



Cherry Creek Learning Center
200 S. University Blvd., Denver, CO 80206
Grades: k-12
Director: Laurie Griffith

Laurie Griffith, Director of the Cherry Creek Learning Center, believes that Hope Online is an effective way to educate students who struggled to succeed at their previous schools. Committed to Hope Online's unique model for delivering an online education program, Ms. Griffith launched Cherry Creek Learning Center in 2006 to provide her community with an online education option.

Hope Online at Cherry Creek Learning Center serves 100 students of diverse backgrounds. Many students are from low-income, Spanish-speaking families, and they travel east, west, south, and from as far north as Thornton for one-on-one attention and customized curriculum accessed in a safe atmosphere.

Cherry Creek Learning Center provides an ideal learning environment for students. "First, each student has an Individual Learning Plan, which is developed by a highly qualified Hope Online teacher according to the academic needs of the student. Second, Learning Center mentors supervise and assist students as they work on their lessons. Third, students are allowed to work at their own pace; some of our students are advanced and therefore like to work ahead, while some of our students need additional time to comprehend a lesson before proceeding. Either way, the students benefit and are engaged in learning," asserts Ms. Griffith.

After a year at Hope Online, one fifth grader returned to his previous school; however, after only three weeks, he was failing his classes and fighting with other students. Now, he is back at Hope Online at Cherry Creek Learning Center, and he is excelling academically and socially. Notes Ms. Griffith, "He, like many other students, needs our small, safe environment, and caring staff."

The Hope Online teachers and Learning Center mentors care about the Hope Online students. One mentor spent time at the hospital with a student who was victimized by a gang-related crime. Ms. Griffith attests, "Knowing people care about them helps our students tremendously; they have higher self-esteem and are more confident. They are happier and less intimidated by school."

"At Hope Online at Cherry Creek Learning Center, students excel due to increased personal attention and the flexible, self-paced nature of the online curricula;" Ms. Griffith continues, "I have witnessed incredible academic progress in the students. I am committed to do my part to ensure Hope Online and Cherry Creek Learning Center attain our mutual goals of closing the achievement gap and reducing the dropout rate."

Learning Center Administration

Laurie Griffith - Director

Laurie Griffith is the Director of Cherry Creek Learning Center and mentor for the second grade students. Having been an elementary education teacher in Chicago, Illinois as well as in Denver, she has extensive classroom experience. She is committed to giving students a strong academic foundation. Ms. Griffith received a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University in Minnesota.

Darcy Kennedy - Mentor

Darcy Kennedy believes it important to provide students with a safe environment and an opportunity for academic success. Her previous experience as a high school teacher convinced her of the importance of individualized lessons for students; she is pleased that Hope Online affords students this valuable educational benefit. Ms. Kennedy received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre from the University of South Dakota and a Master of Fine Arts in Acting from the University of Iowa.

Hope Online Teacher

Lori Shruga – Hope Online Teacher

Lori Shruga is a talented Colorado licensed teacher with a high level of experience working with elementary and secondary students. She has a passion for educating at-risk students and those who are emotionally challenged. Ms. Shruga received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and Science from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, MI and a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Phoenix in Lone Tree, CO.