



December 2, 2009

Dear NSA West Families:

We are excited to share with you the progress we've made in a few short months regarding the opening of our Highlands Ranch school for the 2010-2011 school year!

Parent Information Meetings

As a reminder, we have two informational meetings coming up and encourage you to attend. This is a good time to meet the Founding Board members as well as parent volunteers on the start up team ask questions you may still have, and bring other interested families to hear about the school. Please help us spread the word and let your friends and neighbors know about these meetings as well!

Thursday, December 3 from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Eastridge Rec Center
Wednesday, December 16 from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Westridge Rec Center

Opening Year Grades Served: Preschool – 5th

As you may remember from last fall, we have been assessing the grade level interest for opening year based on how many Intent to Enroll forms we received per grade and the impact this decision has on our school budget. For the 2010 – 2011 school year, NSA West will serve students in preschool through 5th grade, adding an additional grade each year to reach full enrollment of approximately 625 students in grades Kindergarten – 8th by the 2015-2016 school year. We are targeting an average of 20 students per class in Kindergarten and 25 students per class in 1st – 5th this year and eventually 1st - 8th grades.

Lottery for Enrollment

NSA West is required by the Colorado Department of Education to hold a lottery for enrollment for any grade that is oversubscribed (more interest than seats available). To be included in the lottery for the 2010 - 2011 school year we must receive your Intent to Enroll (ITE) form by January 15, 2010. If you are receiving this email, your ITE has been received for your child(ren) going into kindergarten – 5th grades next school year. If you are interested in submitting an ITE for preschool the deadline is also January 15, 2010.

Lotteries for Kindergarten and Preschool will be held January 19, 2010.

The initial lottery for 1st – 5th grade enrollment was conducted on October 27, 2008. A total of 427 students accepted seats for the opening year and these families are required to return an Enrollment Commitment form by December 8, 2009 to hold their seat for the 2010 - 2011 school year. Any seats that remain open after this date will be filled via a new lottery, as required by the Colorado Department of Education, scheduled for January 19, 2010.

If your child's name is drawn in the January 2010 lottery you will receive a call from our registrar and given 48 hours to respond to the offer to enroll. If we do not hear from you within 48 hours we will remove your name from our database and move to the next name on the list.

Educational Program

As noted in the past, NSA West is implementing the same educational program that is in place at North Star Academy in Parker. This program focuses on three key areas:

1. Core Knowledge curriculum
2. Integrated Spanish language program
3. Character education and service learning programs

We are excited to announce that we are also opening two new programs for the 2010-2011 school year:

1. A Core Knowledge preschool program will be available for 3 and 4 year-olds with opportunities for these young children to explore and create meaning within an age-appropriate environment.
2. A Before/After School Program will provide working families with an alternative to childcare, providing homework help, and a variety of activities that allow for "down time," such as free play and physical exercise.

Additional information about each of these programs is available on our recently updated school website at www.nsawest.org.

Business Update

In order to receive necessary startup grant funding, the Colorado Department of Education has mandated that the business practices for NSA West be separate and distinct from the Parker school. This includes:

- NSA West is governed by a separate Board of Directors. It is important to note that the current Board for NSA West is comprised of many of the original founders of North Star Academy in Parker.
- NSA West is required to have a separate contract with the Douglas County Board of Education, which is already in place.

- NSA West is maintaining a separate financing structure and funds will not be co-mingled between the two schools.

Facility

NSA West will be located at 6161 Business Center Drive in Highlands Ranch. We have already begun work with a very experienced group of architects, contractors and other professionals to turn this building into a beautiful school designed specifically for our preschool – 8th grade program. As we move through this process we will continue to share facility updates with you.

Staff Recruitment

Hiring a strong team who can successfully launch a new school is our top priority for the next few months. The Founding Board is responsible for hiring our Head of School and we are preparing to launch recruitment efforts this month for this position.

Thank you for your continued interest in and commitment to NSA West!

Regards,

The NSA West Founding Board
Jennifer Larson, Lisa Nolan, Kristin Hill, Lorrie Grove, John Schlichting