



THE RAPTOR REPORT

September 2020

A Message From The Principal

Rice Elementary
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Wellington, CO 80549

Principal
Melissa Duve'

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**[https://
ric.psdschools.org/](https://ric.psdschools.org/)**

Follow Us



Raptor Nation,

Happy September! Although the beginning of the school year looks much different than it ever has, I want to assure you learning is alive and well at Rice Elementary. It is not only the students learning but so are the staff and parents! Learning can be difficult at times, and all of us are learning at an unprecedented rate. Thank you for exercising your grace and patience as we kick off the start of the year!

As I joined in with several morning meetings over the last few days, it has warmed my heart to see our kids. I have seen teachers demonstrating their kindness, watched kids be excited to see classmates and their teacher, and watched parents be problem solvers. I know this is challenging. We will tackle each new day of learning TOGETHER one day at a time.

Stay tuned to future Monday Messages for information regarding virtual Back to School Night, upcoming distribution/material exchange days, and details about "Spirit Week". I will continue to send a weekly update to keep you informed.

continued on next page



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Rice Elementary Newsletter

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A Message From The Principal *continued*

We appreciate all you are doing to keep your children learning and engaged in lessons. Please reach out to your child(ren)'s teacher or us if you have any questions. At the conclusion of this letter are some "parent tips" and strategies for supporting virtual learning.

With appreciation,

Melissa



Parent Tips for Virtual Learning




1. Create a Consistent Learning Environment:

- Determine a family space so that you are accessible to check-in, monitor progress, and assist/support your children.
- Designate a "Quiet-Study/Learning Zone". Agree to a space that is for "learning" and create some "learning expectations". For example- free from outside noise, no TV, separated from siblings, etc.
- Have resources/materials ready before the day starts (i.e. markers, paper, rulers, etc.) for your child to be successful with their activities. Remember to plan ahead and review due dates to have materials ready.
- Proper desk/table and seating that allows your child(ren) to be comfortable when learning.

continued on next page

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Rice Elementary Newsletter

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NORTHERN COLORADO

Parent Tips for Virtual Learning, continued...

2. Start and Finish each day with quick check-ins:

- Keep it as a simple check-in with your child(ren). Although brief, this can be a very powerful conversation that matters. This time allows children to process the instructions they've received from their teachers. It helps them organize and set priorities. Parents should establish these check-ins at regular times each day and possibly even write down a schedule for the day with further check-in times.
- Check calendars and assignments together to review anything that is due.
- Make a plan to utilize teacher office hours that day and write questions down together that may need to be answered.
- Ask your child(ren):
 - ⇒ What are you learning today?
 - ⇒ What are the learning goals?
 - ⇒ How will you spend your time? (consider setting a schedule that can be easily followed by your children)
 - ⇒ What resources do you require?
 - ⇒ How can I help?

continued ...



Rice Elementary Newsletter

Does your child have trouble focusing on schoolwork?
Does your child have difficulty typing/writing?
Do they have difficulty remembering to complete their homework?



Our pediatric occupational therapists provide individualized care to promote skills that improve your child's ability to successfully complete their school-related tasks!



115 E. Harmony Rd., Ste. 160
Fort Collins, CO 80525
970.221.1201
www.ColoradoInMotion.com

Parent Tips for Virtual Learning, continued...

3. Routines and Expectations for at Home Learning:

- Set regular learning hours. If possible, align these hours with the school day and during times that your children are most attentive.
- Write down a schedule for each child (or if appropriate, have your child create a schedule) with built-in breaks for snacks, outdoor movement/exercise and playtime. Check off items as completed -- children love the sense of accomplishment! Younger children might also be motivated by short goals, i.e. "complete two activities from your teacher and then we'll play a family game."
- At school, cellphones are kept in backpacks. Consider doing the same at home until assignments are completed (or use as a social break after a certain number of assignments are completed).
- Stick with a consistent sleep routine- wake up at the same time, go to bed at the same time.

4. Establish "Think Time" for your child:

- One challenge for families with multiple children is managing each of their needs. You might consider having siblings work in different rooms to avoid distraction.
- Headphones provide opportunities for learners to focus and avoid distraction.
- You may need to stagger the online work time for each child.

continued ...

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Rice Elementary Newsletter



Parent Tips for Virtual Learning, continued...

5. Encourage Exercise:

- Build in time for movement and stretches.
- Get outside and play.
- Encourage your child(ren) to do something helpful around the house.

6. Provide opportunities for social interactions:

- When possible, plan times your child(ren) can interact with others (family members, club/activity, etc.)
- Monitor any social media use for older students.

7. Responsible Technology Use:

When completing work online, joining video calls and/or participating in virtual discussions, students should be sure to follow SOAR behavior and digital citizenship by:

- Using respectful behavior and language.
- Sticking to appropriate topic discussions.
- Sending only appropriate video transmissions.
- Using only appropriate icon, emoji, and avatars
- Wearing school appropriate clothing if attending meetings via video.
- Being honest and using academic integrity by submissions. not plagiarizing or copying others' work

Parent Tips for Virtual Learning, continued...

8. Support Network

- Reach out to your child(ren)'s teacher and/or the school with questions.
- Consider who in your neighborhood might be able to be a support person.
- Are there situations when older siblings might be able to support the learning of younger children

A Message from the Vice Principal...

Hello, Rice Raptor Community!

My name is Elizabeth Garcia and I am joining the Rice community as Assistant Principal this year! I am SO excited to begin this school year with you. I have heard SO many great things about Rice Elementary and the Wellington community, and I am thrilled to become a Rice Raptor. I have been working with Mrs. Duve and other teachers for a couple of months now, and I am extremely impressed with the talent of staff how they connect with our school, with each other, and with our community. They definitely go the extra mile! The care and concern demonstrated for our students by our teachers is unmatched and I am so excited to become a part of this!



A few things about me:

- ✓ I grew up in LaSalle, Colorado, and I attended Valley High School.
- ✓ My favorite teacher during my school career was Frau Fedie – she was my German teacher in high school. I LOVE learning languages and learning how to play instruments. I have fond memories of growing up in a small school/community.
- ✓ I started my teaching career in Greeley and I was most recently the assistant principal at Webber Middle School.
- ✓ I have one dog – a goldendoodle named Rocco.
- ✓ I have one daughter who just graduated from high school. She is training to become a pilot.
- ✓ My favorite book as a child was Charlotte's Web.
- ✓ I love to ski and golf, read, and I just recently had my first flight lesson!

This will prove to be a year like none other, but I know we will get through it together! It will definitely be a year to look back on and say, "remember when..." But for now, I am in for the flight (ride) with our Rice community and together we will make it, smooth sailing! Together we SOAR!

I cannot wait to meet all of our Rice students and family members. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions. I can be reached at egarcia@psdschools.org or 970-488-8714.

Meals during Remote Learning

Available at schools and nearby locations

Ensuring kids have access to nutritious meals during the 2020-21 school year is a top priority. PSD Child Nutrition and the Transportation Departments have teamed up to make sure meals are available to students at several locations across the district.

Sack meals available for students

Please note that meal sites and hours may change as needs and the program are evaluated.

PSD offers sack meals from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday, at numerous PSD schools and additional locations (on scheduled school days).

Students (any child 18 or younger) can get two sack meals - one sack lunch for that day and a sack breakfast for the following morning. Students do not have to be there in-person to receive meals.

Menus are available on the PSD website.

Cost: There is no cost for meals. Parents are encouraged to still apply for free and reduced-priced meals, which helps with school funding. For information or to apply, [visit the Free and Reduced-Priced Meals website.](#)

Meal sites - where to pick up PSD sack meals

Students, families and staff must wear face coverings and maintain social distancing at meal sites.

Sack meals will be available outside at several schools and at nearby mobile meal sites via parked school buses. Students may get meals at any location regardless of the school they attend or where they live.

Eyestone Elementary, 4000 Wilson Ave., Wellington

Nearby mobile bus meal sites:

- ⇒ Buffalo Creek Pkwy & Stampede Dr At Park
- ⇒ McClellan Rd North Of Reagan Ave
- ⇒ Meadow Rain Way At Greenspace South Of Grassy Range Dr
- ⇒ Nashua Cir At Wellington Blvd

Rice Elementary East Side, 7000 Third St., Wellington



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Wellington Public Library

New Hours Starting September 8, 2020



Sunday:	Closed		
Monday:	9-3 pick-up window	9-10 seniors/at-risk	10-12:30 regular hours
Tuesday:	9-6 pick-up window	9-10 seniors/at-risk	10-6 regular hours
Wednesday:	9-3 pick-up window	9-10 seniors/at-risk	10-12:30 regular hours
Thursday:	9-3 pick-up window	9-10 seniors/at-risk	10-12:30 regular hours
Friday:	9-3 pick-up window	9-10 seniors/at-risk	10-3 regular hours
Saturday:	10-1 pick-up window		

Call ahead to make an appointment 970-568-3040 - Recommended This time must be used for browsing only. We are still not allowing patrons to sit or hang out. Each person may stay for a total of 30 minutes at the most.

PUTTING BOOKS ON HOLD FOR PICK-UP:

Go to our website: <https://wellington.colibraries.org/>

Click on My Account/Catalog Search on top right

Click on Login on top right

Enter your card #

Enter your password (usually your last name in lower case)

Here you can see all of the books you have checked out and all of your information.

To browse books, click on Wellington Public Library at the top.

When you find a book you want, make sure it says ON SHELF AT WELLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, otherwise it may be coming from another library, which is fine, but it may take a while to get here

Choose PLACE HOLD, SUBMIT HOLD

Call the library for more information

STEM-X's Fall 2020

LEARNING TOGETHER WORKSHOPS

FOR STUDENTS ALONG WITH AN ATTENDING ADULT.

GRADES 7-12

SolidWorks Design..... 10/17
The American Rocketry Challenge..... 10/24

GRADES 5-8

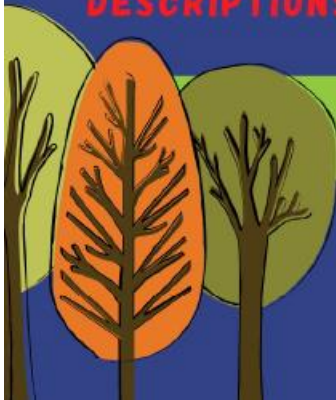
Chemistry of Cakes..... 10/24/20
Rocketry..... 11/7/20
Flight Simulator..... 11/21/20

GRADES 3-5

Sew Scrappy..... 12/12/20
Science of Slime..... 11/7/20

**CHECK THE STEM-X WEBSITE FOR WORKSHOP
DESCRIPTIONS AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION!**

WWW.STEM-X.ORG



Important Reminders from the School Nurses



As we get ready to start the school year, here are a few important reminders from the school nurses.

- Fill your Epi-Pens and inhalers early! Pharmacies run low at the beginning of the school year.
- Obtain a prescription for school medications from your child's doctor and fill out the Health Care Action Plan and medication authorization forms found on the health services page on the school website.
- All medications in school needs to be coordinated with the school nurse.
- Each medication needs to have its own *authorization to administer medication* form
- We are collecting forms for this school year even though it is online. When students do return the forms will be ready to go!

Please hold any medication until your student returns to in-person learning.

If you have not done so, please submit your student's current immunization record to the school nurse. If you have any questions, please reach out to Karley Boltjes, your school nurse.

Email: kboltjes@psdschools.org

Phone: 970-556-5906



Integrating Technology & the Media Center



Rice Website

Our website has been updated and now contains a Learning Pages tab, so students and families can easily get to teacher's learning pages. You will also notice Parents, Staff, and Students tabs up at the top of the site. The Students tab contains many links to frequently used websites.

Technology Troubleshooting

If your student has difficulty with their computer, logging in, connecting to Google, etc., we have a variety of resources available to help.

- Email Mrs. Thornley at dthornle@psdschools.org along with your child's home room teacher. Together we can work to troubleshoot, and problem solve the situation.
- Check out the Rice Tech Resources on our website. This site is in development. It will house information and troubleshooting advice as well as detailed "How To....." advice for Chrome, MS Teams, Google Classroom, and Google Meets. These are platforms students use for synchronous learning.
- Reach out to the PSD Tech Hotline/Email Information Technology staff will support students and families who need help during remote education at covidtechhelp@psdschools.org or through the new family and student support line at 970-490-3339.

Remote Learning

A big thank you to everyone that is helping our students navigate and engage in learning remotely. This has been a new adventure for all of us, and we appreciate your perseverance, problem solving, and patience. We really miss our student's sweet, smiling faces, curious minds, and amazing creativity. We would like to showcase all that our families and students are doing at home to engage and interact with their class. Please send photos to dthornle@psdschools.org, so we can showcase them on our website and social media.

*Have fun creating & reading,
Mrs. Thornley & Ms. Marcom*

PE



Hello Raptors and Welcome Back!!!

I am so excited to back together with all of you to learn about being healthy and fit. In Physical Education classes we will learn many different activities and skills to help you improve your health and fitness and to have fun with your whole family. The focus will be on life-long fitness skills and enjoyment of moving. **Parents**, I will occasionally ask kiddos to grab items from around the house to assist in lessons and, student safety is my number one concern. Some helpful items to have on hand are balloons, tissues, a towel, and a pair of balled socks. Also, every PE class, students are asked to run ("Fun Run") around the outside of their homes to improve cardiovascular endurance and to increase their heartrate. I have instructed students to ask parents or guardians for permission to use household items and to run outside. If parents would like for your child to stay indoors for the "Fun Run", then students can run in place or around the inside of their homes. As we navigate the many challenging technology platforms and new learning techniques, I want to thank you ahead of time for your understanding and grace. We're all in this together and I look forward to seeing all of you move on the other side of my computer screen!

Mr. Hannen

"No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

-Nelson Mandela

Music Corner

Welcome back everyone! It has been such a joy to see students again during the first week. Thank you for helping your students come to classes.

All of the grade levels will be learning their new welcome song to start class, as well as continuing with concepts we left off with in the spring, while navigating new technology. It will look much different without our typical class games, group singing and working with each other; but students can still have fun, earn prizes and become better musicians!

Assignments for music will be posted on a platform called Seesaw, which I will explain to students. It is a place where students can easily share videos, compositions and other skills with me for assessments and to stay connected.

There are videos of the welcome songs for each grade level on the [Music Learning Page](#). Please feel free to contact me anytime!

Sincerely,

Laura Davis

Music Teacher

ladavis@psdschools.org

[Music Learning Page](#)



Art

Hello Rice Art Students and Families!

I am Mrs. Tennyson, the Art Teacher at Rice Elementary School. I am starting my 14th year teaching Art at Rice. I have been fortunate to see lots of kids and families grow over the years here and am excited for another year of Art (although it may look a bit different)!

To begin the school year, I will be delivering instruction to students through remote learning; therefore, Art will be a bit different! I will be teaching 30 minutes of live art instruction once a week to classes. It will then be up to students to finish any project steps, activities, or work by the following art class. Sometimes I may not “instruct” or talk the entire time during a class if students are given a task to work on, but I will be there for that 30 minutes that I’m scheduled to be with your child!

Yes, this is different, but I believe Art is still going to be FUN! I cannot wait to see all my previous art students and meet the new Rice Raptors!

To make this year successful, students are encouraged to:

- Have a **positive attitude**
- **Be Ready for Art class:**
 1. Art **supplies** and **tools**, and **work space**
 2. Art **folder**
 3. **Artwork**...that we worked on during the previous class

All students will be using **SeeSaw** to see assignments and document their artwork.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or problems your student is having! I am available at **3:00-4:10 each day to help**, as well as all day on **Fridays**.

You can reach me at btennyso@psdschools.org!

Let’s make this a creative year!

Sincerely,

Beth Tennyson, Rice Art Teacher



Counseling Corner

My name is Beth Roberts and I am the new counselor at Rice. This is my 2nd year in the district and I have worked at the elementary school level for many years in Illinois.

I will be meeting with all classes once a week during social emotional learning time, through the specials rotation. This will happen during online remote learning. Students can currently access social emotional learning time through their classroom teacher's links. Students will follow the same expectations for social emotional learning and the other specials.

Additionally, I can help connect families to resources in the community. Please reach out if you need anything!

Thank you for your patience as we navigate through any technical difficulties!

-Beth Roberts

elizabethr@psdschools.org

970-488-871

KINDER



Dear Kindergarten families:

There are so many things to celebrate right now. Here are some great things we see happening!

1. Children are coming to our meeting and getting there on time!
2. We have learned to mute and unmute and pin our teacher!
3. We are coming to meetings with our materials for learning!
4. We are using whole body listening!
5. We are reading our ABC chart!
6. We are raising our hands to share!
7. We are transitioning from one meeting to the next!

Look at all the great things that are happening in kindergarten! We can't wait to watch the list grow. Thank you for your patience and grace as we maneuver through our days in such a new way.

Please remember any question you have – we are in our office hours from 3-4 each day and we would love to support you however we can.

Thanks!

The Kindergarten Team

Lyn Karnes, Gretchen Lenzner and Sari Bosch

First Grade



Hi First Grade Families,

You are doing so great! We appreciate all the work you have put in to help your kids! Thank you for being understanding and flexible as we navigate remote learning and technology.

Live Classes: Please remind your child to mute their microphone as soon as they enter the meeting and wait for instructions. We will be teaching more content and will be on a timeline. This will help us get the most out of our learning time. Don't forget lesson will be recorded and put on Seesaw.

Seesaw: Seesaw is the time for independent learning and help with content should be at a minimum. We look for student mistakes to know what to teach in our small groups.

Small Groups: Small groups are the time that we do the most strategic instruction to meet your child's needs. This is a very important live class to get to. Please make it a priority.

Fridays: Friday's schedule consists of Morning Meeting at 8:55-9:10. The remainder of the day will be used to catch up on recorded "live" classes that your child had missed and any Seesaw activities. If all is done, READ and GO PLAY!



Second Grade

Hello Sweet Families!

WOW! This has been an adventure getting started this year. We could not have done it without your help. Thank you, thank you, thank you. The term "digital native" is taking on a whole new meaning as these little ones figure things out. Daily we are amazed how well they do.

This fall the second grade skill of reading a clock to the five minute marks is more meaningful than ever. We so appreciate the strategies you have put in place to help your child arrive at class on time and prepared throughout the day. Hopefully the consistent schedule is making it easier.

We have loved all of the little videos the kids are making. They are really helping us get to know your children. What a fun and interesting group they are. We look forward to them getting to know each other better as the year progresses.



Third Grade**Third Grade Families**

“How do people help each other?” That is the big question we are exploring in our first Reach for Reading unit. This unit is a social studies unit. To answer the big question, we are reading, writing, and talking about the ways people reach out to one another, and how small actions can make a big difference. Be a part of our exploration! With your student, read the New Words below. Then follow these directions.

Directions:

1. Talk together about the ways your family can help in your community. Try to use some of the New Words in your discussion.
2. Work together to make notes. On the lines below, write words, phrases, or sentences that tell your ideas about ways to help in your community. Use the New Words when you can.

Unit 1 Vocabulary

action, difference, gift, kindness, need, problem, receive, solution, benefit, duty, identify, impact, improve, individual, learn, neighborhood, offer, and volunteer.

Fourth Grade

Hello Rice Families,

Welcome to 4th Grade! We hope you had an enjoyable summer and are looking forward to a wonderful year. We plan to make this year interesting, challenging, and fun for your child. We will be learning about content topics such as animal behaviors, ecosystems, forms of energy, Colorado’s history, and math concepts using skills acquired in the primary grades. We will be using many different technology tools that will give our students multiple ways to show their thinking to make this remote experience as positive as can be. We are looking forward to working as a team with you, your child, and other facilitators of your child’s remote learning. Together, we will SOAR this year!

Sincerely,

The 4th Grade Team

Mrs. Schnell, Miss Alldredge, and Mrs. Shannon

5th Grade

Greetings from fifth grade!

We want to start with a huge thank you to all fifth-grade families for your support, patience, and understanding as we embark on this new digital learning journey together. Although this year won't look quite like any year we've had before, we know it will still be a great one! The fifth grade teachers will be working hard to connect with all students while making our virtual learning fun and engaging! Please know that we are in this together and we'll be working alongside you every step of the way to provide the best fifth-grade experience possible for your child

We know you've already received a lot of information from us, so we'll just include some important reminders that are worth mentioning again.

⇒ Communication

-Parent communication will happen mainly in the form on Friday emails. Please read these emails carefully each week for important information regarding fifth grade.

-Teachers will communicate directly with students by email, through video meetings, and via the Google platform (Google Classroom, Google Docs, Google Slides, etc.) every day.

⇒ Live sessions

-Students will participate in live video sessions several times a day via Google Meets.

-Please consult your child's planner for a copy of his or her schedule taped on the inside cover.

-Each camera icon on this schedule indicates a time your child should be in a live session.

-Some students will attend additional live sessions when they are involved in small groups.

⇒ Classroom Management

-All students have participated in discussions reviewing appropriate and expected class behavior.

5th Grade, continued...



-Some of these expectations include:

-Arrive on time and stay through the entire session.

-Turn camera on and microphone off.

-Use the chat bar appropriately.

-Actively participate in class discussions.

-Find a quiet and well-lit spot to focus on school work during

meetings.

-Be aware of your background during meetings.

-Always show SOAR!

⇒ Google Classroom

- Much of your child's classwork will be assigned in Google Classroom.

- Ask your child to show you his or her assignments frequently.

⇒ Fridays

- We will always have a morning meeting at 8:55 am on Fridays.

- We will not have live teaching sessions on Fridays after the meeting.

- Students will have independent work to complete on Fridays.

Thank you so much for coming to school to pick up important school supplies with your child. It was wonderful to meet in person, even if for a brief moment. We're excited for the year ahead and appreciate your partnership along the way.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hediger, Miss Holmes, & Mrs. Neill