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Thunder Vista Buffalo News

September 30, 2022

Hello Thunder Vista Families,

It was another great week at Thunder Vista! Our middle school cross country team continues to impress us all! The girls placed 3rd and the boys placed 1st at our most recent meet at Shadow Ridge Middle School. Go Buffs!

Many of our grade levels found time to have their THV House meetings this week and bring students together at each grade level for fun and structured activities. We have enjoyed seeing all of the festive THV and House spirit wear throughout the school and hearing from many students and families how much they appreciate this initiative.

UPDATES

October Student Count

Each year all school districts in Colorado participate in the Student October Count process in order to collect data that supports per pupil funding. While the process begins in September and continues through mid-November, there is a one day membership count when all schools report students who are actively enrolled and attending classes at their school. **Our October count day is Monday, October 3rd.** In addition to taking data from the day, we also report data from both the day before and the day after. Please support us in providing accurate data to the state by ensuring that your student(s) is present on the days of Friday, September 30, Monday, October 3 and Tuesday, October 4th, 2022. Thank you for your support and partnership!

Thunder Vista Buffalo Beliefs

At Thunder Vista, we value the importance of our Morning Meetings/Advisory time where we focus on social emotional learning and lessons. One of our tenants is focusing on a

monthly character trait called Buffalo Beliefs. We like to share what we are focusing on with our families so you can join us in ways that work in your households!

October's Buffalo Belief

[Assertive Voice](#) - Article with more information

Assertive Voice

This month, our Buffalo Belief is Assertiveness. Assertiveness is thinking about what we need and want in order to be successful, and then asking for it specifically. This is hard for a lot of us, and for various reasons we adopt other "voices" to get our needs met. We might have an aggressive style, passive style, or even a passive aggressive style. We especially use those when we are in an emotional state and trying to solve a problem. Here is an image to give some ideas about what they each sound like:

WHEN YOU ARE...	IT LOOKS LIKE	IT SOUNDS LIKE
PASSIVE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of eye contact• Looking down• Not expressing your feelings or needs• Avoiding problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "I'm okay with whatever you want."• "People don't think about my feelings."• "It's fine. I don't want to get anyone in trouble."
AGGRESSIVE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eye rolling• Finger pointing• Angry or forceful words• Focused on your needs• Rude or bossy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "This is what we're doing."• "You can't play with me if you don't play this game."• Statements that begin with "You"
ASSERTIVE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Making eye contact• Calm but firm voice• Respecting your rights and the rights of others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "I don't want to play soccer. Do you want to play football instead?"• "I feel sad when you say I can't play." Statements that begin with "I"

Big Life Journal
Big Life Journal - biglifejournal.com

In order to use an assertive voice we need a few things:

1. Understand that it is my job to take care of my own emotions.
2. Be regulated and calm when using it...
 - a. so I can see from other perspectives.
 - b. so I can focus on what I DO WANT instead of what I DON'T like.
3. Believe that it is ok to ask for what I need/want. (We may not always get it. There might be more conversation and compromise.)
4. Understand that the Assertive Voice is one that is used to show dignity for yourself and others.

With the Assertive voice we get to our teaching of S.E.A.L.! Our process for approaching conflict. S.E.A.L stands for: **Stop, Explain, Acknowledge, and Lock it in**

The skills of composure and assertiveness are imperative for successful S.E.A.L. conversations. S.E.A.L. is a process to prepare for conflict with the understanding that it

might not always resolve; however, we can be more prepared and calm in order to treat someone with dignity during a challenging conflict. [Here](#) is a document that gives a little more information and structure for a S.E.A.L. conversation.

Recent Lockdown Drill

In collaboration with the Broomfield Police Department, Thunder Vista participated in our first semester mandatory lockdown drill yesterday, Thursday, September 29th. We are pleased to share that our drill went smoothly.

Lockdown drills, similar to fire drills, are an opportunity for students and staff to learn or re-familiarize themselves with the necessary steps to take in the event of a specific emergency in our building. We want to inform our families of this drill in particular because we recognize these types of drills, while necessary, can create some anxiety for students and parents.

The goal of all drills is to teach confidence and allow students and staff to be prepared for an emergency. Throughout the school year, we practice numerous safety procedures to help our staff and students respond quickly, calmly, and safely to a number of situations. For more information about all of the district safety and emergency drills/protocols, visit www.adams12.org/safety.

We encourage families to talk to their children about drills. This is a great opportunity to reassure them that the drills are in place to remind them of the correct plan/steps to follow during any emergency in the school.

Upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences

We are looking forward to our first semester Parent-Teacher Conferences on Wednesday, October 12th.. A separate communication was sent to all P-8 families on how to sign up for conferences on this day. Click [here](#) to read that communication and to sign up for conferences.

For families planning to go out of town on that day, please note that our teachers may not be available to reschedule conferences on other dates if you are unable to attend our Fall Conference Day. Please contact your child's teacher(s) to see how they can provide you with the information if you are unable to attend. We appreciate you making time in your day on October 12th to attend these important conferences.

Gifted and Talented Updates

Check out our updated [Thunder Vista G/T webpage](#) with gifted and talented testing dates and gifted and talented programming information for the 22-23 school year.

Parents will have an opportunity to meet Meghan Bonde, our new Gifted and Talented Advocate in person at parent teacher conferences. She will be stationed at our front main entrance at a gifted and talented information table. She's looking forward to meeting our families!

Mark your calendar! (more info at <https://www.a12gifted.org/>)

- Adams 12 G/T Leadership/Liaison Meeting: 10/3 6-8pm at the ESC [sign up link](#)
- Adams 12 G/T Parent Virtual Social Hour: 10/5 7-8pm [sign up link](#)
- Colorado Gifted and Talented Conference in Loveland, CO: 10/16-10/18
[registration link](#)
 - Free creativity night on Sunday from 7:30-9pm
 - Family institute on Monday from 6:30-9pm (\$30)

Watch D.O.G.S.

Did you know Thunder Vista has a WatchDOGS (**Dads Of Great Students**) Program? This national program was established to bring positive male role models into schools across the country. This is an opportunity for the fathers and father-figures in our community to come in and spend a day as a volunteer in both your child's classroom and classrooms throughout Thunder Vista. If you are interested in participating in this program, please watch our informational video [here](#). You can also click on this [link](#) to learn more about the WatchDOG program.

If you are interested in being a WatchDOG, please sign up on the Sign-Up Genius link [here](#).

Community Resources

How to Help Your Teen Get Moving - While it can often be a challenge, there are many ways to introduce more physical activity into children's lives. Check out [this article](#)!

Thunder Vista Buffalo Beliefs and Tiny Guides

We have continued to talk about Dignity and Composure as a part of our Morning Meetings and Advisory sessions and we sometimes use Tiny Guides from our partners at Cultures of Dignity. As stated before, some families requested that we share these resources with families so we can all learn together. In previous weeks we attached some dignity Tiny Guides. This week we are sharing a Tiny Guide to fit with our Buffalo Belief of Composure. Enjoy!!

NEW TINY GUIDE

[Emotional Hijacking](#)

PREVIOUS GUIDES

[Dignity: What is it and Why You Need to Know About it](#)

[Dignity: 10 Elements](#)

[Dignity: How to Practice it](#)

Mark Your Calendar

October 7-12 - THV Book Fair

October 12 - Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 12-4th/5th and MS Cross Country Meet

October 13 - No School for Students

October 14 - No School for Staff and Students

October 27 - Picture Retakes

REMINDERS

New Landscaping

You may have seen our sprinklers running lately during arrival and dismissal times. As part of the construction this summer to replace the concrete on the north side of our building, we now have newly seeded landscaped areas. The landscaping contractors have shared with us that it is essential to keep all of those areas wet 24/7 for approximately fourteen days during the germination process. Due to the length of run times on these zones and other irrigation schedules, it is often necessary to run irrigation in the newly seeded areas during the day. Once adequate germination has been achieved, the watering will be reduced in stages over the next fourteen days to slowly harden off the new native grass.

Thunder Vista Green Team

All 6th Grade students are welcome to join the THV Green Team. Students will be learning more about the current state of climate change, as well as specific actions they can take to minimize their impact on the environment. Through education, hands-on activities, and guest speakers, we hope to support our THV recycling program as well as promote the science and impacts of a changing climate on the populations of today, as well as clarify specific effects of climate change on our regional communities. This club is sponsored by Ms.Roper, and will be meeting on Tuesdays during 6th grade lunch. Interested students may pick up a permission form at the front office.

Lost and Found

Please have your child check our lost and found located near the cafeteria. Any items that are not claimed by Thursday, October 13, 2022 will be donated.

Middle School Career Lunches

The THV Counseling Department would like to begin hosting a monthly Lunch and Learn event for our middle school students and we need your help! The goal is to introduce our students to a variety of different career options and to provide a discussion forum on how to enter that career path. If you or someone you know is interested in coming to speak to a small group of students during middle school lunch we would love to connect with you!

Most of our middle school students know what a job is but find the idea of building a career much more elusive. They also know college is a possibility but do not quite fully understand how to prepare for a future life path. Hearing from adults in our community who have found ways to build fulfilling careers can really help students begin to consider their post-secondary plans.

If you or someone you know would be willing to participate, please complete this [google form](#) and one of our counselors will be in touch with more information!

2022-2023 Thunder Vista Yearbook

Don't miss out on Thunder Vista's 2022-23 keepsake yearbook filled with memories to last a lifetime!

\$30 Early Bird Special through December 31st.

\$35 Standard Price January 1-April 3, 2023.

\$40 Last Chance (late orders) April 4th until supplies run out.

Order your yearbook now online at: ybpay.lifetouch.com

Use Thunder Vista code: 13692623

Middle School Sports - Cross Country and Basketball

Girls basketball registration continues to be open! The Adams 12 athletic department and district middle schools are working together to build games schedules based on the number of athletes at each school. Please register by October 7th so that we can communicate accurate numbers to the district athletic department.

Thunder Vista BASE

The Thunder Vista BASE (Before & After School Program) is hiring Site Leaders. If you or someone you know is interested please visit the District Website at <https://www.adams12.org/our-district/careers> - JobID: 4639 . For additional information please contact Elijah Salazar-BASE Director sal021076@adams12.org

THV Houses

Our 'House' system here at Thunder Vista is off to a great start this school year with the intention of creating a team atmosphere across our Preschool through 8th grade community. Check out [this video](#) to see how students found out about their House teams and the ways we celebrated this kick off.

Our three different Houses are named after Colorado mountain peaks, and represent the colors of the Colorado Flag. Click on the different House names below to learn more about what makes each House so special.

- ★ [Antero](#)
- ★ [Culebra](#)
- ★ [Ouray](#)

Each Friday we are encouraging staff and students to either wear our House colors or THV spirit wear to show our House and THV pride!

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

All K-8 students can begin entering the building each morning at 7:40am through their grade level designated entry points according to this [building entry/exit schedule](#). This document includes a chart with both entry and exit times for each grade level. The first time indicated in the far right column for each grade level is the same time of a 7:40 a.m. entry into the building.

Entry doors during student arrival will close at 7:53. If your student arrives after this time, they will enter the building through the cafeteria doors. This door will remain open and supervised until 8:10. If your student arrives later than this time, please drop your student off at the school's main entrance on the south side of the building.

The second time indicated for each grade level (in the far right column) indicates the time that students in a particular grade level will be exiting the building. Please note that the bell rings at 3:10 and some classes will not be exiting their classrooms until 3:13 p.m.

The middle column of the chart indicates the entry/exit points that specific grade level classrooms will be using to enter the building in the morning and to exit the building in the afternoon. The entry/exit areas are indicated in text above and entry points are marked with stars.

Staff supervision of students during arrival each day is from 7:40-8:00 and from 3:10-3:20 (1:40-1:50 on Weds.) during dismissal. Please do not drop off students prior to 7:40 each morning and have them picked up no later than 3:20 (1:50 on Weds.) every afternoon.

Parking Lot and Hug and Go Lane

All visitors to the school should use the Visitor Parking Lot located on the southwest side of the school near the main entrance. If this lot is full, visitors may use the staff lot on the southeast side of the building. The southeast parking lot may also be used for parking only during student arrival and dismissal times. If you choose this location, please note that it is not designed as a Hug and Go Lane drop off and pick up location.

Our school's Hug and Go Lane for student morning drop off only is located in our northwest parking lot. Please review these Hug and Go Lane procedures. A photo of the hug and go lane can be accessed [here](#).

- If you would like to park and walk with your child to the blacktop/playground area, you may enter and park in a designated spot.
- Please do not stop and exit your vehicle in the Hug and Go Lane. If you need to assist your child in exiting the vehicle, you must park your vehicle in a designated spot in the parking lot.
- The green lines on the pedestrian side of the parked cars indicate the student drop off zone. Please pull all the way forward to the stationary car in front of you and have your children exit the car if your car is positioned along this path. The Hug and Go Lane was designed for a single lane of traffic with a pedestrian shoulder. The pedestrian shoulder beginning and ending point is indicated with the wavy green line in the above map.
- **Please Note - New Pedestrian Access**
 - Over the summer, in collaboration with the City of Broomfield, we were able to extend our sidewalk along the south side of the west parking lot. This is a big improvement to our school and will help ensure that students walking to school can stay safely on the sidewalk during morning dropoff and afternoon pickup without entering the crosswalk. This means if your student comes to school from the south, near Preble Creek Pkwy, we want them using the new sidewalk. Signage will be posted to assist pedestrians with access to and use of this new sidewalk.
 - With the addition of this new sidewalk, we are now able to allow vehicles to turn left out of the northwest parking lot.
 - Please remind your child that they need to stay on the sidewalks when in our parking lot.
 - Click [here for a photo](#) of the location of the new sidewalk.
 - Additionally, students who come to school from the north should continue to use the pedestrian crossing area at the intersection of Middle Peak and Pikes Peak Drive when walking to and from school. If you will be using the pedestrian crossing area, you must wait for the crossing guard to stop the Hug and Go Lane traffic and stand in the crossing area before you will be invited to cross.

Please watch for pedestrians at all times in the parking lots and streets, and be alert at crosswalks.

Meet Your Administration Team

Your Thunder Vista administrative staff is honored to serve you and your children during your time in the Thunder Vista Buffalo Herd. If we haven't met you before or if we are just getting to know each other, [here's a bit more about us](#).

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend!

Teresa Benallo, principal; *Manissa Featherstone*, assistant principal; *Jody Roper*, assistant principal

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