

Legend High School

22219 Hilltop Road

Parker, CO 80138

Contact: Corey Wise

Legend High School (LHS) is in its first year of operation in the Douglas County School District, with only 9th grade students in the building. The school operates from their mission statement: *The relentless pursuit to challenge, communicate, create, and connect learning*. The beliefs of academic rigor, relationships, and relevance are shared by all of the staff.

2008-09 data, for 9th grade only:

- ◆ High School (91-12)
- ◆ 90% White
- ◆ 5% Hispanic
- ◆ 3% Asian
- ◆ 2% Black
- ◆ 3% Free or Reduced-Price Lunch

The mathematics staff has developed mathematics curriculum, instruction, and assessments that bring 21st century skills of critical thinking, innovation, creativity, and learning to life. Using the *Douglas County School District Essential Learnings for Algebra*, the teachers work collaboratively to make student learning purposeful and motivating. Taking mathematics knowledge and applying it to other courses, other settings, and students' daily lives is the department's goal. Moving mathematical learning out of the classroom and into students' lives makes the content come alive and empowers students to interact with the ever-changing dynamics of the world.

Knowing "what to do when we don't know what to do" is a driving force for learning, evidenced in the problem-solving model emphasized in all mathematics courses. This instructional model capitalizes on the 90-minute block scheduling that affords students the opportunity to work collaboratively in solving relevant mathematical problems. An integrated curriculum is used to enhance student understanding of algebra topics and concepts while enhancing specific skill development as needed.

Technology is used as an accelerator to help students develop a deeper understanding of algebra topics, concepts, and skills, and support their communication of mathematics in and out of the classroom. Tools such as E-Text books, Moodle, and Virtual Learning Environments are ways to organize, connect, and access mathematical learning opportunities for students at LHS.