

EXCEL ACADEMY EAGLE UPDATE

— SPECIAL SUMMER EDITION #2 - AUGUST 3, 2023 —

MESSAGE FROM THE EXCEL ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Excel Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Kresta Vuolo has accepted the position of Executive Director of Excel Academy. Ms. Vuolo was appointed as the Interim Director at the start of the summer and in July accepted the full position. Kresta has robust experience in education that includes over 30 years serving as a teacher and administrator including director of enrollment and communications, assistant principal, and principal. She has a breadth of knowledge in school finance, operations, board governance, legal compliance, cognitive coaching, restorative practices, and much more. Highlights of Kresta's recent leadership is her work at Excel over the summer hiring exceptional staff to fill vacancies and overseeing the school construction process, all while supporting the mission of Excel Academy; "To enrich the academic, social, and emotional experiences of every student through rigorous curriculum and engaging opportunities." The Excel Board of Directors is very excited about starting this new school year, and we look forward to working with Ms. Vuolo as she leads our school forward.

DEAR FAMILIES,

What a busy summer! I hope you are enjoying the sunshine and finding opportunities for fun, relaxation, and connection with those you care about. I'm excited to provide an update on many important and fun things as we prepare for the upcoming 2023-24 school year. Please read on for updates about our staffing, the construction project, and ways for families to connect this summer.



Welcome and welcome back to our incredible staff! I am pleased to share that we are finalizing our staff for the upcoming school year. We are happy to welcome back the majority of our staff and excited to welcome several new educators to our community. Check out the photos of some of our new staff members below. I would like to extend gratitude to the following

staff and parents who volunteered to join me in serving on our Summer Interview Team to assure we bring the best possible candidates to our community:

Laura Anderson, Parent (4th & 7th Grade)

Lori Boyd, Music Teacher

Michaela Criswell, 2nd Grade Teacher

Danielle Kaschub, Gifted & Talented Teacher/Middle School Elective Teacher

Keri Lee, Business Manager

Becky Medina, Special Education Learning Specialist - Elementary

Kelly Pilger, Parent (5th Grade)

Plans for the year are underway! With our administrative team returning this week, we are finalizing plans for our back-to-school events will be an area of focus. For now, please hold the following dates:

- Online Registration for All Students - Now through August 7th
- New Family Orientation - Wed. August 9th from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- Meet Your Teacher Open House - Mon. August 14th from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. - this is a time to bring your school supplies, find your classroom, meet your teacher, and check in with our Specials, GT, and Special Education teachers.
- **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL** - Tues. August 15th, 8:20 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Children will come to the playground to find their teachers between 8:00 and 8:15 a.m. and come inside by class at 8:20 a.m. Guardians are invited to join the PTO immediately after school begins for the Boo-Hoo/Yahoo event - see information below.
- Middle School Back-to-School Night: Thursday, August 17th 5:00 - 7:15 p.m. (6th Grade Mars Camp Trip Meeting at 4:30 p.m.)
- Elementary Back-to-School Night: Thurs. August 24th 5:00 - 7:15 p.m.

The first month of school is always busy. We understand that you might not be able to attend every event. Of those listed, Back-to-School night is the top priority, as this is the evening when you will hear from your child's teacher(s) about plans for the year ahead, curriculum, expectations, and how we can work together as a home/school partnership in support of your student's growth.

Please continue to watch your email, listen to voice messages, and check our website for information and updates. We are so excited to welcome our Eagle families back for the 2023-24 school year and look forward to working together to make this an amazing year.

In Partnership,

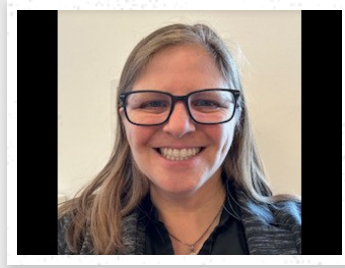
Kresta Vuolo

Executive Director



Coach Miller, Assistant Director
- Middle School

My name is Jeff Miller, and I'm the new Assistant Director for Middle School. I go by Coach Miller with students, as I have spent almost my entire educational career coaching one of several sports. I came to Colorado via Pennsylvania 30 years ago. I started my educational career as a P.E./Health teacher and then shifted into administration thirteen years ago. My experiences as an administrator include several years as an assistant principal, middle school principal and most recently as a district athletic director. I am married to a wonderful Colorado native and have two beautiful daughters, one a senior in college and one who is starting her sophomore year in fall. Since I am the only non-native in the household I end up on the short end of the stick with some major teasing, all in good fun. I spend my free time hiking, rucking, biking, and chasing the ever-elusive Mule Deer and Wapiti. I love taking in all that Colorado's nature provides!



Ms. Rothstein, Assistant
Director - Elementary

My name is Alia Rothstein and I'm excited to join the Eagle family as the Assistant Director of Elementary! I recently moved to Colorado from Las Vegas, Nevada with my wife, 3 year old daughter, and 10 year old son. On the weekends we love to go hiking, geocaching, explore new areas, or play board games. I have over twenty years experience in education and have taught everything from kindergarten to eighth grade science and social studies. This will be my 8th year as a school administrator. I look forward to working with the students, staff, and parents to continue a positive culture and challenging academics.



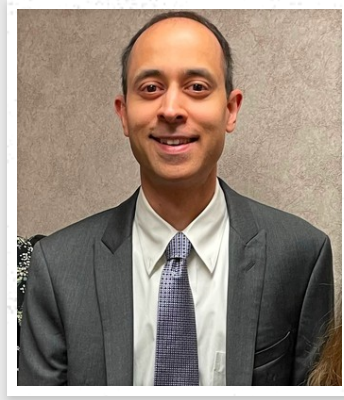
Mrs. Warrington, Kindergarten
Paraprofessional

I'm Amani Warrington and I've worked in the media and mass communication industry as a translator, journalist and radio show host for over a decade. I am fluent in English, Mandarin Chinese and Classical Arabic and familiar with a variety of cultures. In recent years I have participated in a multitude of parent-training programs provided by Children's Hospital Colorado Broomfield Therapy Center and accumulated an abundance of experience in working with children with special needs. I was also a trained tutor for one-on-one intervention for K-3rd grade students with reading challenges. In my free time, I enjoy playing the piano and Chinese bamboo flute, drawing pencil portraits, painting in color water, and creating crocheted dolls with yarn. I also enjoy hiking, camping and in general the great outdoors of beautiful Colorado. I am looking forward to joining the Excel community and meeting everyone this coming school year!



Ms. Dexter, 5th Grade Teacher

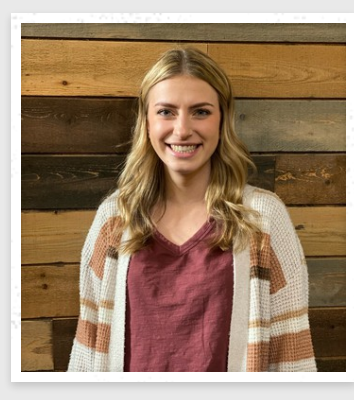
Hello! I'm Tonya Dexter and will be teaching 5th grade this year. I have worked with students in grades K - 8 for many decades, and I'm excited to be a part of the Excel Academy family. I believe in having students work creatively while having fun learning. I am originally from Indiana and have lived in Colorado for the past fifteen years. I love nature, reading, and snuggling with my two cats.



Mr. Vad, 5th Grade Teacher

My background is in information technology, where I worked as an engineer for some time in the world of cloud computing. One of my favorite things was mentoring younger colleagues, and the fulfillment in seeing them take on new challenges in this ever-changing field. When I began substitute teaching a year and a half ago, I instantly loved the chance to get to know students, how to engage them, and make learning fun. Every child is an individual, and it's my belief that each one of them has unique gifts - they are the future! Guest teaching gave me a chance to try out every grade, K-12, teaching different subject matter, and, I may have even met some of you the times I subbed at Excel this past school year.

I love the outdoors, and especially the mountains! Long hikes, and camping are some of my hobbies, as well as reading fiction, doing yoga, and playing electric bass. I'm really looking forward to teaching 5th grade, this is such a critical transition year from the elementary grades to middle school, and I've found the kids to be such a joy to teach at this age.



Ms. Mader, 2nd Grade Teacher

My name is Alyssa Mader and I am so excited to be joining Excel Academy! I was born and raised in Colorado. I love to travel, cook, do yoga, read, and spend time outside. One of my favorite places to travel to is Florida, where I can spend my days reading on the beach or snorkeling. My favorite place in Denver is the Denver Zoo. I love walking around, seeing and learning about the animals and wildlife conservation. I graduated from University of Colorado Denver with my degree in special education. I have taught preschool, elementary, and high school, but I found that I have a passion for teaching elementary. I started my teaching career as a special educator at a facility school that focused on student mental health and teaching young students social emotional skills. I am so excited to join the Excel Academy community this school year and look forward to meeting you all soon!



Mr. Smales, Gifted & Talented Teacher

I was born and raised in Africa. In 2001, I moved to beautiful Colorado with my wife. Outside of work, I enjoy exploring Colorado, snowboarding and cycling with my son - and parenting one feisty Pomeranian. I have been in public education in Colorado for over twenty years and am excited to be teaching at Excel this school year.



Mrs. Kuhl, 3rd Grade Teacher

My name is Krista Kuhl and I will be teaching 3rd grade. I graduated from Avila University with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. I grew up in Kansas City and moved to Denver after college. My husband, Derrick, and I have three children, Josie, 8, Tillie, 7 and Gryffie, 22 months. I previously taught Kindergarten and second grade. I have also coached middle school soccer and high school golf. My family spends most of our time outdoors exploring this beautiful, sunny state we live in. We love to take hikes, go for bike rides, go skiing and more! I am looking forward to a great school year and becoming a part of the Excel Academy community!



Mrs. Schuetz, 7th & 8th Grade English Language Arts Teacher

My name is Peggy Schuetz, and I am so excited to be joining the Excel community this year as the new 7th and 8th grade English Language Arts teacher. I have taught many places from Japan to Arizona to Arvada West High School and Lincoln Academy. I am a South Dakota native who has lived in Colorado for almost twenty years now. My husband is a Colorado native who works for BMP, and we have four busy children: Claire (13), Henry (11), Benjamin (8), and Grace (7) and three destructive but sweet dogs. I enjoy traveling and visiting new places, listening to the ocean, watching Broadway musicals, and the very rare down time moments that come along.

23-24 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Click [HERE](#) for your 23-24 School Year Calendar.

While our calendar is similar to Jeffco's, we do have some differences - including a full week off for Fall Break.





SUMMER CONSTRUCTION CLEAN UP HELP WANTED

The School needs your Help! The summer construction phase was a huge success but now we need some help getting ready to welcome students back! We need your family to pitch for a couple of hours sometime today, **Thursday, August 3rd from 8am to 3pm**, to help clean and move the furniture and materials back into classrooms and help teachers begin setting up to welcome students back! Bring the whole family, make double volunteer hours and HELP Mr. Vinny and the Teachers!

Click [HERE](#) to sign-up.

CUSTOM WATER BOTTLE FUNDRAISER

Laser engraved with "Excel Academy Charter School" with the Eagles Logo and Student's Name (or yours)

The PTO is so excited to partner with the Owens family and their company, Natures Reveal Creations, to offer custom water bottles!

Order Here: <https://www.naturesrevealcreations.com/>

Four colors to choose from!

Deadline to order is Saturday Aug 5 by 9pm

Pick up at the Back to School Event

Treat yourself and your child to a laser-engraved water bottle showcasing your school spirit! Crafted from high-quality stainless steel, and a double wall vacuum insulation, this durable drinkware ensures long-lasting hydration throughout the day, while keeping beverages refreshingly cold for hours.

The Polar Camel High Endurance drinkware are **laser engraved with "Excel Academy Charter School" with the Eagles Logo and Name of the child**. Each bottle features an effortlessly flip top design, a soft rubber finger hold that allows for convenient attachment to a backpack with a carabiner, and a removable straw for added convenience.

Every purchase supports Excel Academy PTO AND supports a small business in Arvada, Colorado with an Excel Student!

Place your order here: <https://www.naturesrevealcreations.com/>



[Fundraiser Flyer](#)

NEW FAMILY ORIENTATION: AUGUST 9TH

New Excel Families are invited to join us for our: NEW FAMILY ORIENTATION

Get all your new parent questions answered before school starts! (Such things as: Drop-off & pick-up processes, lunch, snacks, daily schedule, field study, volunteering, homework, expectations, etc.)

Wednesday, August 9th
In the Excel Library
3:00-4:00 pm

Click [HERE](#) for details.



PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

EXCEL SPIRIT SHOP

- **Order your spirit wear!** All students and staff will receive a PTO sponsored Class Shirt. (Parents do not need to order the class shirt for their student, one will be ordered for them)

Click [HERE](#) to order your Spirit Wear!

The Spirit Shop closes Sunday, August 27th.



BOOHOO YAHOO EVENT

Your Excel Community Connection brings you... **Parents' First Day of School BooHoo or YaHoo Event.** All Excel parents new and old encouraged to attend!

Click [HERE](#) for details.



FIELD STUDIES

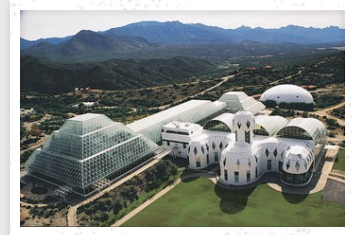
5TH GRADE TRIP: MOUNTAIN LAB SCHOOL - MAY 8 - 10, 2024

We are delighted to announce our return to Mountain Lab School for the upcoming school year! This 3 day, 2-night trip is planned for May 8-10, 2024. Please mark your calendars and look for an informational meeting coming later in the fall with all of the details.



NEW 6TH GRADE TRIP: MISSION TO MARS IN ARIZONA - FEBRUARY 26 - 29, 2024

We are thrilled to announce our new 6th grade extended field study to Arizona - Mission to Mars! This extended field study is new this year to align with our new curriculum and state standards. **Sixth grade families, please join us for an informational meeting on Thursday, August 17th at 4:30 p.m. in the cafeteria, right before the middle school Back to School Night.**



7TH GRADE TRIP: KEYSTONE SCIENCE SCHOOL - SEPTEMBER 25 - 27, 2023

Seventh grade students will be headed to Keystone Science School in a couple of short months. **There will be a Mandatory Paperwork Meeting on Tuesday, August 22 at 4pm.** Those families that have students attending this field study must plan to attend.



If your student is not yet registered to attend and would like to, please reach out to Shelley Smith at Shelley.Smith@jeffco.k12.co.us. There are still a couple of slots available. Students will not only come back with wonderful memories and a hands-on education, but they will also have the opportunity to bond and build a stronger community with their peers - especially since this trip is at the beginning of the school year.

8TH GRADE TRIP: WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP - MAY 13 - 17, 2024

We are excited for our 8th grade trip to Washington D.C. again, this school year. **Eighth grade families, we invite you to attend our parent informational meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 29 at 4pm in the library, if you did not attend the meeting in the**



spring. *This is a trip you don't want your student to miss!* We are planning some new fundraising opportunities to happen HERE AT SCHOOL to help with the cost of the trip.

Last year's 8th graders had an amazing time in Washington DC, and **I am hopeful your student will join us for a fabulous experience this year!** We were able to see more sites and spend more time at places than one might be able to do on a family vacation. Such a memorable experience!



EXCEL ACADEMY K-8

 Facebook

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