

We finally have students on campus! Our elementary school is up and running! Kindergarten – 2nd grade returned September 8, and we welcomed back our 3rd – 5th graders the following week. Classes are running smoothly, safety measures remain in place and our campus is alive again!

We would like to continue our re-entry plan for the middle school and high school students but are waiting on the go ahead from the New Mexico Public Education Department. Our dedicated Board of Education drafted a petition to Secretary of Education, Ryan Stewart, and the Public Education Department to allow us to continue to phase back in grades 6th – 12th as we had originally planned. We hope that by the time this article goes to press, we will have some dates set. Visit our website, cmsbears.org, for the latest information as well as to read the petition our Board of Education drafted to get our students back to in person learning in the classroom.

On a very exciting note we would like to Congratulate Senior Stephen Pan who is a National Merit Semi-Finalist! This is an amazing achievement in that out of over 1.6 million juniors who took the PSAT-NMSQT only 1% or 16,000 scored high enough to become a National Merit Semi-Finalist. The next step for Stephen is to take his upcoming SAT and score well enough to become one of the 7500 Finalists!! Being a National Merit Semi-Finalist or Finalist attracts many of the finest colleges in the United States. We are proud of Stephen and excited about the many opportunities that will be coming his way. Great Job Stephen and good luck on the next step!! (picture of Stephen Pan)

Another exciting note is that we have three more 2020 Graduates who will be competing in athletics in college. Landyn Wimsatt will be competing in bull riding this year at Texas Tech in Lubbock. Erykah Watson is running cross-country in Arizona at Ottawa University and Zane Seidel, who was homeschooled but ran for our cross-country team for 4 years, was asked to run for Eastern New Mexico University when their season resumes. We wish them all well and the BEST in their sports!! (pictures of Landyn, Erykah and Zane)

Another note about cross-country is that our Boys Cross-Country team was ranked #24 in the state out of 116 schools 5A – 1A. We are very proud of them and look forward to how they will compete at State this year – last year they were second in 1A/2A. Go Bears!! (use attached picture)

Mentioning sports, please see our sports schedules on our website, cmsbears.org. Cross country and volleyball will be competing this fall and then in the winter and spring we have basketball, football and track & field.

Since I am mentioning positive things going on in our schools, I want to mention our Lunch Ladies! They are preparing meals for all students in our community who request them, preparing lunches for those students in school and delivering those meals to the classrooms. They were recently recognized by the cafeteria's District Manager, George Esquivel "The team at Cloudcroft Municipal Schools has done a magnificent job

preparing for students to start school, complete with Safe Café signage emphasizing the importance of physical distancing.” Way to go Ladies. I am not sure what we would do without each and everyone of you!! Thank you for your dedication to our students. (use attached picture of them with the signs)

One thing not so positive is after the Legislative Special Session of 2020, our district received a significant decrease in funding. This is a real loss to our operational dollars that impacts educational programs for our students. Even though our SB-9 Capital Improvement bond passed due to our generous community who values our students' education, this money is ear-marked by statute for capital improvements for our buildings and grounds and cannot supplement what the legislature cut from our operational dollars. Rest assured, OUR main priority is to ensure that our students will still receive the exceptional academic programs they deserve!

On that note, I want to Thank all of our Students, Parents and Staff Members for their hard work during this unprecedented start of school. We are Cloudcroft Strong and together; we will make great things happen!! Go Bears!