

Top Thirty Things to Think About Before Starting 6th Grade at Eldorado K-8
(A Parents Perspective 2007):

When is registration?	Registration/Check in: Tuesday, August 7, 2007 A-L 9:00 – 11:30 Tuesday, August 7, 2007 M-Z 1:00 – 4:00
What do we do at registration?	Bring in paperwork from the registration package, pay fees and get locker combos. Then the student can go find their locker and practice opening it.
When does school start?	For sixth graders, school starts on Thursday, August 16, 2007. They may enter the building at 8:30, with orientation beginning at 8:40 and lasting half the day. They go to their classes for the second half of the day and are dismissed at 3:30. Sixth grade will be the only class at school to let them practice getting to their locker and back without all the other students in the hall. Seventh and Eighth grade start the next day.
What time does school start?	The doors to the school open at 8:30 am, class starts at 8:40 am.
Which parking lot do we use?	Drop off/Pick up for 6th graders will be in the front of the school, off Indiana St., from 8:20 – 8:30 am, the south parking lot. Please pull as far forward as possible in the front Hug n’ Go Lane to assure that all students have access to a safe drop-off. As always, students should depart on the curbside of the drop-off lane. Please do NOT double park! Walking and biking to school is encouraged.
What school supplies do they need?	The list for school supplies is located on the school website at http://schools.bvsd.org/eldorado/index.htm , click on the “Explore Eldorado Website” and find it under school supply lists.
Does each student get a locker?	Students do get their own locker. Upperclassmen are available during Registration to assist the students with locating and operating the lockers. You may want to invest in locker shelves (available at Target or Wal-Mart). These help to organize and maximize the space available. Be sure to buy the sturdy ones, because the plastic and fold up shelves can collapse under the weight of the books (we learned from experience!). Once you are assigned a locker, keep it clean and neatly organized, keep it locked and do not share the combination with others . Please do not write on any part of the locker, even with dry erase markers and stickers are prohibited. Remember that lockers and coat hooks are part of school property, and lockers may be checked if we feel it is necessary.
Are lockers hard to open?	Sometimes, remind them to turn about four times to the right to clear it, then left to the first number, right to the second, then all the way around left to the third and here it should click and open. These lockers have no pull up latch system, so they just roll until the locker pops open.
Where are the middle school classrooms?	The middle school is located on the second floor, except for classes like PE, music and art, which are down the hall to the left.
What kind of backpack do they need?	The students can choose whatever type of backpack they like – traditional or rolling. Just make sure it’s not too big to fit in locker with shelves.
What is the middle school dress code?	The middle school dress code is as follows: Students are expected to keep themselves well groomed and neatly dressed at all times. Personal appearance should reflect good taste and not disrupt nor detract from the educational environment at Eldorado K-8. Specifically, hats or head coverings (other than those worn for religious purposes) may not be worn during the school day; unless it is a designated "hat day." Clothing which advertises alcohol, drugs, or tobacco and those with obscene or offensive language or pictures are not permitted. Skirts or shorts that are too tight or short, net shirts, crop tops, halter tops, tube tops, muscle shirts, spaghetti straps, and excessively torn clothing are not permitted. Shoes must be worn at all times.

What do they need for PE (physical education)?	Tennis shoes, PE shorts and a PE shirt, master lock, pencil and notebook. The clothes should be comfortable, loose fitting physical activity clothing. They may bring in wind pants or sweat pants, and sweatshirts. Students not wearing supportive athletic shoes and PE clothing will not be permitted to actively participate in Physical Education. Students will be issued PE lockers for clothing and storage. That's why they need a combination lock. The pencil and notebook are needed, because they take notes and have tests in PE class. The students only have about 5 minutes to change in and out of their PE uniform before and after class. PE is offered every other day.
Do they need a lock for band?	Sometimes, so if your child is also taking band, you might want to consider buying a set of two identical combination locks so that your student can have the same combination on their PE and band lockers.
Do they have the regular lunch menu?	Yes, but they also have a special lunch line that has food brought in from pizza places, subway, or Inta juice depending on the day. Plus they sell other snack and drink items daily. Students can also bring a lunch.
Do they have recess?	The Students get a 15 minute lunch and 15 minute recess every day.
What is the class day like?	Seven classes everyday. Sixth graders usually have three classes in the morning, then lunch, then four classes in the afternoon. Friday is different, because they have an advisory class first (like goal setting, career advisory, etc) and then the seven classes shortened by five minutes.
What happens if my student gets sick?	Parents must call the Eldorado attendance line: 303-447-5518 and leave a message early in the morning. If they are sick two or more days, they will need to get missed assignments and homework. They may check the infinite campus, or call early and ask the office staff to retrieve (then the parent picks it up from the office at the end of the day), or ask a friend in that class.
What happens if my student gets sick at school?	Eldorado has a health room just like other schools, where they can rest or get a band-aid, etc. and if very sick the parent will be called. This is also the location where medicines can be stored if they come with paper work signed by the doctor and the parent.
What time is school out?	Sixth graders are dismissed at 3:30, and should be picked up in the same parking lot.
Are there sports for 6 th graders?	Yes both intramural and interscholastic. Intramural includes: basketball, flag football, girl's volleyball, and boy's soccer. Interscholastic for 6 th graders is wrestling and track. Students need a physical form filled out by their doctor to participate in sports.
What other activities can the students be involved in?	Many clubs and extracurricular activities such as: Student Council, 6-8 musical, chess club, math counts club, book clubs, photo club, many academic competitions, and more.
What are honor roll breakfasts?	If your child makes good grades, they can make the honor roll. A couple of times during the year the students that make the honor roll will be invited for juice and donuts before school starts to reward them for their hard work.
How is information communicated to the parents?	NO more Friday Folders. Information is sent out in two forms: The Eldorado Eagle Newsletter, which is mailed to parents (unless a younger sibling attends Eldorado), and the 6 th grade weekly emails. The science teachers maintain this email list, and lots of information is sent via email. Sometimes students are given paper handouts, but it is rare. Also parents can help students keep track of class work over the infinite campus parent portal, which shows class assignments, grades, and attendance and teacher information.

Does Eldorado K-8 have a website?	Yes, it also has lots of information about Eldorado K-8 and all the activities that are going on. The website is: http://schools.bvsd.org/eldorado/index.htm
When's back to school night?	Back to School Night is Thursday, September 6, 6:30 – 8:00 pm.
How about conferences?	They have three days of conferences in the fall on October 9, 11, and 17 th . The first day is by invitation only. The second two days are for the rest. Conferences in middle school are student led. The student brings the parents into the classroom and shows their work, then together have a brief discussion with the teacher. The conferences are very enlightening, but going to all the classes takes a bit of time (plan at least an hour).
Is there an end of year party?	Yes, the entire 6 th grade goes to the north pool and has a pizza, swim party if the weather is nice.
Do they have school dances?	Yes, they have a dance usually the first week and then a few others throughout the year. The dances are free, but they always sell snacks at them.
Can parents volunteer?	<p>Parent volunteering should be arranged with individual teachers. Please keep in mind your child will move from having one predominate teacher to having 7 teachers each day. The best way to communicate with your student's teachers is via e-mail. Teachers will give you their contact information during Back to School night.</p> <p>Volunteers are needed for PTA, ACE, PEN and other club and sports activities. Please think about getting involved in PTA.</p>