

## **Education Programs**

### Instrumental Music

All first- through sixth-grade students at Mitchell participate in the school's Music program (part of the "Specials" program described in the following section), but once students are in fifth grade, they have the option of joining the Jefferson County Public Schools Instrumental Music Orchestra or Band. They can choose a wind, brass, percussion, or string instrument and can rent an instrument of their choice at the beginning of the school year on "music rental night." Throughout the school year, students participate in weekly practice sessions as scheduled by the music curriculum coordinator.

Mitchell also offers students in fourth through sixth grades the opportunity to sing in a choir called the "Mitchell Singers." This choir meets after school on a weekly basis, and there are about three to six performances a year.

### Specials

Mitchell offers a "Specials" program that refers to weekly classes in art, music, or physical education. Starting in first grade, students rotate every week to different classes; for example, if your child's class starts the school year with art classes for one week, your child will then attend music class the following week and physical education classes the week after. This program encourages students to develop their appreciation of music, enhance their artistic talent, and encourage a healthy lifestyle with daily exercise.

### Field Trips

Mitchell Elementary offers the opportunity for classes to go on field trips throughout the school year. These trips allow a class to visit areas of interest in Golden and surrounding communities. Your child's classroom may go on several field trips in the course of one year, such as to local museums and planetariums. Trips vary depending on your child's grade level and what the teachers have planned for that school year.

For each trip, permission slips are sent out, a small fee is required to be paid by the parents, and a sack lunch and drink are required to be packed. For example, first grade classes have walked as a group with their teachers and parent volunteers to the Clear Creek History Park in downtown Golden to learn about how early settlers lived and worked in the late 1800s. The trip usually includes a lesson in the original one-room schoolhouse and a tour of the chicken coop, the blacksmith shop, and gardens.

### Afterschool Activities

With the help of local organizations, Mitchell offers a variety of afterschool activities, some that are held at Mitchell right after school ends for the day. The classes include Keyboards for Kids

(learning to play the keyboard), Tae Kwon Do, Pottery and Ceramic Workshops, Spanish Classes, and Dance. Throughout the school year, your child will receive paperwork about these programs in their Friday folders.

### Child Care

Through Red Rocks Community College, Mitchell also provides an early morning (before school) and an afterschool childcare program called the Red Rocks Community College School-Age Child Care, which is located in Mitchell's cafeteria with access to the playground and gym. Red Rocks also offers care during holiday breaks. Parents pay for this program, and the cost depends on how often their child will be attending during the school week or during breaks. Information about this program can be obtained through the Mitchell Elementary main office.