

**8/17/18**

**Clarification about After-School Enrichment Program Changes from Cindy Kapeller:**

Our Steele enrichment program has been facilitated by our amazing PTA through last year. They have taken on the task of organizing things on the front end of the program; however, our PTA has not provided on-site supervision and accountability for providers. There were situations that occurred during enrichment last fall that caused us to realize we needed someone on site to support our providers, students and families. As a result, one of our PTA Board members generously volunteered to supervise enrichment each afternoon during the spring semester. During this time, she supervised and worked to resolve situations that necessitated oversight, guidance and intervention. Our PTA determined there was a need for an on-site supervisor due to potential safety and liability issues for the PTA as the sponsor of the after-school program.

Our PTA researched several options, including hiring someone to provide supervision. The ultimate decision was to go with Discovery Link as a proven after school enrichment provider in many DPS schools. We will have an onsite supervisor for enrichment, which is a proactive measure to protect the safety of our students and our school. The 20% increase in registration fees cover the costs needed to fund an enrichment site coordinator.

I can understand how parents/students who have not encountered any incidents or situations during enrichment may feel like this is an unnecessary change. I can also see how the assumption might be that the school staff are here during enrichment, so we must be supervising; however, our supervision ends once the students are dismissed at 3:00 pm. Staff are officially off duty at 3:30 pm. My/Our top priority always must be the safety of our students. In order to provide the level of safety and security needed during enrichment, we need someone on site to be in charge of enrichment.

**From Jesse Broadfoot, Department of Extended Learning and Community Schools:**

We understand there is some confusion about why we made changes to our Enrichment Program. We hope you're excited for the upcoming school year! For those of you who don't know Denver Public Schools and specifically the Department of Extended Learning and Community Schools (DELCS) will be offering two high quality out of school time programs this upcoming school year! Our two programs are Discovery Link and Enrichment. Although both of these programs are supported by DELCS and registration takes place under the same platform, they're two separate high quality programs. If you have any questions about either Steele program, Discovery Link or Enrichment, please reach out to [PATRICIA\\_LARSEN@dpsk12.org](mailto:PATRICIA_LARSEN@dpsk12.org)