopublicschools.org

No final decisions have been made yet. You have a chance to have your voice heard in a number of ways:

- Community forums: come 30 minutes early to sign up to speak
 - Wednesday, Nov. 11, 6-7:30 p.m., Alameda High School auditorium
 - Saturday, Nov. 14, 9-10:30 a.m., Manning School auditorium
 - Monday, Nov. 16, 6-7:30 p.m., Summit Ridge Middle School auditorium
 - Wednesday, Nov. 18, 6-7:30 p.m., Pomona High School auditorium
- E-mail: facilities@jeffco.k12.co.us
- Letters: addressed to Jeffco Public Schools, Communications Services, 1829 Denver West Drive, Golden, CO 80401
- Phone message: 303-982-6837
- Web site feedback: www.jeffcopublicschools.org

Over the next two years, the district is faced with having to make significant budget reductions - \$35-\$40 million. As a way to reduce costs, the district convened a Facilities Usage Committee to look at ways to use buildings more efficiently. That 30-member committee is made up of community and district volunteers who have met since March 2009. They have studied hundreds of documents, received initial input from both staff and community members and have prepared a list of options. In drafting the options, the committee considered capacity of schools, choice enrollment, condition of buildings, enrollment trends, operating costs and academics.

Watch an interview with **Committee Co-chair Phillip Infelise** regarding the Committee's work. If you need a sign language interpreter please e-mail us at parentnews@jeffco.k12.co.us and tell us which forum you plan to attend.

Snow days make-up

With the first big snowstorm of the season came two snowdays. The district included two emergency makeup days on the district calendar for June 1 and 2, 2010. Those emergency closure days will now need to be used.

[District calendar](#)

Good News About Jeffco Schools

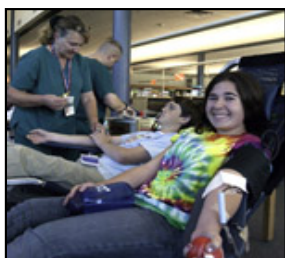
JEFFCO SCHOOL EARNS TOP HONOR

The Colorado Department of Education recognized Stein Elementary School in Lakewood as a *Title I Distinguished School of the Year*. The school was honored for its efforts in closing the achievement gap associated with race and poverty. Stein, a school where many students come from disadvantaged homes, increased the percentage of low income students who were at or above the proficient level on reading and math CSAP from 80.1 percent in 2008 to 88.9 percent in 2009. The achievement gap between low income students was decreased by 4.7 percent. The school will receive \$10,000 and will be recognized at the National Title I Conference in Washington, D.C. in January.

STUDENT SCORES BIG 12 RECOGNITION

The University of Colorado Buffs say Casey Nicholls, an eighth-grader at **Evergreen Middle School**, has a great attitude. Qwest, Fox Sports Network (FSN) Rocky Mountain and CU have named Nicholls the second 2009/10 Winning Attitude Award

[Give us your feedback online](#)



Drive to help heal

"It's saving a lot of people's lives," said Columbine High School Senior Kaleigh Atzman, as she donated blood at the school's drive early this month.

Students like Atzman are the reason Bonfils Blood Center recognized Columbine with a special award. Last year, the Columbine community gave more blood than any other similarly sized high school.

"We're really proud of that," said principal Frank DeAngelis. "I feel pretty strongly that because so much support was given to us after the tragedy, that we're always looking for ways to give back."

This year, Columbine will likely donate more blood than ever before. That's because lawmakers passed House Bill 1023, which lowers the eligibility age for donating blood from 18 to 16 with parental consent.



Students at Arvada High School learn math on computers.

Topping the Nation in Technology

Jeffco placed first in the nation for its use of technology in education. On October 29th, the National School Boards Association honored Jeffco as the best in its category.

In Jeffco, the philosophy is about teaching students to use the right technology for the right job, instead of providing every student with a laptop. The idea is to help students become ethical digital citizens.

"The result is technology in the classroom that not only supports our teachers but gives our students the tools they need to succeed in this new century," said Superintendent Dr. Cindy Stevenson.

[Watch the video about technology in our classrooms](#)

winner. Winners are selected from a pool of written stories submitted by middle school students explaining how their "Winning Attitude" made a difference in their communities. Students are honored for their outstanding efforts in sportsmanship, community involvement and teamwork. Nicholls and his classmates were recognized at the CU home football game on Saturday, Oct. 17 at Folsom Field. Nicholls also received a \$1,000 contribution for his school from Qwest.

Stay on top of homework

It is never too late to develop great study habits. If your child is starting a new school year or just wants to improve grades and school performance, take a look at this list of good habits and start making some changes in your child's routine.

1. Write Down Every Assignment

The most logical place to write down assignments is in a planner, but students might prefer to keep a to-do list in a simple notebook or in their cell phone note pad. It doesn't really matter what tool they use, but it is absolutely essential to success to write down every single assignment, due date, test date, and task.

2. Remember to Bring Homework to School

It sounds simple enough, but many F's come from students forgetting to bring a perfectly good paper to school with them. Does homework have a home? Is there a special place where your student always put their paperwork each night? To avoid forgetting homework, establish a strong homework routine with a special homework station where they can work each night. Then they must get in the habit of putting their homework where it belongs right after they finish it, whether this is in a special folder on their desk or in their backpack.

3. Communicate With the Teacher

Every successful relationship is built upon clear communication. A student-teacher relationship is no different. Miscommunication



Give us your best shot

Columbine Hills third grader Hunter Shkapich learns about electricity at the National Science Center's Mobile Discovery Van. To submit your photo for consideration for Chalk Talk, e-mail a

150, 4 x 6, dpi photo to parentnews@jeffco.k12.co.us. By submitting your photo you give Jeffco permission to publish your photo.

is another one of those factors that can cause bad grades, despite good efforts. At the end of the day, make sure your child understands every assignment that's expected of them. Imagine getting a bad grade on a 5-page paper because your child didn't understand the difference between an expository essay and a personal essay. Tell your child to ask questions and find out what format to use when writing a paper or what type of questions might appear on the history exam. The more questions your child asks, the more prepared they will be.

[Read more](#)



Stay on top of homework- Continued

By [Grace Fleming, About.com](#)

4. Organize With Color

Devise your child's own color-coding system to keep assignments and thoughts organized. Select a single color for each class (like science or history) and use that color for folders, highlighters, sticky notes, and pens. You'll be surprised to discover how much strong organization skills can change your child's life! Color-coding is also a tool to use when conducting research. For example, always keep several colors of sticky flags on hand when reading a book for school. Assign a specific color to every topic of interest. Place a flag on a page containing important information. Works like magic!

5. Establish a Study Zone at Home

Take the time to assess your individual style and your real needs and plan for the perfect study place. After all, if your child can't concentrate, they certainly can't expect to learn very well. Students are different. Some need a completely quiet room free from interruptions when they study, but others actually study better listening to quiet music in the background or taking several breaks. Find a place to study that fits your child's specific personality and learning style. Then stock their study space with school supplies that will help them avoid last-minute emergencies.

6. Prepare for Test Days

It is important to study for test days. But there are other things your child should consider in addition to the actual material that the test will cover. What if your child shows up for test day and the room is freezing cold? For many students, this would cause enough of a distraction to interrupt concentration. That leads to bad choices and bad answers. Plan ahead for heat or cold by layering your child's clothing. And what happens when your child spend so much time on one essay question that they don't have enough time to finish the exam? Another way to prepare for test day is to take a watch and be mindful of time management.

7. Know Your Child's Dominant Learning Style

Many students will struggle in a subject without understanding why. Sometimes this is because students don't understand how to study in a way that matches their brain style. Auditory learners are those who learn best through hearing things. Visual learners retain more information when they use visual aids, and tactile learners benefit by doing hands-on projects. Every student should examine and evaluate their habits and their natural tendencies and decide how they might be able to improve their study habits by tapping into their personal strengths.

8. Take Fabulous Notes

There are a few tricks to taking fabulous notes that really help when it comes to studying. If your child is a visual person, they should make as many doodles on their paper as they can. Useful doodles, that is. As soon as your child realizes that one topic relates to another, comes before another, is the opposite of another, or has any kind of connection to another—draw a picture that makes sense. Sometimes the information will not sink in until and unless

they see it in an image. There are also certain code words to look out for in a lecture that can indicate that the teacher is giving the relevance or the context of an event. Learn to recognize key words and phrases that the teacher deems important.

9. Conquer Procrastination

When your child puts things off a lot, they end up putting things off until it's too late from time to time. It's that simple. When your child procrastinates, they take the chance that nothing will go wrong at the last minute--but in the real world, things *do go wrong*. So how can your child battle the urge to put things off? Start with trying to get your child to recognize that feisty little voice that lives inside every one of us. It tells us it would be more fun to play a game, eat, or watch TV when we know better. Don't fall for it!

10. Tell Your Child To Take Care of Yourself

Personal habits might be affecting your child's grades. Are they feeling tired, achy, or bored when it comes to homework time? Change your child's grades by practicing a few healthy homework habits. Change the way they feel by taking better care of their mind *and* body. For example, between text messaging, Sony PlayStations, Xbox, Internet surfing, and computer writing, students are using their hand muscles in all new ways, and they're growing increasingly susceptible to the hazards of repetitive stress injury. Find out how to avoid pain in the hands and neck by changing the way they sit at their computer.