

Excel Academy Eagle Update

September 29, 2023

UPDATES FROM THE SCHOOL

Dear Eagle Families,

One of the hallmarks of charter schools is the ability for parents to be involved and have more input into school decisions than at district-run schools. The Board of Directors received a strong response to their call for guardians interested in serving on Board sub-committees - thank you to all who reached out to express interest. Each of the Board Sub-Committee Chairs will be reaching out in the next couple of weeks with meeting details.



We are now in the process of forming our school's committees for the year, which provide even more opportunities for guardians to get involved. We are currently seeking one or more guardians to serve on each of the following school committees:

- **INTERVIEW TEAM:** Members will meet as needed to interview, rate candidate answers, and discuss potential candidates for open positions at Excel Academy. Members need to complete a short online training and sign a confidentiality agreement and agree to participate in all interviews for a given position.
- **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:** Meets monthly (or as determined by the team) to review our internal and external communication such as school website information, teacher website information, class newsletters, team meetings, etc. This committee will also work to develop our school's stylesheet, provide input in developing a marketing plan, and support communications and marketing efforts of the school.
- **CURRICULAR EVENT & OUTREACH COORDINATION COMMITTEE:** Meets monthly (or as needed) to help to plan and organize school events such as STEM Day, Musicals, Choir Performances, Science Fair, Literacy Day, Teddy Bear Picnic, Awards Ceremonies, Reading Buddies, Continuation, etc. (Committee can reach out to staff for coordination in each specified area).

- **HEALTHY SCHOOLS & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE:** Meets monthly (or as needed) to review the district's Healthy School updates, class parties, birthdays, recess time, movement activities, etc. This committee will consider ways Excel can adjust practices to be more environmentally friendly and reduce our school's carbon footprint.

We provide time on our Professional Development Days for committee meetings, though each committee will have the ability to schedule their meetings for days and times that work best for the committee members. If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, please send an email indicating which committee you would like to serve on, why, and any skills, experience, qualifications, or perspective you believe would be beneficial to the committee. Send your email to Director's Secretary Julie Smith at Julie.Smith@jeffco.k12.co.us with "Committee Interest" in the subject line by 9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 9th. Thank you for considering sharing your talents with our Excel Academy community through committee service.

In Partnership,
Kresta Vuolo
Executive Director



Quick Pulse Survey

Ms. Vuolo, our Executive Director, and the Excel Academy Board of Directors are taking a quick pulse survey as a follow-up related to topics aligned with Excel Academy's Strategic Plan. The questions come from either district's Family-School Relationships Survey that is administered in the January-February timeframe each year or the Excel Academy School Accountability Committee Survey from last fall. By completing a pulse survey now, we can better assure that we continue things that are going well and enhance or change areas needing improvement. Please take five minutes between now and October 16th to [complete the pulse survey](#). Thank you providing feedback to help Excel Academy continue to grow and improve.

Mrs. Boyd needs volunteers!

If you like volunteering in the music department, now's your chance. We've just added in a ton of volunteer opportunities including such things as set designers, decorations for musical performances, photographers, sound tech's and so much more! There's even spots for middle school students to help out! Log in (or sign up) to [Track it Forward](#) and you'll find these opportunities on the event page listed at the top above the calendar. Sign up now, these spots will go quick!



**LET'S GO
EAGLES!**

Eagle Athletics

The Lady Eagles took on the Lincoln Leopards in volleyball action on Thursday evening. Although the "B" team put up a good fight they were beaten in consecutive games by the following scores: 25-14 and 25-9. The "A" team once again started strong with a 25-13 dismantling of the Leopards only to drop the following two, 25-17 and then 15-7. I am sure part of the letdown was due to the fact that there was no practice leading up to the game because of the 7th grade trip. Hopefully, the Eagle will find the winning combination on Monday October 2nd as they take on the Evergreen Country Day School Eagles. Action starts at 4:15 PM with the "B" team, followed by "A" team at 5:15!

Next week is a busy one for our Cross Country team as they head to the Lincoln Academy Invitational at Majestic View Park on Wednesday, October 4th starting at 4:15 p.m. and then head to the Runners Roost Invitational #2 on Friday, October 6th from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. at Addenbrooke Park (boys run at 3:30, girls run at 4:10).

Let's go Eagles!

We hope to see you cheering on our Eagles at one of these exciting events!

Leadership Coffee Chat Recap

We had more than 20 guardians and staff members at our Leadership Coffee Chat this week! Here is an overview of the topics discussed:



HOW DO I VOLUNTEER? The majority of volunteer opportunities are listed in the PTO's [Track It Forward](#) system. Once you log in, you can view the calendar with all opportunities or select filters to narrow choices to the types of opportunities you are interested in. There's also a Track It Forward app you can load onto your smartphone for quick access anywhere.

I NOTICED THAT THE SCHOOL CALENDAR HAS CONFERENCES ON DECEMBER 18th AND 19th. THAT FEELS LATE. Our Instructional Leadership Team agrees, and thus we've changed conferences to be held the week of October 9th instead. Information was sent via email today, September 29th. Elementary families will sign up for scheduled time slot. Middle School families will come to the gym on one of the two designated days where all the teachers will have tables set up for 5-minute check-ins.

WHEN WILL WE GET TO SEE OUR STUDENT'S MAP DATA? Students in 1st grade and above complete MAP assessments (Measured of Academic Progress) three times each school year. Your student's MAP progress report shows all of their MAP scores from tests taken in any Jeffco school as well as the district average and national norm for the grade level. Your child's teacher will be talking about MAP scores among other topics at Guardian/Teacher Conferences mid-October, which will be held the week of October 9th.

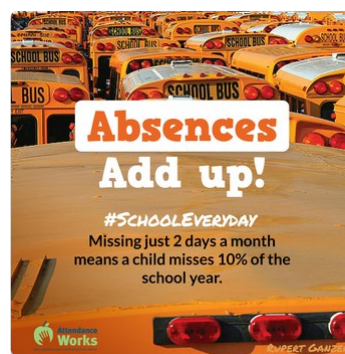
WHY ARE THERE WINDOWS BOARDED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE BUILDING? On the evening of September 8th, three adolescent males broke three windows and attempted to break a fourth by throwing cobblestones. In addition, the youths trespassed on the roof of the school. Thankfully, the damage was discovered by Mrs. Kuhl when she came in on Saturday to work in her 3rd grade classroom. Mr. Yanker was on site installing tile in the art room, and the two of them worked together to clean up the glass. We then contacted a company that came out to remove the remaining shards and board the windows. We have been working with Jeffco's Department of School Safety and local law enforcement, to make repairs, investigate the crime, and plan for moving forward. If you have any information to share with law enforcement about this incident, please contact Officer Baker at tbaker@arvada.org or 720-898-6900. Students may also call or text the Safe2Tell program to report safety concerns anonymously at 877.542.7233, or report online at <https://safe2tell.org/>.

We invite you to join our next Leadership Coffee Chat on Wednesday, October 25th from 8:30 - 9:15 a.m. in the cafeteria. The topics come from those in attendance, so bring questions, ideas, and feedback and we'll provide the breakfast snacks!

Absences Add Up

Absences ADD Up!

Did you know that missing just 2 days a month means a child misses 10% of the school year? It's true. While teachers do their best to support students when they return, it's simply not possible to replicate lessons or class discussions that were missed. Help your child have the best opportunity for learning by assuring they are at school on time every day unless they are too sick for school.



YMCA Care During School Breaks

YMCA [flyer](#) with information about our Full Day Out (FDO) care during school breaks and teacher workdays.

SOAR Winners

Congratulations to this week's SOAR drawing winners!

- Self-Discipline
- Outstanding Effort
- Acceptance of Others
- Resilience
- K- Emmett Boggs
- 1st-Callen Sallie
- 2nd-Barrett Butler
- 3rd Beckett Gibbons
- 4th-Zaria Avila
- 5th-Dixn McKay



6th- Elizabeth Stilling

7th-Andrew Daly

8th-Jude Palmer

Class: Mrs. Dexters Class for Self Discipline and Outstanding Effort

FROM THE CLINIC



From our Area Nurse Andrea Gansen

Great a FREE app that you can get on your phone that assists with "when to take your kids to the Doctor/ER." Click [HERE](#) for the details.

PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

Excel Academy Community Night at the Avs Game!

[Buy a ticket to the Avalanche game](#) and get a voucher for a Mammoth lacrosse game! Plus, \$5 from every ticket sale goes back to Excel Academy! See you on the ice!

Colorado Avalanche vs Los Angeles Kings

Friday, January 26, 2024 at 7:00pm



Vegas Night!

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE! Come out and join the Excel community for a Vegas Night Theme Party. This is the PTO's Fall Fundraiser, which is replacing the Love for Excel Gala this year. We'll have a silent auction, a buffet-style dinner, casino games, a photo booth, lawn games, a cash bar, and maybe even a special guest photo bomber! A starter pack of casino chips is included, and more chips will be available to purchase to keep the fun going! All the money spent in chips will go to the PTO, which in turn goes back to our kiddos and our school!

[Vegas Night Flyer](#)

Link to tickets - <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/e2e67644-d243-4d0b-b903-3cd3317a2357>

Load The (staff) Lounge

Let all the outstanding Excel Academy teachers and staff know just how much we appreciate them by providing them with nutritious snacks, sweet treats, and other items for the lounge. Items can be brought by you or your student to the front office. When possible opt for Costco/Sam's Club sizes and individual servings of food items. Every \$10 you spend equals an hour of volunteer time! All grades are loaded in **track it forward**, <https://www.trackitforward.com/>, so sign up now!

All grades have two sign-up opportunities for the first and third Monday of the month.

8th- September

7th- October

6th- November

K- December

1st- January

2nd- February

3rd- March

4th- April

5th- May

If you have any questions, email treasurer@excelpto.org

PTO Links

[Excel Academy PTO Website](#)

[Track it Forward Volunteer Opportunities & Hours Tracking Site](#)

ENRICHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS



Gator Basketball

Standley Lake High School youth basketball tryouts. October 15th.
Click [HERE](#) for details.

Helpful Links & Resources

[Order Breakfast or Lunch](#): **October** meals available to order. (due a week before the week of meals)

[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](#)

Ideas for thanking a staff member: [Treats and Deets](#)





Excel Academy K-8 Charter School

 Facebook

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