

SAVE THE DATE: BERTHOUD BASH IS MARCH 10

In the past three years, the Berthoud Schools Fund (BSF) has purchased over \$164,000 worth of resources for the Berthoud schools through efforts related to its annual fundraiser, the Berthoud BASH. Resources purchased include Promethean (interactive white) boards; desktop, laptop, and netbook computers; document cameras; microscopes; and video cameras. Today every classroom at Berthoud and Ivy Stockwell elementary schools has a Promethean board, and all three grades at Turner Middle School use one in science, math, and/or social studies. In addition, BSF has provided more than \$12,000 worth of other instructional resources requested by the schools.

The Thompson School District faces continued cuts in funding, cuts which will impact class sizes, the number of teaching staff, and course offerings. In order to replace missing courses as well as support the schools' STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) focus, the BSF board of directors voted to use 2012 and 2013 BASH funds for the following purposes:

- Online Education -- Online classes are offered through an accredited school and can be taken by students via the Internet. The classes need to be monitored in a central location.
- Remote (or Distance) Learning -- Remote learning involves classes that are taught in one school; students in other schools are video-conferenced live into the class with direct interaction between teacher and students.
- Video Banking -- Video banking enables schools to record classes and then archive them on a server to be viewed later.
- Teacher Training -- Teachers are trained in areas that will encapsulate STEM curricula.

In order to accomplish its goals in the focus areas, Berthoud High School needs video and computer equipment as well as funds to modify space in the high school to accommodate the new instructional tools. As Turner begins to participate in the STEM program, the school needs equipment, software, and funds for teacher training. Berthoud Elementary and Ivy Stockwell are at the entry level in the STEM program and will need software and funds for teacher training. In addition, BSF directors hope to raise enough money to meet other equipment, software and tutoring needs that the schools have identified.

The 2012 Berthoud BASH, with the theme "Cowboy Up for Education," will take place on March 10 at the Embassy Suites near Loveland. The event includes a sit-down dinner, followed by a live and silent auction of donated items.

To buy BASH tickets or to find out how to donate cash or auction items. visit www.berthoudbash.org.