

### Welcome to Centennial Middle School.

My name is Joe Simo and I am the principal. Thank you for visiting us today! Inside this packet you will find detailed information about what makes Centennial one of the best middle schools in the valley.

**Centennial Middle School** is committed to the achievement and growth of each student. To reach this goal, we focus on a solid foundation of **Quality Teaching, Rigorous Curriculum, and Character Education.**

I hope the following pages provide you with valuable information about who we are at Centennial Middle School. Should you have any questions during your visit or at any other point in time, please don't hesitate to contact me at **970-249-2576** or via email at **Joe.Simo@mcsd.org**. At Centennial, we want all of our students and their families to feel like **CtMS** is the best place for them. I am delighted to welcome you and your child to be part of the Bears family!



Sincerely,

Joe Simo  
Principal

### Learn more about who we are

Contact the school at 970-249-2576 today to schedule a visit with the principal. See how we live up to our Crew Standards. Visit [ctms.mcsd.org](http://ctms.mcsd.org)  
Follow us on FaceBook at [CTMSMontroseCO](https://www.facebook.com/CTMSMontroseCO)



## School of Innovation

Teachers, administrators, counselors, parents, and Montrose community members collaborated for nearly 16 months on the School of Innovation application. In February 2015, the Montrose County School District and Colorado Department of Education school boards approved the plan which was implemented at the start of the 2015-2016 school year.

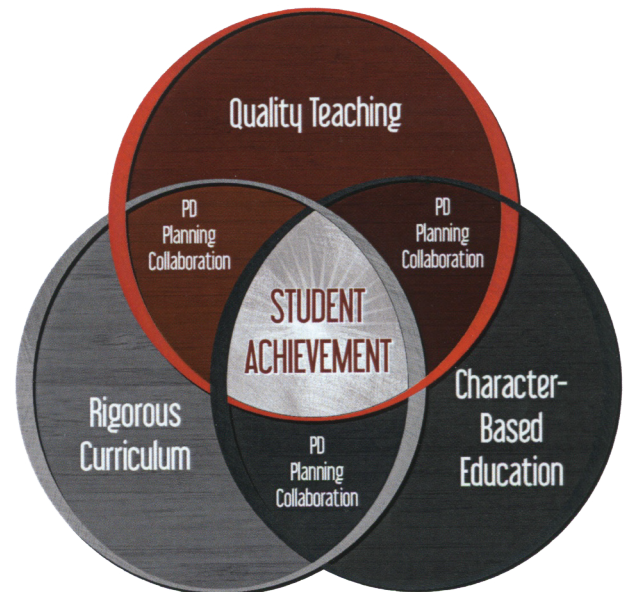
### Benefits Afforded Through Innovation Status

As an innovation school, Centennial Middle School has the ability to implement a challenging curriculum designed to result in the high growth and achievement of every student. Innovation status allows for:

- Increased instructional time
- Personalized learning for every child
- Blended learning with technology-based instruction, applications, and assessments
- Systems that regularly measure student growth and achievement
- Increased professional development and collaboration time for teachers

### Foundations of the Innovation Plan

- Quality Teaching
- Blended learning
- Data driven instruction
- Rigorous Curriculum
- Units of Study Assessment Literacy
- Character-Based Education
- Crew



## Innovation in Action

Within a challenge and joyful learning environment where relationships come first, Centennial Middle School will leverage quality teaching, character education and a rigorous curriculum to inspire a lifetime of learning.

## STEAM Courses-at-a-Glance

### Engineering:

Introduction to Engineering  
Applied Engineering

### Economics

### Art:

Drawing  
Painting  
Pottery

### Performance Arts:

Choir  
Band  
Drama

### Project Lead the Way

### Foreign Language:

Spanish

### Multimedia:

Yearbook/ Journalism



Montrose County School District is striving to become the first STEM district in the state of Colorado. **Centennial Middle School** takes this one step further by including the arts to make **STEAM**. **Centennial** currently offers more **STEAM** courses than any other secondary school in the district. For more information on each course, please check out the course catalog available online under the “Counselor Corner”.



**"Learning about and building robots has been one of the coolest things we've done this year!"**

*Jake Thompson, 7th Grade*

At **Centennial**, our students are not passengers, but part of a **Crew** on their educational journey. **Crew** is our social/ emotional period during the day that every student attends. **Crew** sessions are held on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. When students enter **Centennial** as 6th graders, they are put into small groups of 12-14 students: this is their **crew** for the next three years. During our **crew** sessions, we focus on social emotional/ character education, academic goal setting, conflict resolution, and other topics pertinent to our population throughout the year. The bond that the students and teachers form is irreplaceable and helps us focus on the “Head (academic), Heart (emotional), and Hands (servicer that leads **Centennial** students to becoming good community members at school and in the greater community).

Once a quarter, we hold a school wide town halls where students are given the opportunity to recognize each other for following the **BEARS** rules and participate in fun competitions against other crews. **Crew** is designed to teach kids how to make powerful and meaningful relationships with each other and their teachers while also teaching important “soft skills” such as integrity and empathy.

### Teaching kids how to make meaningful and lasting relationships with peers and teachers.



### 2017-2020 Colorado Trailblazer School to Watch

COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION (CAMLE) has designated **Centennial Middle School** as a Colorado ‘Trailblazer’ School to Watch. Schools to Watch is a national program to identify middle-grades schools across the country that are meeting or exceeding academic expectations. Schools are recognized for a three-year period. Centennial was one of two schools in Colorado selected for this designation.

### 2015-2016 Performance School

In our first year as a School of Innovation, **CtMS** received a “Performance School” rating. This is the highest ranking that any school in the state of Colorado can receive and the highest score a secondary school in Montrose County School District earned!

### CDE Promising Practice Video Series

The Colorado Department of Education is featuring **Centennial** in their Promising Practice video series. This video is used across the state of Colorado to help school adopt the successful practices used at **CtMS!**



### Expert Teachers

Over the last eight years, we have had six teachers chosen as the MCSD Teacher of the Year for Middle School. These teachers are in every content area, Reading, Writing, Math and Science.

## Academic Course Offerings

### 6th Grade

Art  
Choir  
Band  
Shop  
Life Skills  
PE  
Technology

### 7th Grade

Drama  
Economics  
Choir  
Band  
Jazz Band  
Technology  
Life Skills  
Drawing  
Pottery  
Introduction to Engineering  
Applied Engineering  
Yearbook / Journalism

### 8th Grade

Project Lead the Way  
Drama  
Economics  
Choir  
Band  
Jazz Band  
Technology  
Life Skills  
Art  
Introduction to Engineering  
Applied Engineering Yearbook/  
Journalism Foreign Language  
Teacher Aid  
Office Aid  
Library Aid

**"Teachers here care about us, they go out of their way to help with our problems."**

*Emily Arndt, 8th Grade*

**What to Expect Timeline**

- May                    5th Grade School Visit, they will come with their elementary schools  
                             5th Grade Band Night- come try out all the instruments!
- August                Registration  
                             Back to School Night  
                             6th Grade Student and Parent Orientation

**What do I do if my student is going to be absent?**

Call the attendance line at 970-249- 6484 and you can leave a message excusing your student for the day. If you and your family are planning a vacation and your student will be gone for 3 or more days, a pre-approval form needs to be completed and returned to the office 5-7 days prior to the absence.

**Signing your student out**

Any time you will be taking your student from school early, you need to come to the front office and sign them out on the available clipboard. Only family and friends listed on our secure contact list can sign a student out. If you have any questions about who that is for your student, talk to the office staff and they will help you.

**6th Grade Student Orientation**

The first day for 6th grade is a day dedicated to our newest students. They will spend the day learning their schedule, practicing opening their lockers, and learning the expectations for being a middle schooler.

**6th Grade Parent Orientation**

We are inviting our 6th grade parents to come spend one hour the first day of school learning about Centennial. A tour will be given and valuable information will be provided to help you with this big transition. Topics covered include: homework policy, dress code, grading policies, and a question and answer section.

**Back to School Night**

The Thursday before the first day of school all students and their families are invited to come eat pizza and meet the staff of Centennial. You can follow your schedule and meet your teachers and bring class supplies.

**Exploratories**

All 6th Grade students will take the following exploratories: Art, Shop, Life Skills, Technology, PE and either choir or band. As 7th and 8th graders they will be allowed to elect which classes they want to take. As 6th graders they are being exposed to all that CtMS has to offer!

**Every school is different.**

**Let us help make you transition to Centennial as smooth as possible.**