

EXCEL ACADEMY EAGLE UPDATE

SPECIAL SUMMER EDITION - JUNE 2, 2023

DEAR FAMILIES,

Welcome to summer! I'm excited and humbled to serve as our school's Interim Executive Director. We have an amazing community and I look forward to working in service to our students, families, staff, and community.



I would like acknowledge Dr. Farnen for all that she contributed to Excel over the past two years. Dr. Farnen worked on behalf of students, staff, and families to update our mission and vision, renew our charter agreement with Jeffco, update our Unified Improvement Plan, implement new curriculum that aligns with current academic standards and complies with the Colorado READ Act, develop leadership teams, and streamline communications. Dr. Farnen also worked to bring back field studies and extended field studies and worked with Shelley Smith to build out a framework for explorations that complements our enrichment model. She completed several grant applications, resulting in additional funding to enrich the experiences of students. I hope you will join me in thanking Dr. Farnen and wishing her well.

While the school year is over, there is still a lot happening at school.

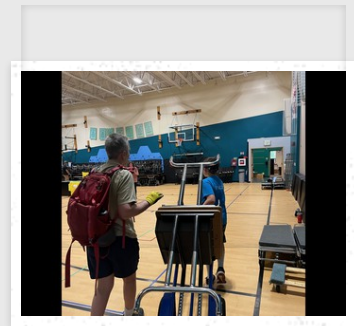
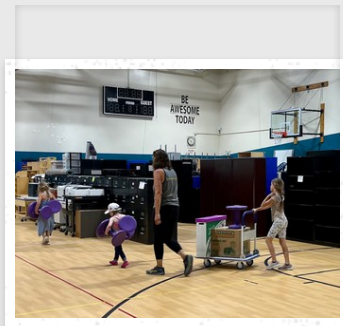
On Tuesday, we had volunteers scheduled to come and help teachers pack their classrooms and move everything to the gym in preparation for our summer construction. Well, our amazing family volunteers, including students, pitched in and had everything buttoned up by 1:00 p.m. In the words of parent Linda Stilling, **THIS is what Excel is all about: community.** Thank you so much to everyone who helped with this and so many other end-of-year activities. We are so incredibly grateful for the myriad of ways our families support our school now and throughout the year. Every volunteer minute translates into enriching the experiences of our students. I look forward to continuing to build meaningful opportunities for family involvement.

Speaking of meaningful family involvement, I understand and value staff and parental voice in important decisions. One of the most important responsibilities of the Executive Director is assuring we have well-qualified teachers, administrators, and support staff who are a great fit

for our community. To that end, I seek up to two parents/guardians from our community whose children will be returning to Excel next year to join some of our staff members on our summer interview team. We have a few positions we are still seeking to fill, and need to conduct interviews until we've hired our full staff. If this opportunity interests you, please review the requirements and [complete this form](#) by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 5th. There is a fast turnaround on this, as we would like our summer interviews to begin on Wednesday, June 7th.

I plan to provide periodic updates over the summer, so **watch your email and our school website for future special summer editions of The Eagle Update**. And, I hope to see many of you at the PTO Playdate and Hangout on April 21st from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at Michael Northey Park - see details below!

In Partnership,
Kresta Vuolo



SUMMER PLAYDATES & HANGOUTS!

Join the Excel PTO for Summer Playdates & Hangouts in the park!
Click [HERE](#) for details and dates.



SCHOOL PERFORMANCE VIDEOS FOR SALE!

Mr. Will Gerber, a parent at Excel Academy and owner of Talk to the Camera franchise, has the videos available for sale. If you are interested in a copy you may purchase one for \$12, see links below. **Parents please do not post the video on social media, YouTube or the like. We do not have a license to post the production online.**

Once payment is received the video will be delivered via google drive within 3-5 business days.

[Mary Poppins, Jr. Spring 2023](#)

[Annie Spring 2023](#)

OPTIONAL PREPACKAGED SCHOOL SUPPLY KITS

Excel Academy is partnering with EduKit to offer an optional, yet convenient, way for our families to order school supplies for next school year. EduKits are custom made for our school and contain only teacher-requested, school-approved items! Your student's order will be delivered to your home before school begins. Click [HERE](#) to order.



- Click the link below for the 23-24 school supply list if you prefer to shop: [2023-2024 School Supply Lists](#)

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.



23-24 SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

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.

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



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

6TH GRADE TRIP - COMING SOON!

We are currently revamping our 6th grade extended field study to fit our new curriculum and state standards. Some exciting options are being explored and we will share the outcome as soon as the trip is finalized! We are exploring late February to early March dates and will have an informational meeting when we return to school in August. We are also looking forward to offering new fundraising opportunities coming in the fall, here at school. **We are looking to continue with a 4-day, 3-night out-of-state trip, comparable in cost to last year's trip (~\$1,800) that is sure to be out of this world!**

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

Seventh grade families, we have exciting news! Our registration deadline has been extended to June 23 for the Keystone Science School trip! 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.

Please see important links below about next year's 7th grade overnight trip. Deposit and Behavior Agreement can be mailed to Excel Academy, 11500 W. 84th Ave., Arvada, CO 80005.

- [Trip Details](#)
- [KSS Behavior Agreement](#)
- [KSS Parent Information Video](#)
- [Parent/Student Info Packet](#)
- [KSS Parent Slideshow](#)
- [Chaperone Application](#)
- [Financial Assistance Available](#)

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



We are thrilled to announce that our 8th grade class will be returning to Washington D.C. again, in the spring of 2024! This is a trip you don't want to miss! Our registration deadline has been extended to **June 30** - register now for the smallest monthly payments and look for **new fundraising opportunities to happen HERE AT SCHOOL** when we return in the fall!

1. Sign up online at worldstrides.com/signup or by phone at 800-468-5899 using **trip ID 210215**.
2. Sign up with a **\$49 deposit** and have smaller monthly payments by signing up early.
3. Sign up now to ensure you'll have access to [FLAG financial assistance](#). Plus, you'll have more time to spread out your monthly payments and more time to fundraise through the [Gift of Education](#).
4. Exciting new fundraising opportunities will be available here at school to help with the cost of the trip. We want to help families in any way we can, so that all students may have this incredible opportunity!

[Additional financial assistance](#) is available through supporters of Excel Academy. Please click on the link above or email Shelley Smith for more information.

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 next 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

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