

Subject: Bear Creek Receives Governor's Science Bright Spot Award

Dear Bear Creek Community,

It is my honor to share that Colorado Governor Jared Polis announced that Bear Creek is among 16 schools to receive the Governor's Science Bright Spot Awards. On the 2023 CMAS Science assessment, our students who met or exceeded expectations surpassed the state average by at least fifty percent!

This is the third round of Bright Spot Awards by Governor Polis, designed to highlight the resilience of Colorado's students and schools following the pandemic. As part of this award, Bear Creek Elementary will receive \$50,000 from the Federal Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund.

In the announcement, Governor Polis stated, "By highlighting the top sixteen schools in the state for science achievement, we are shining a light on what works. We look forward to finding out what works at these schools and helping more students excel in science. Improving science education will help students and our state. Many of Colorado's booming job sectors, like aerospace, are based on science, so I am thrilled to provide these science-education related grants to schools so our teachers have the tools in the classroom and students can learn and get into good-paying jobs."

Funds awarded to our school must be spent on qualifying expenses by September 30, 2024. Such expenses could include tutoring and other enrichment services, purchasing educational technology, summer school and after-school programming, non-executive instructional support employment, and professional development or training for teachers. I look forward to working with Bear Creek staff to determine the best way to use these funds on behalf of our current and future students.

I am proud of our staff for creating engaging, inclusive, and safe classrooms where all subjects are taught at the highest levels. Bear Creek students love learning and continue to show some of the highest achievement and growth in Colorado.

With great pride in Bear Creek,

Tanner Dayhoff, Principal
Bear Creek Elementary School