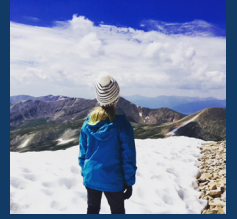




# 14



## THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT MITCHELL ELEMENTARY



There are so many reasons to love Mitchell ES that it was difficult to narrow the list down to a top 10, so we landed on 14. Our selections, presented in no particular order, reflect a cross-section of what Mitchell is all about: community, partnerships, learning, connections and growth. We welcome you to visit [mitchell.jeffcopublicschools.org](http://mitchell.jeffcopublicschools.org) and experience the things we love about Mitchell.

Mitchell Elementary is proud to be a Golden Area School nestled between North Table Mountain and the City of Golden. Please check out our website to see how we Connect Today to Transform Tomorrow.

*Our Mission: The Mitchell Elementary School Community provides an environment in which all children can learn and succeed.*



**JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Mitchell Elementary School  
201 Rubey Drive  
Golden, CO 80403  
303-982-5875  
[mitchell.jeffcopublicschools.org](http://mitchell.jeffcopublicschools.org)



## 1 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Our school wouldn't be what it is without the partnerships that make learning a community effort. Our kids work with the students at the **Colorado School of Mines**, benefit from the support of the **Golden Civic Foundation**, and **Golden Schools Foundation**, and connect with our strong **PTA**, **Golden Business Partners** and **Volunteer** basis- over 40 volunteers a day! We even supplement our Science Curriculum thanks to **ELF** (Environmental Learning for the Future) with parent volunteers who partner with the **Denver Museum of Nature & Science**.

Mitchell's **PTA** brings us all together for amazing events and ways for students to highlight their talents and strengths---Math & Science Night, All Pro Dad's Breakfasts, ELF (Environmental Learning for the Future), Open Mic Night, the Garden Harvest Festival, and Spring Social- Western on Washington are just a few. [www.mitchellpta.org](http://www.mitchellpta.org)

Students jam the streets of Golden for this annual event, **The Golden Gallop**, where they race for the **Golden Schools Foundation**, and bragging rights for our PE Teacher & winning the Gallop Cup. The proceeds directly impact our students and teachers with grants benefiting the classroom & instruction.

Connecting with student athletes, the **Colorado School of Mines** Reading Athletic Program, Recess Coaches & Work Study students make literacy, core themes, and physical activity a part of our daily routines.



## 3 TEACHER COLLABORATION

Did you know the highest effect size on student learning is collective teacher efficacy? Students can make up to four years of growth in one year? Our Mitchell teachers value collaboration and shared leadership as evidenced by **Professional Learning Communities**, a commitment to student learning (academically & affectively), and instilling habits of mind which set all learners up for success. We strive to be what educational researcher John Hattie describes: "The greatest influence on student progression in learning is having highly expert, inspired and passionate teachers and school leaders working together to maximize the effect of their teaching on all students in their care." Better Together!



## 4 VISIBLE LEARNING

We make promises to our students for **Visible Learning** to respect the currencies brought to the classroom, provide challenging and engaging instruction that stretches ability, help them get better at learning, take on the work of learning, enjoy the fruits of learning, learn alongside students, and more.



## 2 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT & GROWTH

Our **Points of Pride** span the gamut from academic to social emotional to a great place to work & and teach. All of our success is attributed to our community and kids! Every student deserves to make at least a year's growth in a year's time. Growing minds is a focus, and our students make more growth in ELA and Math, including our Gifted & Talented Students and English as a Second Language Students, than their counterparts in the State of Colorado & District. Science achievement is one of the highest in the state. Mitchell has been awarded the **John Irwin Award for Achievement** and **Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award** for high growth for multiple years by the Colorado Department of Education.



## 5 MULTI-TIERED SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT

We believe every student has the right to instruction that meets their needs. **Multi-Tiered Systems (MTSS)** is a process that provides high-quality, research-based instruction (both intervention and extension) that is matched to students' academic, social and behavioral needs. In addition to core classroom instruction, we collaboratively create short cycles of differentiated instruction facilitated by trained staff, monitor progress, and adjust based on student response. With a strong MTSS system, Mitchell ensures all students succeed!



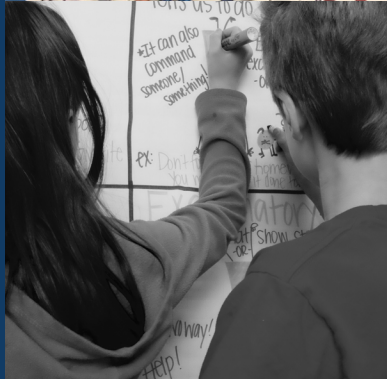
## 6 HEALTHY SCHOOLS

An official Jeffco Healthy School since 2012, Mitchell continues to build healthy habits in our students and staff. Mileage Club, Recess Coaches, Fuel Up to Play 60, the Mustang March, Rocktober, Movin' in May, Garden Club are just some of the many ways we support wellness in our school.



## 7 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

An example of Mitchell's strong tradition of partnerships includes **Project-Based Learning** opportunities with world-renowned artist, Susan Cooper, to create an artistic statement, *What Shapes Golden?*. Students also created world recycled art with Charlotte Basin, are building a Little Library, and have a Solar Art project in the works now! Students can learn in our **#thinkingspace** or **#techstudio** in addition to the classroom. Digital Work Portfolios, Genius Hour, LAMP (Library, Art, Music & PE) Night are all staples of our learning landscape.



## 8 PBIS & SEL

Expectations are defined and **Mitchell ROCKS! Respect--Organization--Community--Kindness--Safety**. PBIS (Positive Behavior & Intervention Support) is our foundation to build SEL (Social Emotional Learning) supports and scaffolds for all students through **Second Step**, Bully Prevention and Child Protection Units of Study, Problem-Solving STEPS & **Restorative Practices**. The Golden Police Department also has a part in our important work with **Life Skills** & the **YESS** program.



## 9 SHARED AGREEMENTS

**Write More:** Writing is not an isolated subject, it's a tool for learning. We connect reading, writing, and thinking throughout the day and across contents. Students use writing to generate questions, create understanding, communicate thinking, and reflect on their learning.

**Give Feedback:** Teachers provide **feedback**, link learning goals to **success criteria** and pace instruction to allow for student to progress. Students have ownership of their learning and are asking, "Where am I now?, How can I close the gap?, and "Where am I going?". When students regularly share their progress, their confidence as learners grows. Motivation to do well increases as does their achievement.

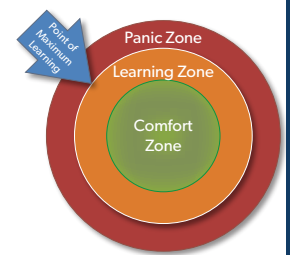
**IF IT DOESN'T CHALLENGE YOU, IT WON'T CHANGE YOU**

**Grow Minds:** Growth is an expectation for all adults and students at Mitchell. We live in the "Learning Zone" and see challenges as opportunities to become better. A culture that builds **growth mindset** is one of our greatest

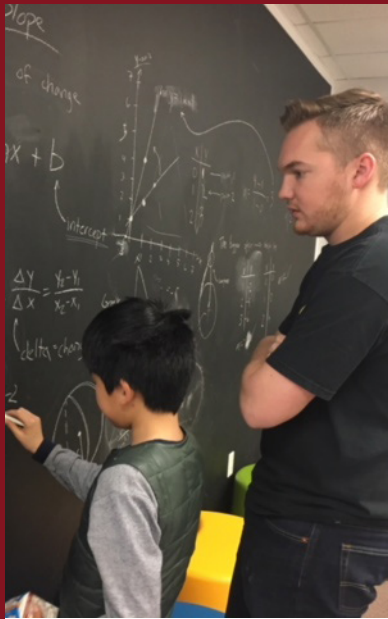
assets. Our students know, "All things are difficult before they become easy."-- Thomas Keller

**Seek Balance:** High impact schools have prioritized values, fewer initiatives based on those values, and strike a **balance** between those initiatives. We find our balance through clarity in our instructional practices/content, a focus on the affective needs of students, intentional movement and mindfulness breaks

**Make Connections:** How can learning be **rigorous** without **strong relationships** and **relevance**? Students must **connect** with content to make meaning for themselves, place their own structures on information, and then apply their learning to new, novel, and authentic situations. To engage in deep learning, students must feel connected to their teacher, classroom, peers, and school. We strive to create this learning environment for each of our students. At Mitchell, **connections matter**.

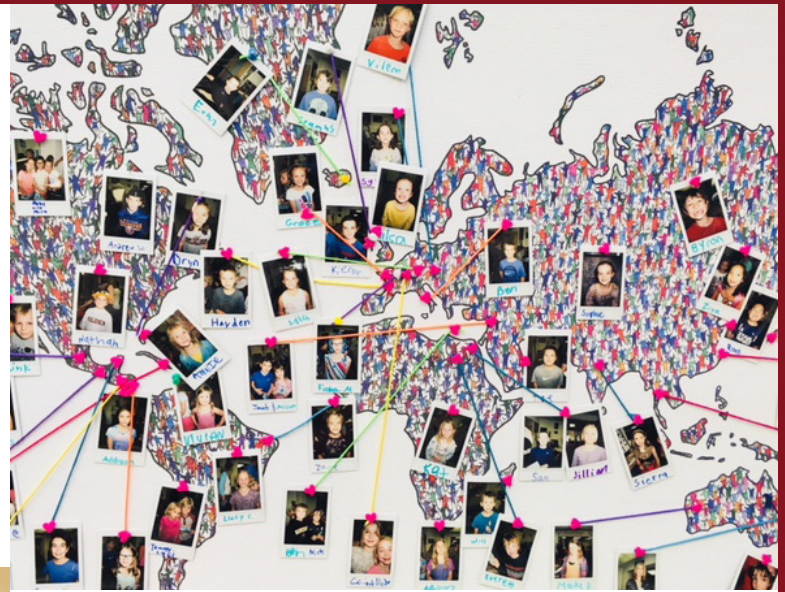






## 10 DIVERSITY & EQUITY

Awarded the Wayne Caryl Diversity & Equity Award, Mitchell's Diversity & Equity Committee strives to provide an inclusive learning environment with events such as Multicultural Night & Heritage Festival, participating in the **Global Read Aloud**, creating a **Global Library**, borrowing Cultural Trunks from museums, and implementing the **AMAZE** curriculum.



## 11 POINTS OF PRIDE

Wayne Caryl Diversity & Equity Award, John Irwin, Governor's Distinguished Improvement, ESGR- National Guard & Reserve Patriotic Employer Award, Best of the Best: Best Golden School



## 13 OUR LEARNERS

Students understand what they are supposed to learn, monitor their progress, set goals and reflect on their learning. What students say matters to us, and we conduct Student Focus Groups throughout the year to listen to the student voice. Here's what kids say about their learning:

"I know when I've learned something when I can solve a problem multiple ways."

"I can tell I'm making progress when I look at an old piece of my writing and a new piece of my writing. I can see where I've grown."

"I know I'm making progress when things that used to be hard are easy for me."



## 12 THE CITY OF GOLDEN

Howdy Folks! **The City of Golden** is not only our geographic location, but also a vital part of Mitchell's support system--- from a Playground Grant, to the Safe Routes for Schools Grant, to building an Outdoor Learning Landscape Classroom, all benefiting our school.



## 14 INSTRUCTIONAL DAY

At Mitchell, we promise systemic instructional practices, such as Thinking Maps, students can depend on from year to year. This includes a Workshop Model in core content areas with 10-15 minutes of teacher-led instruction and a focused Learning Target, 40-60 minutes of student application and transfer time- independent, group, peer partnerships, and 5-10 minutes of closure and reflection on learning. In all subjects, we use common language and Learning Progressions to help students see how learning builds and where they are in the process.