

*Merino is a quiet, small rural farming community located in Northeast Colorado in Logan County with a population of 280. Merino is located twelve miles from the county seat of Sterling, Colorado. Merino's median housing cost is half the amount as the state's average and Merino's poverty rate is more than 1.5 times the average state rate. Merino is host to the Buffalo RE-4J School District (Buffalo) which serves kindergarten – 12th grades. Currently 45% of Buffalo's students reside outside of the town of Merino coming from Sterling, Brush, and Prairie, Colorado. Buffalo is the heart of all activities in the surrounding area and town of Merino.*

*The town of Buffalo was platted on April 9, 1874, but when the railroad arrived in 1881, the original name was changed to Merino. Merino was incorporated in 1917 and is so named for the Merino sheep that is said to have grazed the area. Merino's primary source of income remains agriculture. Merino is home to Wisdom Manufacturing, a carnival ride manufacturer, one of only a handful in the world. Merino's annual Fall Festival is a celebration of both town and school where alumni, current students and staff, and community members join together to celebrate homecoming and town and school pride.*

*In 2009, a new elementary building was constructed with the aid of a capital construction grant from the state and in 2010 the high school was renovated with funds from a BEST grant. We currently have 301 students and can range anywhere from 300-315 students from year to year. We have capped our class sizes, therefore, families that live outside of the Buffalo School District boundaries must apply and be accepted in order to attend. We maintain a waiting list for those classes that are at capacity. Currently there are approximately 50 families with 80 students on the waiting list to get in the district.*

*The Buffalo School District is well known in the area for academic as well as athletic excellence. Our annual ratings from the Colorado Department of education have been "Performance", "Needs Improvement" in 2011 due to 94% participation, "Distinguished" In 2013, "Performance-Low participation" in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. We have had great success in football with 8 state championships, girls basketball with 3 state championships, boys basketball with 7 state championships, volleyball with 10 state championships, boys track with 3 state championships, girls track with 2 state championships, and 15 individual state championships.*

*The Buffalo School District has been very involved in promoting student leadership. We have had one of the best FCCLA programs in the state. We consistently send 15-30 students a year to national FCCLA. Our FFA program is also one of distinction. We recently have had two state officers, one went on to be a finalist for a National officer post and the other was a finalist for the National Star Award. We also have one of the only student lead wellness teams in the state. We have been recognized statewide as leaders with 3 state championships in Health and Wellness.*

*In our specials programs in the elementary and the electives in the high school, we have strived to maintain a balance. Our primary students get physical education every other day with our intermediate elementary and junior high going to physical education daily. We also offer elementary music and computer/library. Art is offered in grades K-12. Drama is 9-12 and they put on two amazing performances a year. It is very typical to see the Quarterback of the football team be the lead in the play.*

We are proud of Merino and the offerings we continue to provide. It is a pleasure working with the students, staff, parents and community.