



THE COLORADO SPRINGS SCHOOL ADMISSION NEWSLETTER

719-434-3500

ADMISSION@CSS.ORG

WWW.CSS.ORG



We Said Yes to CSS!

Congrats to Raelynn & family as she joins the CSS community as a PreK student! Her parents, Rachel & Bryon, state, "One night, searching through the plethora of school options, I stumbled upon CSS. After digging into it, I was like, let's just do the tour & see how we feel. The first night we brought Rae, she LOVED the place... literally could not get her to leave! After that night, we just knew we had found our place!"

UPCOMING EVENTS

Carnival & Open House

Sept. 26th 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon of fun with the CSS community and see how our quad is transformed into a carnival of games! Open to families interested in PreK-12th grades. Wristband for games & food provided. Campus tours will be offered.

**APPLICATION FEE WAIVED FOR
ATTENDEES!**



SCAN QR CODE TO RSVP



Student Spotlight

At just 14 years old, Louis Chighizola, class of '29, accomplished something many adults only dream of—his very first solo flight in a glider. With clear skies, weeks of preparation, and the support of his family and club members, Louis officially joined the long tradition of young aviators taking to the air on their own for the first time.

Louis' passion for flight comes naturally. His father is a former Air Force pilot, and Louis himself aspires to one day become a commercial airline pilot.

Before he could fly alone, Louis logged 28 training flights alongside his instructor. His 29th flight, however, was different. Escorted to the skies by the tow plane piloted by club president Jessica, Louis was released at about 1,500 feet above the ground. From there, he was in charge.

"I felt free," Louis said, summing up the life-changing experience of piloting without anyone else in the cockpit.

Accompanying him in the cockpit was not only his training and determination, but also a special rosary and a small American flag—symbols of faith, family, and patriotism he carried as he soared over Colorado.

Now that Louis has completed his milestone first solo, his journey as a pilot has truly begun. For him, it's not just a teenage adventure, but the first of many steps toward a future in aviation. And for those who watched from the ground, it was a reminder of the beauty of determination, preparation, and the freedom of flight.

Message from Head of School

As we begin the school year, I want to remind everyone of our mission. "Through superior academics and mentoring, CSS prepares students to think independently and to meet the challenges of a dynamic world with leadership, ingenuity, problem-solving skills, and personal integrity." It's going to be a great year at The Colorado Springs School!



Dr. Ryan Kelly



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College Corner

A standout offering at CSS is our college and career counseling service guided by Mr. Erik Playe. Here are some quick stats showcasing this distinctive program.

- Upper school students dedicate between 50-75 hours working closely with Mr. Playe throughout their high school journey, gaining the skills and knowledge to confidently pursue their academic journeys beyond CSS.
- 99% of our students attend college immediately after graduating.
- 100% of our students get accepted to college & receive merit scholarships.

Fun Fact:

There are over 5,000 colleges in the U.S!



CSS Snapshots



Our PreK students are hard at work preparing a garden box as they get their garden ready for planting—building teamwork, strengthening fine motor skills, and having fun along the way!



Lower School students gathered on the quad for their morning crew meeting—an opportunity to build community and strengthen their connections with one another!



Middle School students had a blast at their inaugural CREW Fest, where they teamed up to design and create unique class flags—celebrating creativity, collaboration, and school spirit!



Upper School students had a blast at the inaugural QuadFest, featuring an epic dodgeball showdown against faculty, sweet treats from an ice cream truck, and a live DJ that kept everyone dancing!



Faces of our Faculty

Meet our new Dean of Student Life, Dr. Teneshia A. Taylor! Dr. Taylor is an accomplished

educational leader with over 20 years of experience creating supportive, inclusive learning environments where all students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. She brings exceptional expertise in student behavioral support, social-emotional learning implementation, and restorative justice practices to foster a positive school culture centered on student voice and agency.

What is one thing Dr. Taylor enjoys about CSS?

"The warmth, talent, and expertise of every faculty and staff member I have met."

Get Involved!

Interested in supporting CSS through philanthropic support, educational enrichment, or having us out at community events? Contact our Community Engagement Coordinator at cvreadis@css.org or 719-434-3520.



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Congrats to Gianni & family as he joins the CSS community as a 4th grader! His parents are thrilled he is here & his mother, Iris, states, "I wanted Gianni to have better learning opportunities, to be challenged, to be in a smaller class, & receive more individualized attention." After attending an open house in the spring, the family fell in love with the school. Since starting at CSS, Iris has found that Gianni is excited to come to school & is thriving!



Dr. Ryan Kelly, Head of School, is excited to launch the 2025–26 academic year with Summit to Success: Elevating Excellence at CSS, a celebration of how every child's journey to excellence begins here. This initiative highlights the many ways CSS supports students in reaching their peak potential, with opportunities throughout the year for families to connect, engage, and celebrate excellence together.

As part of this year's focus, families will be invited to special events and conversations that showcase the pathways CSS is enhancing to inspire growth in every student. Highlights include:

- Elevating Excellence in our Divisions: A chance to hear directly from division directors about their vision for learning and growth across grade levels. This event took place on Sept. 24th.
- Elevating Student Wellness at CSS: Exploring how CSS continues to strengthen social-emotional support and holistic development for every child.
- Elevating Academic Excellence in Upper School: Highlighting the intentional pathways and opportunities that prepare students for future success.
- Elevating STEM & Innovation at CSS: Showcasing how curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking come together through hands-on learning and cutting-edge opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Together, these gatherings create a collaborative space where families and educators can connect and celebrate the CSS commitment to elevating excellence in every aspect of school life.



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October Admission Events

Oct. 1st : 2026-2027 Applications Open

Oct. 8th 8:00-9:00 am:

Elevating Student Wellness Event

Oct. 15th 5:00-6:30 pm:

Elevating STEM & Innovation Event

Oct. 29th 3:30-5:00 pm:

Trunk or Treat

**SCAN QR CODE TO
RSVP TO EVENTS**



CSS Snapshots



PreK Fall Adventure had our youngest learners exploring the Carriage House & soccer fields, enjoying a puppet show by the Cheyenne Mtn. Zoo, & ending with a pizza party on the Quad.



Lower school students participated in Fall Adventure which offered them meaningful opportunities to try new skills (including overnights), build lasting friendships, and grow as a supportive, vibrant community.



For Seminar 1, Middle School students camped & summited Mt. Sherman. Students built resilience, stretched beyond their comfort zones, practiced new skills, & strengthened their collaboration, communication, and perseverance skills.



Upper School students participated in Mountain Caravan, an annual tradition that offers so much more than time in the mountains as it strengthens friendships, builds resilience, & deepens their connection to one another & to CSS.



Faces of our Faculty

Meet our new Director of STEM Innovation & Institutional Research, Dr. Bradley Hayes! Dr.

Hayes, with over 20 years of teaching experience, has primarily taught middle and high school Mathematics and Computer Science, and has led computer science and design technology departments for the past decade. Driven by a strong interest in global understanding and multiculturalism, he has also served as the Director of Global Programs for the past three years. He is a driving force behind our STEM curriculum, empowering students to lead, create, and collaborate in real-world ways while supporting faculty in guiding meaningful, hands-on learning experiences.

What draws Dr. Hayes to working with students?

"I love the variety each day brings, but it's the students' "aha" moments that truly hook me."

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