

689 Brentwood Dr.  
 Palisade, CO 81526  
 970-254-4870  
<http://taylor.mesa.k12.co.us/>

# Taylor Elementary

Taylor's Mission:

**We Nurture... We Learn... We Excel!**

Jennifer Morrell, Principal  
 Terry Ballantyne, Secretary  
 Sandra DePascal, Secretary

December/January

Dear Wonderful Taylor Families,

Have you noticed that we are talking a lot about the amazing brain? I hope so! As a learning community, we have been learning about how our brains work and grow and how we can use our amazing brains to help us be mindful and to control our thoughts and responses. We will continue this learning as we are building a culture for Performance Based Learning and meeting the needs of a 21<sup>st</sup> century learner.

We have a busy few weeks in December and then we will have our winter break. Students will return for classes on January 8th. Please provide many opportunities for your children to read, write and practice math skills over the break! If you need resources, please let your child's teacher know. We wish you and your families a safe and wonderful holiday season!

Winter is upon us and getting outside and having exercise and fresh air is essential for our students. Please send your students prepared for the weather because unless weather conditions are extreme (lightning, raining hard, below 20 degrees) we will be taking students outside for recess. Snow boots, hats, gloves, and snow pants are essential when there is snow on the ground or the temperatures are below freezing!

Thank you for your continued support, please don't hesitate in calling or stopping by if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,  
 Jennifer Morrell



*Merry  
 Christmas*

**"The Future Awaits What Taylor Creates"**

## TAYLOR'S HOURS

Kindergarten: 8:50—11:40

All Day K: 8:50—3:45

AM PreK : 8:45—11:35

PM Pre K : 12:45—3:35

1st—5th: 8:50 a.m.—3:50 pm

### EARLY RELEASE

WEDNESDAYS 1:50 grades 1-5

All Kinder 11:40

**Please pick your  
 child up by 3:50**

### Reminders

Breakfast starts at 8:30.

**Please do not drop  
 your student off  
 before 8:30 as there  
 is no adult supervision  
 until that time.**

Please be sure your student comes prepared with appropriate clothing to play outside (jackets, umbrellas, rain jackets and closed toe shoes). Be sure to put their name on all items

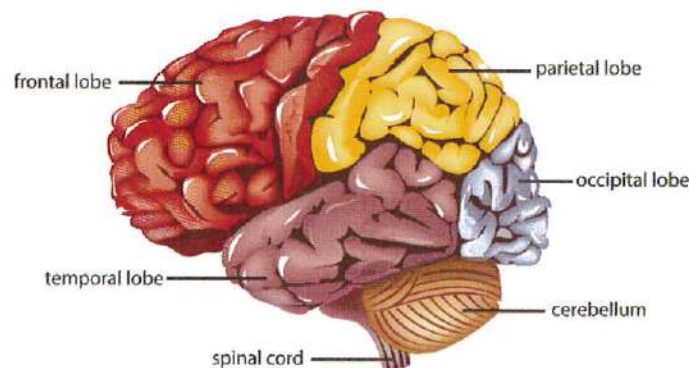
## DID YOU KNOW?

Research shows that parents can have a powerful impact on their children's' mindsets. Giving process praise, talking about the brain, accepting mistakes as learning opportunities, and understanding the role of emotions in learning are all practices you can begin today.

The way parents talk about ability and learning can have powerful effects on their kids' beliefs. Below are some ways parents can instill a growth mindset. And remember, developing a growth mindset in yourself and in your kids is a process that takes time. Have a growth mindset about developing a growth mindset!

- Recognize your own mindset: Be mindful of your own thinking and of the messages you send with your words and actions.
- Praise the process: Praising kids for being smart suggests that innate talent is the reason for success, while focusing on the process helps them see how their effort leads to success.
- Model learning from failure: When parents talk positively about making mistakes (and trying not to make them), kids start to think of mistakes as a natural part of the learning process.
- The brain is far more malleable than we once thought. Teaching our kids that they actually have control over growing their brains through the actions they take is empowering! Tell your children that when they work hard, that's the feeling of their neurons connecting. The dendrites are reaching out to other dendrites, trying to connect to make a stronger brain. What strengthens those connections is practice, asking questions, and actively participating in learning. When children learn that their brains physically change with effort, it leads to increased motivation and achievement.
- One of the best ways you can model a growth mindset is to speak candidly about the mistakes you've made, and what you've learned from them. Speak positively about your mistakes and struggles, and this will show your children that taking risks and making mistakes are a natural part of the learning process. Explain to your children that trying hard things is what helps us grow, and you can't be perfect when you try something hard!
- When we get angry, scared, or feel threatened, our fight or flight response is activated. This can happen anytime, whether we're scared of a spider or scared of math! Our brains are wired to protect us when we feel threatened, and stress symptoms such as sweating, stomach cramps, and your mind going blank are completely normal. There are strategies we can use when the fight or flight response tries to take over, to help us learn. One of those strategies is called crisscross breathing.

## Parts of the Human Brain



## IMPORTANT DATES

**Every Wednesday is early release  
1:50 grades 1—5. All Kinder 11:40 a.m.**

- Dec. 13 Barnes & Noble Fundraiser
- Dec. 13 PTO meeting in the library at 4 p.m.
- Dec. 14 Altrusa Food Drive-last day
- Dec. 17 Santa's Workshop
- Dec. 19 Kinder Music Program 6pm cafeteria
- Dec. 24-Jan.7- Winter Break
- Jan. 3 Taylor Give Back Family Day at **Get Air**  
12-9 p.m.
- Jan. 10 PTO meeting in the library at 4 p.m.
- Jan. 10 Taylor Health & Wellness Challenge 5-6:30 pm

### Looking Ahead:

- Feb. 28th 5th Grade Music Program

## Altrusa of Palisade Food Drive

The annual Altrusa food drive will begin at Taylor on Monday, November 26 and continue until Friday, December 14th. If you'd like to contribute nonperishable food items, please send them with your children to put under our Christmas tree in the school lobby! The food is used for food baskets given at Christmas for local families.



Health and Wellness Challenge coming to

Taylor

Elementary

More information coming soon!



## REMINDER

We can no longer take messages after 3:00 p.m. (1:00 on Wednesdays).

The office receives multiple requests for messages to be delivered to students regarding after school plans, rides, etc. The office is very hectic at times and we cannot guarantee that your message will be received by your student.

Please have your after school plans made before your child comes to school. Send a note with your student in the morning for the teacher they are responsible to get your student where they need to be at the end of day. If they don't have a note they will send them home their regular way.



### National Elementary Honor Society News

*Congratulations to our NEHS Inductees! We inducted fourteen 4th and 5th grade students at a special school assembly where students talked about what NEHS members do and the four attributes of membership. They are our leaders of citizenship and good grades modeling Responsibility, Leadership, Scholarship, and Service.*

*We will be helping with the Old Fashioned Christmas, the Canned Food Drive and Santa's Workshop in*

*December.*

*Congratulations!*



### Barnes and Noble Music and PE Fundraiser

**Thursday, December 13, 2018**

Music and PE fundraiser/performance at Barnes & Noble booksellers in Grand Junction. The time of the event is from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Watch for an email with more details. Our children

(The Taylor Serenaders, as we are called!) will sing and move for parents and others to enjoy. A percentage of proceeds will go to our Music and PE programs.

Dear Taylor Families,

I've had several parents and staff members share concerns about recent parking lot activity, and so I wanted to send out a reminder of our safety procedures designed to make our parking lot as safe as it can be. If we can get everyone to follow these practices, we will continue to have a safe plan for dropping off and picking up students. If you have family members or friends who are authorized to pick up your students, please share this information with them as well.

- Students should only be dropped off and picked up along the curb by the north side of the building in the drop off zone (where the sidewalk starts to the sign near the gym). Do not park in this area or get out of your car, this is to drop off and keep traffic moving, we will bring students to your car during pick-up. If you are parking, please park in a designated spot and walk with your student right next to you and use the cross-walks.
- Please drive slowly and use courtesy and patience with each other, especially as the weather turns colder and we deal with icy and snowy conditions. Cell phones should not be used while driving through the parking lot so that you can be alert for our students and families.

Please call or email me with any questions or concerns. The safety of our students is incredibly important to us and we know it is to you too. Thank you! Jennifer Morrell



### Santa's Workshop

Taylor students will be celebrating this holiday season again with a lesson that teaches about the rewards of giving while covering a variety of skills. Mrs. Broe's students and Taylor National Elementary Honor students will be selling ornaments, trinkets, toys, and necklaces to Taylor students, parents, and staff. Items will cost **\$.50 to \$2.00**. The money raised will be donated to Palisade Altrusa Club. We hope to match and even exceed last year's donation. Our **Santa's Workshop**, will open **Monday, December 17**, in the **cafeteria**. Students will be selling ornaments in the morning before school starts from **8:30-9:00am** and at lunch from **11:30-1:00 pm**. The shop's last day will be **Friday, December 21**. We hope you'll support this worthy cause. HO HO HO!





'TIS THE  
Season  
OF Giving  
DRIVE

Were you looking for a way to help out this holiday season, but you are not sure what you can do? Well, you are in luck!

This year Taylor's National Elementary Honor Society is organizing a Sock Drive. We are partnering with Pear Park and Rim Rock Elementary to gather items, especially socks, that we can donate to the homeless shelter this winter.

There are four things that Taylor will be collecting for this.

*We need:*

*Adult Socks*

*Toothpaste*

*Toothbrushes*

*Wash Cloths*

**All items MUST be NEW.**

**All items can be dropped off in the front lobby, next to the Christmas tree. We will have a wrapped box waiting.**

**We will be collecting items from November 30 until December 21.**

**Thank you for helping our Taylor NEHS**

## **GT News:**

The D51 GT Department is continually balancing where we are as a system and where we can improve the learning for every student. This is our fourth year for implementing GT 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades UCIA within our schools.

### **There are three major reasons for the writing and implementation of GT UCIA curriculum:**

#### **1. Ability to serve ALL GT students**

- a. As a system we were often only providing GT services in ELA, Math, and/or Science
- b. We are required to identify and serve students in the following areas:
  - i. Specific Academic (reading, writing, math, science, social studies, world language)
  - ii. Specific Talent (visual arts, performing arts, musical abilities, dance, psychomotor abilities, creative/productive thinking, leadership abilities)
  - iii. General Intellect

#### **2. Increased Consistency**

- a. The services a student received was largely dependent on the school they attended (extension, enrichment, high level thinking, etc.)
  - i. For example, a student may have been getting extended reading instruction in a GT classroom even if identified high level math, while another school was providing extended math instruction
  - b. Instruction designed for and provided to GT students has been inconsistent across our system (i.e. creativity, leadership, thinking skills, etc.)

#### **3. Building Capacity**

- a. Data showed that GT students identified in specific academic areas were not growing in their strength areas when served through a short class a few times a week
- b. D51, developing as a PBL system, requires teachers to allow students to learn at individualized rates and provide individualized supports to all students in the classroom.

### **Questions parents and teachers frequently ask:**

*Why is my student no longer attending a GT reading/math group?*

In an effort to meet the needs of a broader range of advanced and GT students, we are shifting from more focused groups (i.e. reading) to a broader range of thinking and understanding (i.e. critical thinking and creativity).

*If there is not a focus on reading or math, what was used to decide what would be taught?*

GT programming is developed much like the content taught in content areas (like reading and math). Both are guided by district, state, and national guidelines and standards. The GT UCIA was written using district goals, structures, and factors; state law, guidance, and guidelines; and the student outcomes from the National Association for Gifted Children PreK-12 Grade Standards.

*Will my student still be in GT?*

A student formally identified in GT will still have an Advanced Learning Plan that the GT teacher will help support. Students that are not formally identified may be supported by the GT teacher but these groups are rotated depending on student needs and school structure.

*How will my student be challenged in math or reading?*

Each teacher and school has individual ways they adjust instruction to meet individual growth. This question can be answered by helping parents understand how the classroom teacher figures out what the student already knows and then builds instruction from there. This is an area GT teachers can help support (in ideas and resources) the classroom teacher, MTSS (RTI/PBIS) team, and grade level teams.



# Information Meetings

**2019-2020 School Year**

The Challenge Program at East Middle School is a district wide program for academically gifted middle school students. We will be hosting **FOUR** information meetings for the 2019-2020 school year. Please choose a day and time that works best for you. We highly recommend parents and students attend a meeting. Questions will be answered and applications will be distributed at the meetings.

**Where: East Middle School cafeteria, 830 Gunnison Avenue**

**When: Monday, January 28th**

- **4:30 – 5:30 PM**
- **6:00 – 7:00 PM**

**Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**

- **4:30 – 5:30 PM**
- **6:00 – 7:00 PM**

**Who: Students interested in applying and parents**

There is plenty of space and no need to RSVP. If you can't attend a meeting, you may pick up an application at East or from your school's Gifted/Talented teacher. **We will accept applications until 2:45 on March 1, 2019.**

Tina Sleigh  
East Middle School  
254-5020  
tina.sleigh@d51schools.org

# DECEMBER



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 ES Planning MS Inservice No School	4 <b>CHICKEN ENCHILADAS/ CHICKEN QUESADILLA</b> or Sandwich Choice Rice Variety/Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Milk Variety	5 <b>RAPTOR LEGS</b> Dinner Roll/Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Cookie/Milk Variety	6 <b>CHEESY PINWHEEL</b> or Sandwich Choice Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Milk Variety	7 <b>FIESTA NACHOS</b> Corn/Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Milk Variety
10 <b>MANAGER'S CHOICE #2</b> Oven Roasted Potato Wedges/ Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Cookie/Milk Variety	11 <b>BEEF STREET TACO</b> or Sandwich Choice Rice/Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Milk Variety	12 <b>GOOEY GRILLED CHEESE</b> Chicken Noodle or Tomato Soup/Salad Bar Meal or Side/ Fruit Variety/Milk Variety	13 <b>POTATO BOWL</b> or Sandwich Choice Whole Grain Biscuit/Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Milk Variety	14 <b>HOMEMADE PIZZA VARIETY</b> Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Milk Variety
17 <b>NANA'S MAC &amp; CHEESE</b> Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Cookie/Milk Variety	18 <b>CHICKEN TACO</b> or Sandwich Choice Refried Beans/Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Cookie/ Milk Variety	19 <b>FRITO CHILI PIE</b> Corn/Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Milk Variety	20 <b>HOMESTYLE TURKEY GRAVY</b> or Sandwich Choice Parmesan Green Beans/Mashed Potatoes/Salad Bar Meal or Side/ Fruit Variety/Milk Variety	21 <b>BRONCO BURGER</b> Spiral French Fries/Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Milk Variety
24 No School Winter Break	25 No School Winter Break	26 No School Winter Break	27 No School Winter Break	28 No School Winter Break
31 No School Winter Break				(Mgr. Choice #2 will be one of the following options: Hot Dog, Burger, Breakfast for Lunch or Cheesy Pockets.)  This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Grade	Cafe
3rd Grade	11:30
4th Grade	11:45
2nd Grade	12:00
1st Grade	12:15
5th Grade	12:30
Kindergarten	12:35

# JANUARY



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 No School Winter Break	2 No School Winter Break	3 No School Winter Break	4 No School Winter Break
7 Teacher Work Day	8 <b>BEEF CRUNCHY TACOS</b> or Sandwich Choice Rice Variety/Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Milk Variety	9 <b>HOT DIGGITY DOG</b> Baked Beans/Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Milk Variety	10 <b>BREAKFAST FOR LUNCH</b> or Sandwich Choice Oven Roasted Potato Wedges/ Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Milk Variety	11 <b>HOMEMADE PIZZA VARIETY</b> Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Milk Variety
14 <b>GRILLED HAM &amp; CHEESE SANDWICH</b> or Southwest Turkey Wrap/ Roasted Parmesan Green Beans/ Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit/Milk	15 <b>BEAN BURRITO</b> or Sandwich Choice Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Cookie/Milk Variety	16 <b>KANSAS CITY BBQ PORK SANDWICH</b> Coleslaw/Salad Bar Meal or Side/ Fruit Variety/Milk Variety	17 <b>MOM'S BEST BBQ CHICKEN</b> or Sandwich Choice Dinner Roll/Roasted Broccoli/ Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit/Milk	18 <b>BRONCO CHEESEBURGER</b> Spiral French Fries/Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Milk Variety
21 No School Holiday	22 <b>CHICKEN ENCHILADAS/ CHICKEN QUESADILLA</b> or Sandwich Choice Rice Variety/Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Milk Variety	23 <b>RAPTOR LEGS</b> Dinner Roll/Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Cookie/Milk Variety	24 <b>CHEESY PINWHEEL</b> or Sandwich Choice Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Milk Variety	25 <b>FIESTA NACHOS</b> Corn/Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Milk Variety
28 <b>MANAGER'S CHOICE #2</b> Oven Roasted Potato Wedges/ Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Cookie/Milk Variety	29 <b>BEEF STREET TACO</b> or Sandwich Choice Rice/Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Milk Variety	30 <b>GOOEY GRILLED CHEESE SOUP</b> Chicken Noodle or Tomato Soup/Salad Bar Meal or Side/ Fruit Variety/Milk Variety	31 <b>POTATO BOWL</b> or Sandwich Choice Whole Grain Biscuit/Salad Bar Meal or Side/Fruit Variety/Milk Variety	(Mgr. Choice #2 will be one of the following options: Hot Dog, Burger, Breakfast for Lunch or Cheesy Pockets.)  This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Breakfast Cost	1.85
Lunch Cost	2.85
Extra Milk	.80
Adults	4.00

