

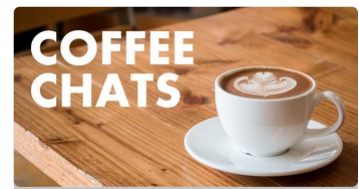
Excel Academy Eagle Update

August 25, 2023

UPDATES FROM THE OFFICE

Dear Eagle Families,

The school year is off to a wonderful start. Thank you to all of the guardians who joined us for our their student's Back-to-School Night. It was great to see everyone. We hope you came away with information that helps you support your child for a successful school year. If you were unable to join us, please click these links to view the administration's presentation for [Elementary](#) and [Middle School](#).



A Request from Our Neighbors: Earlier this week, I received an email from nearby residents expressing concerns about Excel families driving too fast through the neighborhood, completing illegal u-turns, and zooming through the crosswalks on 84th Avenue at Pierson Court. Please, please, please drive safely throughout the neighborhood and adhere to the posted speed limits and other traffic signs. Each of us holds responsibility for assuring our students, families, and neighbors are safe.

Leadership Coffee Chat - Wed. August 30th from 8:30 - 9:15 a.m. Our leadership team is excited to connect with our families. We will host a Leadership Coffee Chat on the last Wednesday morning of each month from 8:30 - 9:15 in the cafeteria. This is an opportunity for guardians to enjoy breakfast refreshments and engage in conversations with our school's administrative leaders. Those attending will need to check in at the front office, which includes running your state-issued ID through our Raptor background check system. In addition to the day change, returning guardians will notice some other enhancements based on feedback from our PTO, including an adjustment to our seating arrangement to support a more conversational environment. By request, we'll also include a summary of topics discussed in the next week's Eagle Update for guardians who are unable to attend.

Committee Membership One of the great things about being part of a charter school is the ability for guardians to contribute to decisions for the betterment of the school. Our Board of Directors is seeking parents and staff members to serve on various committees. Please see the Board of Directors update below for details.

Thank you to everyone who participates in our daily dismissal. We've dialed in the process and are happy to report that we are very close to our goal of having all children connected with their adults and carline complete by 3:45 each day. We sincerely appreciate everyone's efforts to follow intended traffic flow, remain in cars, and proceed with care and patience through the carline. We appreciate your support in contributing to a safe and efficient end of day.

In Partnership,
Kresta Vuolo
Executive Director

September Lunch & Breakfast Order Forms

- **Order September meals. Deadline to order is August 27th.**

Yes! This year breakfast and lunch is free for students; however, we do not get unlimited numbers of breakfast & lunch delivered to us. To ensure your student gets breakfast & Lunch at school, you must fill out the forms.

Excel Academy must PRE-ORDER one week in advance of the delivery week, so it is very important to pre-order before our cut off, which is the Monday before the week of delivery.

We recommend ordering the whole month at once, however, if you prefer to order each week, you must place your orders one week before. I know this can be confusing to some, so an example would be, if you only want to order breakfast for your kiddos(s) the week of September 18th, you can do so when the menu forms come out, or by the cut off time, September 10th by midnight. We will turn off the response form Sunday evening before we need to order to ensure our order is processed.

When ordering please be sure to order under your student(s) name and grade. If you have more than one student, please fill out one response form for each student.

Thank you for helping ensure our orders are processed on time.

*PLEASE NOTE: Milk is always offered with both breakfast & lunch**

A confirmation email will be sent to you shortly after you submit your order.

Breakfast Link from September 4th -29th

[Breakfast Sign Up Sept 4th thru 29th](#)

Lunch Link from September 4th-29th

[Lunch Sign up Sept 4th thru 29th](#)



SOAR Winners

Congratulations to this week's SOAR drawing winners!

- K- Marco C.
- 1st Hattie A.
- 2nd-Sienna F.
- 3rd Karmi L.
- 4th Amelia A.
- 5th Max M.
- 6th Danielle K.
- 7th-Mailee W.
- 8th- Jordan V.

Congratulations to Excel Teachers for Jeffco Recognition!

Each month, Jeffco recognizes talented teachers throughout the district who exemplify talented teaching. We are proud to share the accomplishments of the following Excel teachers who were recognized by Jeffco at the end of the 2022-23 school year:



Michaela Criswell (2nd Grade Teacher): Mrs. Criswell is a second grade teacher who understands that every student needs something just a little different and she aspires to meet the needs of every child at every possible point. She plans lessons to be engaging and she makes sure that she thinks carefully about individual needs as she goes about every day. Equity means knowing that different students grow at different times and in different ways; Mrs. Criswell embodies this in support of every child.

Ruth McEwen (Literacy Interventionist): Mrs. McEwen is our Reading Specialist and equity begins in her space as she crafts READ Plans that close gaps. She is tireless and sees every student as a person with great potential to learn, grow, achieve, and thrive. She is knowledgeable and shares that knowledge so that every teacher can grow in service to students who often need it the most as they begin their reading journey.

Lisa Mackey (1st Grade Teacher): Mrs. Mackey is a dedicated teacher with a deep dedication to making sure that every student can become a fluent reader. She plans, she learns and grows, and she applies her own learning to benefit students. Her work is never done and her room is a model for what it means to be dedicated to the science of reading so that every child has the opportunity to access their full potential as readers and learners.

Tori Rasmussen (School Social Worker): As our Social Worker, Tori sees fabulous potential in every child. Equity in her space is about believing that every parent loves their child and every child wants to be successful and happy. She spends so much time and energy making sure to advocate, support, and speak on behalf of every child with compassion, love, hope, and heart. She makes sure that every child, even on their worst day, knows that they matter, they are wonderful, and tomorrow is a new day.

Lainee Willmarth Raffa (1st Grade Teacher): Ms. Willmarth is a teacher dedicated to differentiation in every moment of her work. With deep roots in special education, she is animated, energized, enthusiastic, and engaged in ways that support as many modalities of learning as possible. She models what it means to hold every child to a high bar so that they can feel the pure joy of success and accomplishment. She knows that every child has unique gifts and talents and she speaks to this, advocates for it, and breathes it every day.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Update - ACTION: Board Advisory Committee Sign-Up

The Excel Academy Board of Directors had their first meeting of the year on August 22nd. We welcomed our new members and assigned officer posts. We invite you to take a moment to learn more about our board members [on the website](#) - and we will also be wearing name tags when at the school so you can easily identify the team.



Kresta Vuolo also spent some time sharing her [director's report](#), which covered the many exciting things that have taken place over the summer and start of the school year, including the new hires, construction updates and initial testing data. We have a lot of great momentum going into the school year and the board looks forward to partnering with Mrs. Vuolo throughout the year.

Inviting Family & Staff Participation and Input

One of our primary objectives is to bring the [Excel Academy Strategic Plan](#) to life. To do this, we've created advisory action committees where we'd like to invite families and staff to participate and provide valuable input to achieve the outlined goals. A brief description of each committee is outlined below.

If your skills and passion align with these committees - and you're interested in participating, please email kmurray@excel-board.org by September 8th.

- **Finance Committee:** Meets monthly. This committee includes Excel's business manager and board treasurer, and it reviews the budget and makes recommendations for any needed adjustments, assesses enrollment requirements, reviews annual compensation for staff and makes recommendations to the board regarding any needed adjustments.
- **Technology Committee:** Meets quarterly. This committee assesses technology needs of the school and makes corresponding recommendations as well as reviewing technology services contracts. This committee will assist the school in the completion of a technology inventory and master plan.
- **Facilities Committee:** Meets quarterly. This committee includes Excel's facilities manager and oversees building maintenance and construction. This committee will assist the school in the completion of a facilities/grounds master plan.
- **Governance Committee:** Meets monthly. This committee assumes the primary responsibility for matters pertaining to Board recruitment, nominations, orientation, training, and evaluation in accordance with the school's bylaws, as well as established policies and practices approved by the Board. The governance committee will also support the ED and staff regarding curriculum review that Excel is considering adopting.
- **School Accountability Committee:** Meets monthly. This committee reviews student achievement and culture data, helps the executive director create the annual Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) and develops the annual Parent Satisfaction Survey and Staff Satisfaction Survey. The SAC committee will create and maintain a dashboard to evaluate how Excel compares to other comparable schools and the district on KPIs.

Thank you for your consideration.

The Excel Academy Volunteer Board of Directors

[Learn more about Charter School Boards](#)

[Attend an Excel Academy Charter School Board Meeting](#)

ENRICHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Concert Band for 4th and 5th Graders

Excel Academy is pleased to announce the return of Concert Band for 4th and 5th grade participation. We have not been able to provide this opportunity since before COVID. Research shows students who participate in band benefit in many ways. It increases memory capacity, helps to develop organizational skills, boosts social skills, teaches perseverance, enhances coordination, increases mathematical ability, improves reading comprehension skills, sharpens concentration, and relieves stress. These are a few of the benefits that learning an instrument provides.



The band instruments include: Flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, and drums. Students must provide their own instrument. Instruments can be rented, purchased or borrowed. Students will also need to purchase a band book. The method book is "Essential Elements 2000 Book 1" for your specific instrument.

Band participants will meet on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 10:30 till 11:00 This means that they will be responsible to manage time and turn in missed work. Band will begin on Sept. 5th. Please fill out the quick interest survey [linked here](#).

We Use Operoo for Field Study Permission Slips

New families, please check your email for an email from Operoo. A email will be sent to you every two days until an account is created.. You will need to activate your account so you can receive permission slips for upcoming field studies that your child's class will be attending. Thank you.



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](#).

PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)



PTO Meeting: Wednesday August 30th, 6 - 8pm

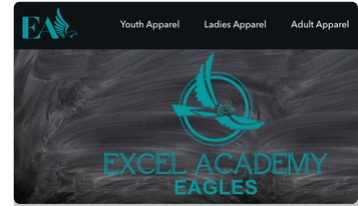
Join us on Wednesday August 30th and enjoy pizza during the PTO meeting!

Click [HERE](#) for details.

LAST CHANCE: 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.

PTO Grown-up's Night Out - TONIGHT!

Join the PTO for a Grown-ups Night Out! Click [HERE](#) for details.

Arvada Harvest Festival Parade

Excel students and families are invited to walk in the Arvada Harvest Festival parade on Saturday, September 9th. Check your Friday folders next week for more details. **Decorating our float will be part of community night on Thursday, September 7th.**

Helpful Links & Resources

[Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#) (Check grades, missing assignments, attendance, pay fees)

[Infinite Campus Parent Directions](#)

[Log Volunteer Hours](#) and sign-up for volunteer opportunities

[2023-24 Excel Academy School Year Calendar](#)


Excel Academy K-8 Charter School


 Facebook



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