

Vikan Middle School

We are VIKAN!

Michele D. Saller
Principal

August 12, 2019

Dear Vikan Community,

Welcome to the opening of what promises to be another wonderful school year! At this time of the year, there is great anticipation of what is to come, and I am as excited for the Vikan teachers, children, and parents to return to the amazing environment that has been created for all that enter our building. Vikan is chasing two goals this year: our first goal is cultivating and nurturing healthy, safe, supportive learning environments with the continued development of a clear behavior system, as well as a positive behavior system (PBIS) for the students that show up every day and are amazing human beings. Our second goal is to develop and create high expectations of learning for all. We believe in creating multitudes of rich thinking opportunities to all that enter, that promote deeper understanding and critical thinking. Vikan has decided to embed the values of COMMUNITY--the idea that together we are better; and BELIEF- the belief in ourselves, each other and our school. We believe that each and every one of us has the ability to grow and learn every day as we strive to become the best version of ourselves.

Together teachers, students, and parents/guardians make a strong Vikan family. We work hard to show how deeply we value the sense of community here at Vikan both amongst the staff itself but also between the families and the school. Throughout the year I look forward to meeting the new members of our community and connecting with returning community members. I encourage families to get to know each other so that we can build new friendships and support each other when a need arises. We have worked to improve our level of communication with the weekly email updates that go to all families, our Facebook page and our website. We are continuing to create and implement an improved system of communication to keep parents updated more consistently with the thinking and happenings at Vikan.

We will offer multiple events throughout the year at Vikan to build a strong feeling of COMMUNITY. Our first event was scheduled for last Monday night, August 5 for our 2nd annual Community BBQ. I so hope you got the chance to attend and reconnect with people from Vikan that have been important in your life or a chance to meet new ones.(friends, teachers, staff, etc.) We had approximately 800 people attend and I so hope you and your family were able to be there. Our Back to School Night is scheduled for Thursday, August 29th from 5:30pm-7:00pm. It will be an Open House format where teachers will be leading conversations throughout the 1.5 hours so families can learn about grade level standards, instruction, projects, and expectations. We have learned that having Back to School Night after school starts is SO much more INTENTIONAL than just having a meet and greet with the teacher before school begins. Meeting with the teachers a few weeks AFTER school begins allows you to hear from your children what their impression is so far and then offers you a chance to speak with the teachers after they have met and spent time with your child(ren). One last opportunity that I don't want you to miss is your chance to join Vikan's PTA, and let me tell you this is "NOT your mother's PTA." This is a team of intelligent, caring and fun individuals that work tirelessly in their pursuit of supporting the students and staff of Vikan. The first meeting of the year is scheduled on Tuesday, September 10th at 5:30pm with future meetings being held on the second Tuesday of every month. Give it a chance, you won't be disappointed!



879 Jessup St Brighton, CO 80601 720/655-4050

Vikan 's numbers continue to increase with us expecting to hit over 680 students this year. Due to the increase in students and the natural changes we have in our lives, we have been blessed to add some new faces and new positions to our amazing teaching staff this year. Please look for the new staff roster available in the front office to see all of the positive changes. Along with this great news of students electing to attend Vikan, our current class sizes are quite large. I have been in negotiations with District Leadership and they are very aware of our numbers and are working diligently to help solve our numbers issue. I will be in touch with solutions and how that may impact your children ASAP. We promise to move forward as fast as we can that allows us to make the best decisions for students and staff.

The teachers have put a lot of time and energy getting ready for the year. Having spent a lot of time at the school this summer, I was impressed (as always) to see the dedication of our staff, preparing all summer for the school year. At Vikan, the staff, faculty, and administration are honored that you entrust us with your precious ones. We appreciate your support as your child enters the classroom and learns and grows throughout the school year. Let's all commit to have a good school year, setting students, as well as teachers, up for success.

A few things to make our year go more smoothly – first, please help us to be good neighbors. There has been a new Hug-n-Go lane created for drivers heading west on Jessup. You will be directed in between the cones to quickly drop off your passengers and then to exit back into traffic on Jessup. There is also a Hug-n-Go lane for drivers heading east on Jessup as well as a curb that you can safely pull up to, to drop off passengers. We will have staff members monitoring the safety in the Hug-n-Go lanes and the parking lot on the west side of the building both before school and after school. Please be respectful of the staff members that are guiding you during those busy and hectic times, they are working to keep everyone safe! And, as tempting as it might be to bring your dog up to school, pets are to remain off campus. If you must bring your dog to campus for some reason, please keep him/her on a leash and across the street. Be considerate of children and adults who might be allergic and/or who might be uncomfortable around animals. And finally, school begins at 8:30 am with the first bell ringing at 8:20 am. You set your child up for success by getting him/her to school on time, ready to learn.

My final thought brings us back to our core value of COMMUNITY. The hours that your children are with us each day are important and we as a staff understand that wholeheartedly. We also believe that when the school and the families work together, we create a stronger support system for the students. We have committed as a staff to consistently be in touch with you about your student's progress through their successes and their needed support and we expect you to be in touch with us when you have questions, concerns, ideas, etc. We are STRONGER TOGETHER and we want to offer you the support you need while your children are here at Vikan. Please feel free to call, email, or stop us in the hallway and/or outside to share your thoughts. We have the best job in the world as we get to advocate for students, staff, and families which allows us to be the driver of building these necessary relationships. As parents, we understand how essential these relationships are and will work hard to help you build them with our staff and myself.

Here's to a great school year!

Sincerely,

VMS Administrative Team

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