

Excel Academy Eagle Update

Back-to-School - August 12, 2023

Dear Eagle Families,

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year! We are so glad you chose to be part of our community. Our entire staff has been working tirelessly yet joyfully to make sure we are ready to welcome our scholars and families. Our Instructional Leadership Team participated in a two-day off-site planning retreat at the Colorado Gives Foundation meeting space to identify priorities, plan our pre-service week activities, and develop action steps for intentional cultivation of a positive community culture in which every student, every family, and every staff member feels welcome and that Excel Academy is where they belong. This involves building upon the great things already in place while being open to bringing back some things that faded during COVID and adjusting or trying new things as well. One thing we agreed exemplifies our Excel Academy spirit is SOAR.



Self-Discipline

Otstanding Effort

Acceptance of Others

Resilience

Building upon this, we are excited to introduce our theme of SOAR to New Heights. In addition to students and classrooms being recognized for exemplifying these traits, we will be introducing a way for students and families to recognize staff members they witness exhibiting our SOAR ideals. Stay tuned for details!

We can't wait to see you! We hope you will join us for our back-to-school events:

- **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 as well as pick up your driveline number for your cars.
- **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.

From this point forward, you can expect to receive the Eagle Update in your inbox each school-day Friday between now and May 24th. We are so excited to welcome our Eagle families back and look forward to working together as we SOAR to New Heights!

In Partnership,
Kresta Vuolo
Executive Director

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.



Teacher & Schedule Placement

Thank you for your patience as we finalize our class lists and middle school schedules. You can log into Campus now and view schedules.

1. K-5 teacher
2. Middle School schedules
3. Middle School locker assignment

6th Grade students: To view your electives you will need to toggle to the 7/8 schedule. There is a drop down at the top and you can toggle between 6th grade schedule and 7/8 to see your complete schedule.

Driveline Numbers for the Carpool Line

Driveline family numbers will be handed out during the "Meet the Teacher" Open House on Monday, August 14th. You will receive three tags that can be cut out and will hang from your rearview mirror. Pickup numbers are used at the end of the day. Staff will input your family number and it will send a message to all your kids classrooms letting them know you are out front. You can share that number with anyone picking up your children.

For safety reasons all students will enter and exit through the front door.

Students Who Will Walk/Bike Home: If you want your child to walk home or to a designated location, they can let their teacher know that they are a walker and they will be released and allowed to leave



through the front doors. Set up a plan with your children before dropping them off. **(For grades K-5 please email their teacher letting them know they will be a walker).**

Remember once your child walks off school grounds there will NO longer be supervision.

Carline Reminders: Please do not arrive any earlier than 8:00 a.m. for morning drop off or 3:25 p.m. for afternoon pick-up. **Our carline represents the ONLY WAY that emergency vehicles, including ambulances, can access our school.** Keeping the carline open and clear assures the safety of our students and staff - especially when minutes matter. Remember to pull all the way forward and come to a complete stop before letting children in or out of your vehicle. Please follow the directives of our staff members who are easily identified by their yellow safety vests or turquoise Excel Academy ID lanyards. Remind children to walk on the section of sidewalk closest to the building so they are away from moving cars. Our carline is a phone and smoke-free/vape-free zone. We also ask that you keep any pets corralled away from the doors for their safety as well as the safety of our staff who are helping students in and out of cars. When exiting the driveline onto 84th Avenue, we recommend turning right. Remember that u-turns are prohibited all around the school.

Are you new to the carline? No worries - we were all new at one time! We love these [tips from The Daily Mom](#) (thought the tips apply to anyone participating in drop-off or pick-up using the carline).

Coming to pick up your child? No problem! Please come to the grassy area near the northeast side of the building and look for Mrs. Anderson, who will input your driveline number into the system alerting the classroom teacher that you are here and ready for your child to come meet you. The color that appears in the classroom indicates that you are in the walk-up area instead of the carline.

Parents of Kindergarten and 1st Grade Students: One of our staff members will accompany kindergarten and first grade students to their classrooms in the morning and to the carline or walk-up area to connect with their adults in the afternoons. We will be tying a ribbon on the handle of their backpack that serves as a visual cue to our staff that they are one of our youngest scholars so that we provide that extra support during the arrival and dismissal times.



Bonus Learning (after school clubs) & MS Sports

Enroll Now for after school clubs & MS Sports

- Excel Academy Bonus Learning [Catalog](#) (Afterschool classes)
- Register for Excel Teacher taught Bonus Learning classes [HERE](#).
- Sign-up for Middle School Sports [HERE](#).

Preparing Kids for a Return to School

Starting or returning to school is a big change for both kids and families. So how can you ensure this transition goes smoothly? Our partners at Children's Hospital Colorado offer helpful tips on important back-to-school topics, including helping kids stay healthy, encouraging social-emotional learning and fostering new friendships. Don't miss this expert advice for these exciting and busy times.



Click [HERE](#) to view the article from Children's Hospital.

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!

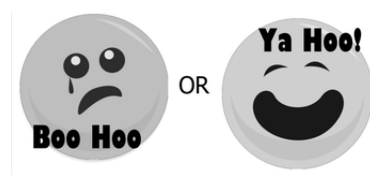
The Spirit Shop closes Sunday, August 27th.



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

2023-24 Extended Field Studies Important Information



We are excited to provide our students with opportunities to extend their learning and apply skills in the real world through Extended Field Studies. Please note information, action items, and deadlines below.

5th Grade Trip: Mountain Lab School

May 8th - 10th, 2024

Information meeting DATE and TIME.

6th Grade Trip: Mission to Mars in Arizona

February 26th - 29th, 2024

Information meeting on Thursday, August 17th at 4:30 p.m. in the cafeteria just before Middle School Back-to-School Night.

7th Grade Trip: Keystone Science School

September 25th - 27th, 2023

Mandatory paperwork meeting on Tuesday, August 22nd at 4:00 p.m. in the library. All students who are attending must have a guardian attend this important meeting. ***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.

May 13th - 17th, 2024

Guardian information meeting on Tuesday, August 29th 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



 11500 West 84th Avenue, Arvad...

 Julie.Smith@jeffco.k12.co.us

 303-467-2295

 excel-academy.jeffcopublicsch...