



# MRACHEK MIDDLE SCHOOL



**Edward Snyder, Principal**  
e-mail:  
[ewsnyder@aps.k12.co.us](mailto:ewsnyder@aps.k12.co.us)



**1955 South Telluride Street**  
**Aurora, Colorado 80013**  
**303-750-2836**  
**Attendance Line: 303-326-1654**

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**Mrachek Middle School will provide a safe and positive learning environment in which all students will learn the necessary skills to enter high school and graduate with the choice to go to college without remediation**

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## Message from the Principal

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Parents,

It is hard to believe that the first quarter of learning is rapidly coming to a close, (1st quarter ends on October 9th). As we enter the second quarter and continue working together to help your children achieve their maximum success, I need your continued support.

It is imperative that students are here when the school day begins. The bell rings at 8:25 and class starts promptly at 8:30. I notice many students strolling in well after the bell on a daily basis; over the course of a school year that translates to hours of instructional time lost. Please have a conversation with your child and encourage them to be to all classes on-time.

Please help your student by asking them to see their homework on a regular basis. It is rare that students will have no homework each evening. Provide students with a specific time and quiet environment to accomplish their school work. Please call your child's teacher if you have any questions.

We continue to review with students on a continuous basis our VALOR program. Our first VALOR assemblies will occur on October 15th (for sixth grade), 16th (for seventh grade), and 17th (for eighth grade), from 3:15-4:00. This is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the wonderful things that students and teachers are doing to create a positive learning environment at Mrachek Middle School. Please join us for these celebrations. If you have any questions regarding the VALOR assemblies please contact the main office.

In addition to VALOR at Mrachek, we will continue to develop restorative practices in every classroom that will teach students and teachers a specific skill set to repair harm caused by student to student and classroom conflict to ensure that students are able to remain in the classroom, to allow for learning not to be interrupted. I am excited to announce that Mrachek will be partnering with Dr. Pedro Noguera and the Metro Center out of New York University to continue our work around equity in learning and ensuring that every student has access and we are able to build on each student's strength and meet their individual needs.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and suggestions to improve the learning opportunities for our students. Please feel free to contact me by phone at 303-750-2836 or by email at [ewsnyder@aps.k12.co.us](mailto:ewsnyder@aps.k12.co.us). We are partners in your child's education. Thank you for your continued support.

Edward Snyder, Principal

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**October 2014**

# Calendar

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October 7 Fall Choir Concert, 6:30 pm  
October 9 First Quarter Ends  
October 10 NO CLASSES - Teacher Workday  
October 15 6th Grade VALOR Assembly, 3:15 pm  
October 16 7th Grade VALOR Assembly, 3:15 pm  
October 17 Parent Coffee/PTSAO Meeting, 9:30 am  
8th Grade VALOR Assembly, 3:15 pm  
October 22 PBiS Event, 4:00 - 5:45 pm  
Oct 27 - 31 Fall Break  
November 14 Parent Coffee/PTSAO Meeting, 9:30 am  
Skate City Night, 6 - 10 pm  
November 19 PBiS Event, 4:00 - 5:45 pm  
November 20 Parent/Teacher Conferences,  
4:30 - 8:15 pm  
November 26 NO CLASSES - Parent Conference Exchange  
Nov. 27-28 NO CLASSES - Thanksgiving Break

Octubre 7 Concierto de otoño del coro, 6:30 pm  
Octubre 9 Primer Cuarto de Año Termina  
Octubre 10 NO HAY CLASES-Día de Trabajo para Maestros  
Octubre 15 Asamblea de VALOR, 6to grado, 3:15pm  
Octubre 16 Asamblea de VALOR, 7mo grado, 3:15pm  
Octubre 17 Café para Padres/PTSAO, 9:30 am  
Asamblea de VALOR, 8vo grado, 3:15pm  
Octubre 22 Evento PBIS, 4:00-5:45pm  
Oct. 27-31 Receso de Otoño  
Noviembre 14 Café para Padres/PTSAO, 9:30 am  
Noche de Patinar/Skate City 6-10 pm  
Noviembre 19 Evento PBIS, 4:00-5:45pm  
Noviembre 20 Conferencias de Padres y Maestros,  
4:30-8:15 pm  
Noviembre 26 NO HAY CLASES -Día de Intercambio por las Conferencias  
Nov.27-28 NO HAY CLASES-Receso de Día de Acción de Gracias



## Mr. Hynes, Assistant Principal

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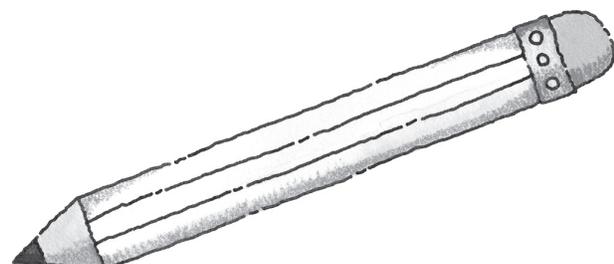
UPDATE: The district decided to replace Acuity testing with MAP testing. Both tests serve the same purpose - these unofficial assessments can be used as benchmarks throughout the year to measure student need and progress in the areas of Reading and Math. Like PARCC and CMAS, MAP is computer-based. MAP was given in September and will be given again in January.

With the Fall MAP Testing Window concluding October 3rd, we will soon have baseline data on student performance in Reading and Math. Data from Fall MAP will be shared with staff to inform their day-to-day classroom instruction.

Our next school-wide assessment is in January (Winter MAP). Additionally, in January, we will be giving the WIDA ACCESS test to our English Language Learners only.

Sincerely,

Colin Hynes  
Assistant Principal



## Garrett Washington, Dean of Students

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The year is well underway. I would like to briefly remind parents and children to dress appropriately in the morning. As the Colorado weather begins to change, community members seem to contract colds, flu and virus. Mr. Snyder uses building and district protocols when deciding whether students will enter the building in the morning before school or go outside for lunch recess. Do not expect or anticipate that your child can enter the building on a morning that may be cold, snowy or light rain. Be sure that your child has the proper jacket/coat, gloves and hat (non-ball cap) for inclement weather days.

I would like to remind families of our procedure to excuse your child if they are sick. If your child remains home due to sickness, it is important that you contact the Attendance line that day at 303-326-1654 to inform Mrachek of your child's absence. In doing so, be sure to speak clearly and provide your child's name, your name and your relationship to the child. When providing a reason, be clear and specific. If your child's absence continues for more than one day, please remember to provide a written doctor's excuse for their absence.

I would like to take this time to thank the parents and students who have supported our efforts to not bring playground toys on campus. The Mrachek staff is able to provide many options for students in the morning and during recess. I have noticed an increase in activity from all students and enjoy watching the young people being active.

Lastly, I would like to share with parents and students that after school detention is scheduled from 4 to 5 pm on Thursdays and Saturday School takes place on Saturday from 8 to 12 pm. Parents must pick their child up at the end of detention or Saturday School.

## Student Safety is Our Priority at Mrachek Middle School

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Getting to and from school safely is important! Here are a few tips to talk to your student about.

If your student rides the bus discuss APS rules of riding that include:

- Remaining seated and behave appropriately; behavior distractions compromise transportation safety;
- Speak in a quiet manner and do not use profanity;
- Keep hands and head inside the bus;
- Be courteous to fellow riders and driver;
- Take care of the bus and its equipment. Do not take part in any vandalism;
- Tobacco, drugs and alcohol are not to be used on the bus;
- Do not tamper with the emergency door/windows/bus equipment; and
- Unsafe items, weapons and large instruments cannot be carried on the bus.
- The school bus driver may assign seats. Misbehavior can result in removal from the bus for one to 60 days.

If your student rides his or her bike, razor or skateboard to school:

- Please be sure to purchase a sturdy lock.
- Remind your student to lock his or her bike, razor or skateboard in the bike rack securely each day. We have installed a new skateboard rack that allows for students to lock razors and skateboards.
- Discuss the rules of road, how to communicate with drivers and pedestrians, obeying the traffic rules, and how to avoid injury by wearing a helmet and proper shoes when riding.

When your student is a walker;

- Encourage your student to walk to and from school with a friend if possible.
- Discuss being aware of their surroundings, picking the safest route to school and sticking to the route you and your student discuss.
- Remind them to avoid horseplay near the street.
- Never hitchhike or take rides from people not arranged by you.
- Know how long it takes your student to return home from school and check on them to make sure they make it home in a reasonable amount of time.
- Please remind your student about being courteous to the community by being respectful of the homes and property they walk past.

If you drop your student off at school; please stop when children are in crosswalk. Crossing Guards are staff from Mrachek who supervise and expedite the crossing of school children. Crossing Guards oversee and supervise the safety of children traveling to and from school, ensuring that students walk along the designated crosswalks.

It is extremely important to respect the traffic laws.

- Observe and respect the stop sign.
- No Speeding in school zones.
- "U" turns are illegal in the block of Mrachek Middle school.
- Jay walking is not permitted, even if you are walking with your child.
- Please respect red signs; "No dropping off or picking up students" posted at the main entrance, bus loop and parking lot entrance. This is for the safety of staff and students.

Thank you for your respect and support

Jennifer Minor, Dean of Students

*\* Information from Aurora Public Schools Risk Management Department*

## Note From The Nurse

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Colds, respiratory viruses, the flu. What to do? What to do?

1. Hand washing is your first line of defense. Good old soap and water. Hand sanitizer is good in a pinch, but soap and water is best.
2. Get the flu vaccine. It cannot protect you from every strain of the flu, but it will afford protection from many strains of the flu.
3. If you catch a cold, cough into your elbow. After using a tissue, put it in the trash and then wash your hands.
4. Hand Washing. Hand Washing. Hand Washing, I cannot repeat Hand Washing often enough.

Parents,

Thank you for the immunizations that have been coming into the clinic. Keep up the good work! When your child receives the immunizations don't forget to bring a copy to school.

### Medication at School

Middle school students may carry their own cough drops. All other medication needs to come to the clinic with written permission from the parent and physician. Students with Asthma may carry their inhaler IF they have a contract with the school nurse.

The health office does keep Acetaminophen and Ibuprofen for students for occasional use only. The district guidelines indicate no more than 3 days in a row or 5 days in a month. By the guidelines, the occasional use medication is not given the first 4 hours of the day without calling a parent first. This prevents accidentally overdosing a child.

Seventh grade will be screened for vision and hearing in January. If you have concerns about your student's vision or hearing, please call the school nurse and the student will be called to the health office to be screened before the scheduled screening date.

Brenda Cappel, RN, BSN, NCSN  
School Nurse



## Town Center at Aurora Offers APS Computer Kiosks

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APS parents can access computer kiosks at the Town Center at Aurora shopping mall to view their children's Parent Portal accounts, find information on the APS website, or browse mall shopping opportunities.

The APS Parent Portal is part of the Infinite Campus student information system. The portal is a secure, confidential website that allows parents to view current information about their child's attendance, grades, class assignments and other resources. To access the Parent Portal, parents must request a Parent Portal ID from their child's school and then follow the online instructions to set up the account.

The computer kiosks are located on the first level of the mall near Guest Services and on the second level near Radio Shack. The kiosks are a joint venture between Aurora Public Schools and the Town Center at Aurora and are provided as a free service to APS parents and students.

## Returned Mail

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We've noticed a high volume of returned mail from the US Postal Service recently. This may be due to a new address or the postal carrier may not complete the delivery if the family last name is different from the student. If you and your student have a different last name, we ask that you notify the postal carrier in your area or place all the names for your household on the mailbox to ensure proper delivery. Keep in mind that continuous problems with returned mail may affect your child's enrollment for the next school year.

### Do you have a NEW PHONE NUMBER and/or a CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

It is important to notify the school anytime you have a phone number change so we have current information in case of an emergency at the school. If you have a new number, contact Christine Jensen, Registrar/Records Clerk at [cajensen@aps.k12.co.us](mailto:cajensen@aps.k12.co.us) or by calling the school, 303-326-2000, ext. 25423. It is NOT necessary for you to go to the central admissions office for phone number changes.

If you have a new address you MUST visit the Aurora Public Schools central admissions office with the proper documentation to complete the address change. For information regarding the hours of the central admissions office, visit the website at <http://admissions.aurorak12.org/>. This website contains helpful information explaining what documentation is needed to complete a change of address and provides necessary forms for changes. Keep in mind that if address changes are not completed in a timely manner it may affect your child's enrollment for the next school year.

# Moving?

Is there a move in your near future? Maybe over Fall or Winter break? If you move and the student will no longer be attending Mrachek it is imperative that you complete the necessary withdrawal. If you notify us a few days in advance of the students last day we will send the necessary form home with your son or daughter. If you have any questions, contact Christine Jensen, Registrar/Records Clerk at [cajensen@aps.k12.co.us](mailto:cajensen@aps.k12.co.us) or by calling the school, 303-326-2000, ext. 25423.

## COMPASS

Community of Many Providing After-School Success

Have fun while you learn and receive homework support!

What: COMPASS After-School Program

Where: Mrachek Middle School

When:

1st Session - September 08 to November 14

2nd Session - December 01 to February 13

3rd Session - March 02 to May 08

Monday - Friday, 4-6 pm

Healthy Snacks will be provided!

Activities:

Soccer

Art

KidsTek

Homework Help

Literacy

STEM

Martial Arts

Dance

Technology

Cooking

COMPASS CREW

AND MORE....

Contact Rosa Pérez at 303-326-2150 for further information

## COMPASS

Comunidad de muchos proveyendo clases después de escuela

Escuela Secundaria Mrachek

¡Diviértete mientras aprendes y recibes apoyo con tu tarea!

¿Qué?: COMPASS, un programa después de escuela

¿Dónde?: Escuela Secundaria Mrachek

¿Cuándo?:

1er SESION- 8 de septiembre a 14 de noviembre

2da SESION- 1 de diciembre a 13 de febrero

3ra SESION- 2 de marzo a 8 de mayo

- lunes a viernes de 4 a 6pm.
- ¡¡¡se Proveerán snacks saludables!!!

Actividades:

- SOCCER
- ARTE
- KIDSTEK
- APOYO CON LAS TAREAS
- LITERATURA/LECTURA
- STEM (CIENCIA, TECNOLOGIA, INGENIERIA Y MATEMATICAS)
- KARATE
- BAILE
- TECHNOLOGIA
- COCINA
- Y MAS...

Comuníquese con, Rosa Pérez al (303) 326-2150  
PARA MAS INFORMACION



## Reminders from the Bookkeeper

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Please return and/or pay for lost books as soon as possible, to have accurate fee assignments.

Payments can only be accepted in cash or check.

The Bookkeeper does not take \$50.00 or \$100.00 bills.

## Box Tops

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Sign up on The Box Tops website to earn cash for Mrachek Middle School. eBox Tops are the online version of Box Tops and are electronically credited to our school, no clipping required.

Members have access to: Free sample offers • Coupons • Bonus Box Tops offers • Detailed school earnings information

Sign up today at [www.bffe.com](http://www.bffe.com)

## Yearbooks

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Purchase a Yearbook, it is a great way to remember all your friends & memories for years to come.

Pick up an order form in the main office. Yearbooks are only \$ 25.00

See Mrs. Montgomery in the main office to order your 2014 - 2015 Yearbook.

If you missed purchasing the 2013 - 2014 Yearbook last year, don't be sad. We have a few for sale in the main office for only \$ 10.00 while supply lasts.



Free English classes at Mrachek with day care available.

If you have any questions please call Rosa Pérez at (303) 326-2150

Clases de inglés completamente gratis con cuidado de niños disponible.

Para información favor de llamar a Rosa Perez at (303) 326-2150

## Book Fair

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### November 17 – 21, 2014

At the book fair you will find the latest titles for kids, as well as books of interest to parents. Mark your calendar for our Family Event where the whole family can join in the fun. For more information visit the website at <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/mracheckknights>

WHEN: November 17 – November 21

WHERE: Teacher's Lounge

#### SCHEDULE/OPENING HOURS:

Monday, Nov 17, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Tuesday, Nov 18, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Wednesday, Nov 19, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Thursday, Nov 20, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Family Night, 4:30 pm – 8:00 pm  
Friday, Nov 21, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

#### PAYMENT METHODS:

- Cash
- Check
- Master Card, VISA, American Express, Discover

### Shop the Book Fair Online

If you're booked up during Book Fair week (or just want to keep shopping), be sure to visit the Fair online! You may shop online from November 9 – 29, 2014.

- Send wish lists to family and friends
- Browse an expanded book selection – all ages through adult
- All online orders ship free to the school

Access the Online Fair from: November 9 – November 29, 2013 at [www.onlinebookfairs.scholastic.com](http://www.onlinebookfairs.scholastic.com)

## Club Descriptions 2014-2015

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**24 Club:** The objective of the 24 game is to make 24. One may accomplish this number by adding, subtracting, multiplying and / or dividing numbers. Participants in this club will learn to make 24 and will be eligible for a spot to represent Mrachek in the APS 24 tournament held in the Spring.

**The National Junior Honor Society** is a club that promotes excellence & leadership for 7th & 8th graders. They are required to perform 4 hours of community service a semester. The organization is offered in High School as well. Induction will be held in October, with monthly meetings.

**Volunteer Club:** This club is community service based through volunteering with parent permission & consent. Students will work to support a community cause, such as a soup kitchen, clothing drive, canned food drive etc., with the possibility of fund raising to support the cause.

**Yearbook Club** is a group of students who help create the MMS yearbook. Students help in taking pictures at school & community events. Students help to create the yearbook & the overall theme. It is their time to shine & help make memories of MMS last a life time.

**Math Game Club:** This club is centered on playing math board games, math card games, math number dice games etc. to practice math fluency.

**Brotherhood:** 6th -8th grade young men of color working together to achieve goals for ourselves, our families and our communities. This club will hope to provide, direction, positive relationship building skills, identity empowerment & critical consciousness. The club will include a community service project, Christmas Giving.



## Mrachek Middle School After-School Clubs and Activities First Semester Schedule 2014-2015

**Mrachek offers diverse opportunities for our students to become involved in after school activities. An activity bus will be provided for students who are already on an established bus route. The activity bus runs Monday-Friday departing the school at 6:05pm. Bus runs the same days as COMPASS program only, the bus does not pickup if there is no COMPASS that day. Clubs are not offered every week. Students need to obtain schedule from the Club Sponsor. To join a club listed below, please stop by the office to pick up a permission slip.**

Club/Activity	Day of the week	Room#	Sponsor
<b>24 Club</b>	Tuesday & Thursday 7:45 – 8:15 AM	102	Mr. Emmer /Mr. Hunter
<b>National Junior Honor Society</b> (by invitation only)	Thursday 7:15 – 8:15 AM	217	Mr. Glenn
<b>Volunteer Club</b>	Wednesday 4:00 – 5:30 PM	228 224	Mr. Eismont/Mr. Muller
<b>Yearbook</b> (by invitation only)	Days determined by events	218	Ms. Peace
<b>Math game club</b>	Wednesday 4:00 – 5:00 PM	E 5	Ms. Tschudy
<b>Brotherhood</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday 7:00 – 8:00 AM	E 6	Mr. Evangelist /Mr. King Mr. Miles/Ms. Bess

I give my child \_\_\_\_\_ permission to participate in \_\_\_\_\_.

**I understand that bus transportation will be provided to regular bus riders departing the school at 6:05 Monday-Friday, the days that COMPASS is meeting. If the club ends before the activity bus pickup time, students are responsible for their own transportation and will not ride the activity bus home.**

**Bus stops are:**

**Side Creek Elementary**

**Center Point E Center Ave E of Chambers Road**

**610 Kalispell Street Just north of Tollgate Elementary**

**Bristol Village E Exposition Drive**

**Other none bus riding students will be responsible for their own transportation home.**

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Board of Education

JulieMarie A. Shepherd, President  
Cathy Wildman, Vice President  
Mary W. Lewis, Secretary  
Dan Jorgensen, Treasurer  
Barbara Yamrick, Director  
Amber Drevon, Director  
Eric Nelson, Director

## Mrachek Administration

Edward W. Snyder, Principal  
Dr. Elnora Buzek, Assistant Principal  
Colin Hynes, Assistant Principal  
Jennifer Minor, Dean of Students  
Garrett Washington, Dean of Students



Non Profit  
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Public Schools

**Mrachek Middle School**  
Aurora Public Schools  
80 Airport Boulevard  
Aurora, Colorado 80011-9314