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The culmination of your high school career comes down to this. Don't miss some key deadlines.

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ON THE COVER

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We're so close to the end of summer! Although, it's not that surprising when you remember we only get two months of summer break. Whatever happened to "Back to School" being in September? Oh, come on, don't look at me like that. I'm not the one who makes the schedule.

Starting the second week of August, kids across Douglas County will be headed back to their desks. From enthusiastic teachers and relieved parents, to procrastinating kids, back to school brings on a lot of emotions.

I should probably have told you from the beginning that this article will be a bit biased. Not just because I'm a student with no children and very little teaching experience, but because I absolutely love school. I know - it's pretty weird in today's society.

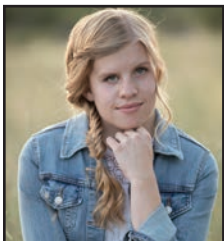
Even from a young age, back to school fascinated me. The new clothes, new classes, new supplies and new people made starting school so exciting! Most kids I knew back in kindergarten and the younger elementary grades were excited for school to begin.

As students grew older, the enthusiasm for school that came easily when they were younger began to disappear. It's hard to be excited for school when you're stressed about summer assignments, pushing yourself to live up to straight "A" standards, and always feeling overwhelmed by the amount of work you have. I often felt stressed or completely overwhelmed by school the older I got.

The reason I still love school, and particularly learning, is centered on a quote I came across by Mark Twain. He said, "I have never let my schooling interfere with my education." Once I realized that school and grades were not the most important thing, I began to focus more on furthering my knowledge and broadening my experiences. This relieved so much of the stress and pressure from me, and I was able to center my efforts on purely learning.

I still worked hard, doing all my assignments and studying for my tests, but the attitude was different now. When you focus on a single letter grade for an entire semester of instruction and experience, you miss out on so much. I saw that the more you enjoy learning, the more working on grades came naturally.

As summer comes to an end and we head back to school, I hope parents, teachers, and students will all remember what school really is about. When we light the fire of wanting to learn and become educated, that is when school becomes truly wonderful.



Samia
High School Graduate 2019

Light The Fire



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First Day of School

Advice for Parents, from Parents and Teachers

If you have little ones, chances are you've seen the movie "Finding Nemo" dozens of times. You'll recall that scene early on, when Marlin is terrified of sending Nemo off to school for the first time. He's overly cautious, dubious of new experiences and terrified that something will happen to Nemo. Later in the movie, Dory puts things in perspective by telling Marlin, "Well, you can't never let anything happen to him. Then nothing would ever happen to him." Letting go of some of those fears and embracing the amazing things that are to come for your little one starting school is just part of growing up... for us parents! Perhaps you have some of the same concerns our readers shared with us:

"I am worried about the longer day. Preschool was only 2 1/2 hours; kindergarten is a full day. I am worried that I won't have her ready. Will she know her letters and numbers before she goes? I don't want her to be behind."

The longer day can be a little difficult to adjust to for kids at the start of the year, but it's a quick adjustment. Making sure they are getting to bed and getting enough sleep each night is paramount; establishing a routine will help in all aspects of bedtime and getting up and ready for their day. Kindergartners come from all different experiences. Some have been in full day preschool/child care, some come from a part time Pre-K experience and others may not have experienced any kind of school environment yet. If you do have major social or academic concerns at the start of the year, the best thing to do is schedule a time to speak to your child's teacher.

"I was worried about her riding the bus and that she wouldn't find her way to class initially. As time went on, I worried about how others would treat her; she is so sweet and sensitive. Was she safe at school?"

The bus can be a big deal for kids. It's daunting and super exciting, all at the same time. If you're worried about them getting on and off at the right spot don't be afraid to talk to the bus driver, they can always give your kiddo a little extra TLC until they get the hang of it. Also, see if there's an older kid at their stop that can buddy up with them until they (and you) are a little more confident. As far as peer relationships go, that's something we have very little control over, other than to prepare your child, as best you can, for interacting with others. Trust that your little one will meet lots of kids they enjoy spending time with in and out of school. School safety is paramount. Yes, teachers are there to educate their students, but their safety and well being are top priority. If parents have specific concerns about safety, they shouldn't hesitate to talk to the school staff about their policy and procedures so you are fully advised on everything they do to keep students, staff and visitors safe at school.

"My middle child will be going into 1st. He has anxiety (like we see a doctor kind of anxiety). Kindergarten was an amazing year for him. He loves school, his teacher and friends. He grew amazingly in both social and academic areas. I'm worried about this year. I'm worried that he's not going to be as comfortable and is going to hate school. He shuts down completely once his anxiety kicks in."

Kids feed off of parent anxiety and vice versa, so the more parents can speak definitively and be matter-of-fact, the better. Remind your child what he's accomplished so far and always take the time to celebrate the little successes. Maybe go outside and blow bubbles while talking about things causing any anxiety to reinforce deep breathing. Also, it's important to engage kids in anything having to do with numbers. Try counting in patterns or do simple fun math games. It's

proven that your brain can't be anxious at the same time it's engaged in activities that demand left brain function. Another good idea is to set some fun dates (outings, movies, etc.) to look forward to that he can focus on when he needs a happy place.

"My oldest is going into 3rd. She is academically advanced (she is working on a 6th grade level). I'm worried about keeping her engaged and challenged."

Wow! That's amazing. On the one hand, a skilled teacher will recognize and challenge her. On the other hand, there truly is only so much a teacher can do given the 20+ other kids in the class. Be sure to talk with her teacher and the administration to make sure she is getting the interventions needed throughout the year. Also, maybe see about other enrichment activities they may offer after school like robotics or chess to peak her interest. Find activities, not necessarily all focused on the academic, that challenge her and engage her at home.

"And then my youngest... heaven help his teachers. He starts Pre-K this year. He is academically and socially ready but he is a handful. I worry about him because he is a social butterfly. I don't want him getting in trouble and then deciding that he hates school. But on the other hand, I also don't want him to charm his way out of trouble. It's a Catch 22."

Pre-K teachers are a very special breed. Their patience and creativity seems to be limitless, and many days that is a good thing! So much of Pre-K and even Kindergarten is learning how to be a little human. The social and emotional growth children gain build confidence and demonstrate a readiness to learn. Every child who comes to Pre-K has that same lack of school day experience, but those teachers can work magic. Give 'em a week and watch what happens.



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So You Have A Senior ...

Senior year is filled with numerous celebrations, but there are also numerous deadlines. Keep track of these deadlines to stay ahead of the curve.



Senior Year Checklist

- ☐ Book senior photos. They are usually due in the first semester, so having them done before school starts or soon after the start of the year is a good idea.
- ☐ If your senior doesn't already have an idea of the colleges they want to apply to, start looking. Take the opportunity to visit and tour schools. Chances are multiple colleges will be appealing, so the sooner they start looking, the sooner they'll be able to research their choices and narrow down the list for applications.
- ☐ College applications open as early as September; the sooner they apply the better!
- ☐ Have your senior start looking for scholarships. It is never too early to start applying. Applying for scholarships can continue throughout senior year and even into summer.
- ☐ Have your senior check class credit requirements as soon as school starts; they should already be set, but it doesn't hurt to double check. Don't get to the end of the year and find out they can't graduate because they missed a credit somewhere!
- ☐ Most schools require at least 20 hours of community service as a graduation requirement. Check how many hours they've completed. Ideally, they should try to complete their remaining hours first semester so they can focus on college applications and other requirements for the remainder of the year.

- ☐ Check on their grades repeatedly; graduation eligibility hinges on grades and failing grades would prohibit them from graduating with the rest of their class.

What Seniors Should Know

Advice to Seniors, from a College Freshman

- Senior Year IS NOT the easiest year. If anything, you should push harder senior year to finish out strong.
- College applications require transcripts. They also require a final transcript to be sent at the end of the year. Senior year grades are taken into serious consideration, so make sure to stay on top of school senior year!
- Grades are important, however, make sure to enjoy your senior year. Don't miss out on things like senior sunrise/sunset, senior assemblies, etc. These special events will make it a lot of fun finishing out your last year of high school!
- Take advantage of the resources available to you. People like counselors and English teachers can answer questions about credits, community service hours, and college/scholarship applications or essays. And don't forget about google when you need help on those essays!



COLLEGE: Healthy Eating 101

If you are heading off to college soon you may want to take note of these nutrition tips. Listed are ideas for eating healthy in the cafeteria and in your dorm room. These points should help make healthy eating easier.

1. Keep a water bottle with you at all times. Just the sight of it will remind you to drink more water. Drink water with every meal.
2. Keep a well-stocked fruit basket on a table in your dorm room.
3. Stock a small refrigerator with vegetables, yogurt, whole grain bread, applesauce, snap peas and nuts.
4. Don't skip breakfast, but go ahead and skip some breakfast foods! Look for whole grain breads, oatmeal, fruit, fruit salad and granola. Skip the bacon, sausage, and greasy eggs.
5. Occasionally substitute that cheeseburger and fries with a bean burrito, tuna wrap or chicken sandwich.
6. Try fresh fruit, fruit salads, and fruit toppings when you want something sweet.
7. Load up on fresh veggies at the salad bar as often as you can. Go for the nonfat dressing and limit cheese, bacon bits and croutons.
8. Whenever possible choose 100% whole grain breads, tortillas, pastas and cereals.
9. Limit juice to a small glass with breakfast. Orange and grapefruit juice are high in vitamin C.
10. Don't drink soda, it's not a real food and does nothing for you nutritionally.
11. Avoid breaded and fried foods. Breaded foods are loaded with fat from cooking oils.
12. Be choosy at dinnertime; remember you don't have to try everything. You'll have another chance!
13. Ask for grilled veggies or soup in place of fries.
14. Stay away from vending machines.
15. If you stay up late you are bound to get hungry. Instead of ordering a late night pizza, try having some fruit and a granola bar instead.
16. Enjoy your baked potato or sweet potato with a small amount of cottage cheese or plain yogurt instead of loading it with butter, sour cream and bacon bits.
17. Frequently enjoy vegetable soups and limit consumption of creamy soups.
18. Enjoy salsa on your sandwich instead of mayonnaise. Tomatoes, lettuce, cucumber and peppers are also great additions.
19. Eat beans! Beans with rice, in burritos, in soups, chili and hummus. Beans are a great low-fat source of protein and keep you full for longer.
20. Have nuts on hand when you need a quick snack in-between classes. Go for the unsalted raw kind found at a health food store in the refrigerated section.
21. Allow yourself 2-3 reasonable treats per week so you don't feel deprived.

THE GUIDE

THE BEST PLACES TO DINE IN DOUGLAS COUNTY

In the interest of providing the 50 best dining options in Douglas County, we must be able to personally recommend each listing. The guide is subject to change. If you have a suggestion for inclusion on the list, email us at contribute@tuellers.com.

KEY

Based on a typical dinner for one person, excluding drinks, tax or tip.

\$ Under \$15
\$\$ \$15-\$25
\$\$\$ Over \$25
(EC) Editors Choice
(N) New

ASIAN FUSION

DANCING NOODLE

A small, family owned, dine-in and take-out restaurant that serves authentic homestyle Thai food.

10841 S. Crossroads Dr., Suite 10, Parker
303-805-3880 \$\$

INDOCHINE

A local go-to for quality home-style cuisine. This Parker fixture is known for a fresh, creative menu.

19751 E Mainstreet, Parker
720-851-8559 \$\$

ITO SUSHI ASIAN BISTRO

Asian fusion restaurant known for quality ingredients and fresh fish daily.

2240 Mercantile St #100, Castle Rock
720-749-6777 \$\$ (N)

JOHN HOLLY'S

Chinese and Thai dishes that are nothing less than the culinary equivalent of an exotic adventure.

9232 Park Meadows Dr, Lone Tree
303-768-9088 \$\$



PEGASUS

A local favorite for breakfast and lunch, Pegasus has something for everyone. They have served an eclectic menu in a comfortable setting for the past 31 years. While you're there, go see the giant riverboat roulette wheel behind the bar!

JUNZ

A favorite sushi place in town with a unique blend of Japanese and French at its very best.

11211 S. Dransfeldt Rd., Parker
720-851-1005 \$\$

BAKERY/DESSERTS

LA PETITE CREPERIE

The locals favorite spot to grab made-to-order crepes. Sweet or savory, you can't go wrong. Proudly serving farm to table fresh.

19751 Mainstreet, Parker
720-638-9722 \$ (EC)

PARIS BAGUETTE

Popular Korean chain that brings expertly crafted baked goods through a warm and welcoming bakery cafe' experience that delivers joy to everyone.

18374 Cottonwood Dr., Parker
720-500-5555 \$ (N)

POULETTE BAKESHOP

New artisan bakers taking Parker by storm. Order early, they sell out every day!

19585 Hess Road, Parker
303-955-5647 \$ (N)

BARBEQUE

BIG JIMS

Don't be fooled by this being a food truck; if you like southern BBQ, this is your place. **Corner of Parker Rd and Longs Way, Parker** \$\$\$

GQUE BBQ

Award-winning food. Try the wood-smoked ribs, brisket, pork, or garlic potatoes.

8433 Park Meadows Center Dr., Suite 143B, Lone Tree
303-729-2506 \$\$

HICKORY HOUSE

The Parker tradition. Known for their baby back ribs, but don't miss the pulled pork and barbeque chicken.

10335 S Parker Rd, Parker
303-805-9742 \$\$

OLD WEST BBQ

A hidden gem with family-friendly pricing. Don't miss out on their breakfast burritos. **107 Wolfensberger Rd., Castle Rock**
303-660-6340 \$

BREW PUB

20 MILE TAP HOUSE

Best known for their burgers and wings. Make sure to catch Trivia Tuesdays.

12543 N Hwy 83, Parker
303-841-6782 \$\$

GREAT DIVIDE BREWERY & ROADHOUSE

Destination locale with an informal ambiance offering hearty comfort classics

215 Wilcox St Suite G, Castle Rock
303-955-5788 \$\$ - \$\$\$ (N)

ROCKYARD BREWING CO.

Douglas County's longest running brew pub. Steaks, burgers, pizza and soup!
880 Castleton Rd, Castle Rock
303-814-9273 \$\$

TAILGATE TAVERN & GRILL

Your neighborhood tavern for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Sports bar with live music not to miss on the weekends. **19552 E. Mainstreet, Parker** 303-841-7179 \$\$

THE LIBRARY CO. BAR & KITCHEN

Offering great food & amazing drinks in a relaxed and warm atmosphere. Clear and simple menu options. **3911 Ambrosia St., Suite 101, Castle Rock** 720-389-5986 \$\$

ITALIAN

CRANELLI'S

Comfort Italian food in a rustic, cozy, casual family-oriented format. **10047 Park Meadows Dr., Lone Tree** 303-799-3661 \$\$

DANIELLE'S SCRATCH KITCHEN

Stylish, energetic eatery offering elevated Italian fare with an emphasis on great customer service. **872 Happy Canyon Rd. Suite 100, Castle Rock** 303-524-9788 \$\$\$

PORTOFINO

Authentic Italian eatery featuring pizza, pasta, calzones and heros. The local "go-to" for fresh Italian. **10920 S Parker Rd, Parker** 303-841-9900 \$\$

SCILEPPI'S

A modern Italian restaurant focused on family recipes and premium ingredients. **210 Third St., Castle Rock** 303-688-9000 \$\$

VIA BACI

Neapolitan pizzas join modern Italian fare at this casual eatery featuring a full bar & patio. **10005 Commons St, Lone Tree** 303-790-0828 \$\$

MEXICAN

ADRIANNA'S

Intimate Mexican eatery for authentic cuisine in a relaxed ambiance. Great for parties. **7272 E Hwy 86, Franktown** 303-663-7800 \$\$

CASA MARIACHI

Unassuming local joint serving up straight-forward Mexican plates. **9771 S Parker Rd, Parker** 720-842-5105 \$\$

LA LOMA

Upscale-rustic atmosphere known for traditional Mexican meals. **6361 Promenade Pkw, Castle Rock** 303-632-9900 \$\$ (N)

LAS POTRANCES

Casual Mexican restaurant full of real Mexican culture, Mexican Food, Fresh Drinks, and Friendly Hospitality. **19600 Solar Cir, Parker** 303-840-0325 \$\$ (N)

LOS DOS POTRILLOS

Elegant family-owned eatery. There's a combo dish to please everyone. **6370 Promenade Pkwy., Castle Rock** 720-769-5474 \$\$

LOS VOLCANES

Don't miss the Carnitas! And bring your appetite for the large portions. **10471 S. Parker Rd., Parker** 303-841-0160 \$\$

NEW AMERICAN

CASTLE CAFE

Set in a former 1890s hotel. Plating hearty American fare like pan-fried chicken & burgers. **403 Wilcox St, Castle Rock** 303-814-2233 \$\$

VALERIE'S BREWHOUSE

Uniquely fun sports bar with a creative menu of brats and dogs. **971 Park St., Castle Rock** 303-660-2399 \$

CRAVE

A favorite gourmet burger joint. Imaginative menu with amazing handcrafted shakes. **3982 Limelight Ave, Castle Rock** 303-814-2829 \$\$

DOUG'S DAY DINER

American breakfast cafe where everything is made from scratch. **18595 Mainstreet, Parker** 720-476-7162 \$\$

MANNA

A casual sit-down destination with a menu that reflects Colorado's growing season. **2350 Meadows Blvd., Castle Rock** 720-455-3664 \$

PARKER GARAGE

The Parker landmark located right downtown offers a locally-sourced menu. Great service and large portions. **19420 Mainstreet, Parker** 720-389-8105 \$\$ (EC)

PEGASUS

A local favorite for breakfast or lunch. American, Greek or Mexican dishes. **313 Jerry St., Castle Rock** 303-688-6746 \$\$

RORY'S

Comfort food and baked goods at their finest. Don't see it on the menu? Ask for it! **11020 S Pikes Peak Dr., Parker** 720-708-2889 \$\$

SIERRA

High-end, wood-fired kitchen with a warm ambiance, preparing select American dishes. **10680 Cabela Dr., Lone Tree** 303-662-8800 \$\$

TRIBE AT RIVERWALK

Upscale, yet casual dining experience with a one-of-a-kind menu. Don't miss the brunch. **115 Wilcox Street, Castle Rock** 303-362-0904 \$\$\$ (N)

WEST MAIN TAPROOM

A modern and open venue that boasts thoughtful and honest cuisine. A haven for the gluten-free crowd. **18595 Mainstreet, Parker** 720-826-3689 \$\$

PIZZA

ANTONIO'S

A traditional family-style Italian pizza restaurant with a Brooklyn flair. **12947 S Parker Rd., Parker** 720-851-5300 \$

ARTISAN

Delicious Neapolitan-style pizza that makes each dish an individual work of art! And don't forget dessert. **12311 Pine Bluffs Way, Parker** 303-840-0518 \$

COLORADOUGH

A refreshing take on made-from-scratch pizza. So fresh they don't even have a freezer! **17860 Cottonwood Dr., Parker** 303-386-3333 \$\$

LIL' RICCI'S

New York pizzas & other red sauce staples in a low-key setting. Can't miss the garlic knots. **16526 Keystone Blvd, Parker** 303-220-7422 \$\$

PARRY'S

NY-style pizza, wings, & casual Italian eats, in kid-friendly quarters. **5650 Allen Way, Castle Rock** 303-814-8686 \$\$





STEAKHOUSE

DUKE'S

Rustic restaurant featuring beef & seafood dishes, plus a sports tavern with an Irish vibe.

**363 Village Square Lane,
Castle Pines**

303-814-2487 \$\$\$

FOGO DE CHAO

Upscale Brazilian steakhouse with all-you-can-eat meat carved tableside. Guaraná is a must, and try the Creme de Papaya. **8419 Park Meadows Center Dr., Lone Tree**

303-481-4001 \$\$\$ (EC)

PERRY'S

Chops, seafood, wine, & cocktails served in an upscale setting with a lounge & live jazz. **8433 Park Meadows Center Dr., Lone Tree**

303-792-2571 \$\$\$

TEXAS ROADHOUSE

Texas-themed steakhouse with a great menu and wonderful atmosphere.

**11205 S. Parker Rd,
Parker**

303-805-5848 \$\$

TRAPPER'S CHOP HOUSE

Upscale hideaway local favorite featuring their signature Volcanic Hot Rock sear-it-yourself experience.

**19308 Cottonwood Dr.,
Parker**

303-248-2132 \$\$\$

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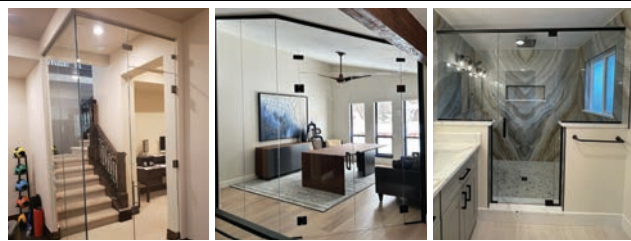
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