



A School Built BY the Community to Build UP the Community

### **A little history....**

Aspen Ridge Preparatory School has been in the Erie community since 2010 and started as a K-5 school in one building, currently known as the “lower” building. In 2016, the “upper” building was built to include 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, and then in 2018, our building was completed with the last addition of “the heart” which now connects our lower and upper buildings, and includes our beautiful gym, front foyer and stage.

We currently educate 503 students (K-8) with an additional 42 students who are enrolled in our PreK program.

At capacity, we will have three classrooms per grade level with a maximum of 24 students per class. Our current class sizes range from 18-24 students, with the ability to add two additional classes at the middle school level.

Our school is governed by our own 5-member Board of Directors. As a **public charter school**, we offer all of the same options that your child would receive at a neighborhood public school. Charters differ in that they have the flexibility to operate independently of their authorizing district. They can choose their own curricula, they have the ability to streamline their policies and communication around their families and community needs, and they offer a smaller environment where parent involvement is a must in order to grow our students successfully.

*It is our mission to think independently, participate in our integrated world, and achieve individual goals in order to gain knowledge and understanding. We will approach challenges with confidence and assist others in our community while learning and growing together on the trail of success.*

### **About our staff...**

Aspen Ridge is the home to 62 employees, ranging from our custodial staff to our Head of School. Our teachers are all licensed through the state of Colorado and are current in their professional learning required by the state. There are three teachers per grade and their current experience ranges from 2 years to 26 years, with the majority of our staff holding both a bachelor's and a master's degree. In addition, we have two licensed teachers dedicated to Special Education, three paraprofessionals that support them, and three intervention teachers, all who work alongside our classroom teachers to offer differentiation, intervention, learning extensions and support. We also have a full time counselor who works closely with our students, staff and families.

Aspen Ridge contracts with the St. Vrain Valley School district to also provide supports for speech, language pathology, occupational therapy, and specific services that would be outlined through a child's IEP (Individualized Education Plan).

### **Key takeaways...**

Students and staff practice the **7 Mindsets** throughout the day, within the classroom, in common areas and as a representative of Aspen Ridge. The 7 Mindsets are designed to promote self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making. They include:

**Everything is Possible...Passion First...We are Connected...100% Accountable...Attitude of Gratitude...  
Live to Give...The Time is Now**

Aspen Ridge is a **Core Knowledge School**, enriching Colorado state standards with the rich, deep level knowledge that the Core Knowledge foundation provides. Students are guided through the foundational curricula of:

- Core Knowledge Language Arts
- Orton-Gillingham and Guided Reading Strategies for Reading
- Pearson/Envision Math
- Core Knowledge History
- Mystery Science (K-8) and Smithsonian Science (3-8)

Additionally, Aspen Ridge utilizes resources such as IXL, Reading A-Z and other digital platforms for additional practice and support, both in school and at home.

Our PreK Classes combine Core Knowledge foundations with a strong emphasis on exploratory learning and play throughout their day.

While our middle school utilizes Chromebooks at an individual level for each student 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, students in Kinder -5<sup>th</sup> maximize their learning through paper/pencil activities, intertwining digital learning experiences periodically. Balance is key.

**Homework** is an expectation at Aspen Ridge starting in Kindergarten. However, we also believe that children need time to play, participate in extracurricular activities and spend time with family when they are not in school. Homework varies as students get older, in order to prepare them for middle school, high school and beyond.

Students at Aspen Ridge have the **opportunity to participate** in:

- After school clubs (K-5) such as art, music, mathletes, book club, cheer, 100 Mile Club, etc.
- Intramural sports (6-8) that include volleyball, basketball, track and field and soccer
- Daily enrichment classes (K-5) that include Art, Music, PE and Spanish
- Electives (6-8) such as Robotics; Project Lead the Way (PLTW): Medical Detectives; Middle School 101 (for all 6<sup>th</sup> graders); Academic Lab; Newsletter; Financial Literacy (Dave Ramsey); Art; Band; Choir; Sports; Theater/Drama and Spanish (to name a few)
- Owl's Nest After School Care (K-5) to support working families

**Our philosophy...**

At Aspen Ridge, **we believe in balance**. While we know that standardized tests are important to show student growth and learning, we also know that they don't measure the value each child brings in their personality and gifts, outside of the testing environment.

**We believe in community**. We look for ways to support and partner with our surrounding community through drives and fundraisers.

**We believe in being student-centered**. All of our problem solving and initiatives revolve around our students. If it's good for one, it's good for all.

**We believe in safety and taking care of our school**. Aspen Ridge is our home away from home. We want it to be safe, welcoming, clean and well managed for years to come.

**We believe in being engaged**. We know it takes a village to raise our students and we work closely with our families to set goals and grow our students together. We welcome volunteers, visitors and creative thinking when it comes to growing our Owls.

**We hope you'll join us on this educational journey! #itsagreatdaytobeanowl**