

Excel Academy Eagle Update

October 13, 2023

UPDATES FROM THE SCHOOL



LAST CALL FOR FALL PULSE SURVEY FEEDBACK!

Calling all guardians who have not yet completed our quick pulse survey! We value your input and will be using the data received to help us know what to keep doing and what needs to be improved. The survey will be open through 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 16th. Please take five minutes to [complete the pulse survey](#). Thank you for helping us continue growing and improving.



Happy Fall Break

Happy Fall Break from your Excel Secretaries! We hope everyone has a safe and fun break!



Excel Water Quality Results

Last spring, we submitted every drinking water source for lead testing through the State of Colorado program waterforkids, linked here <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/environment/lead-safety/test-and-fix-water-for-kids>. When we received our results, it identified 12 of 13 results with no lead above five parts per billion. We were unclear as to why the thirteenth result was not indicated.

After following up with the State, an explanation was given that the thirteenth sample was damaged upon delivery. We provided a new sample, and the test results were received yesterday indicating no lead above five parts per billion. This is great news, and no further action is required. Please view the results at our webpage [click here to view results](#). You can search your facility by Name, District or School ID.

When Excel Academy was built in 2004, the building codes required lead-free fittings for all plumbing fixtures. In addition, we have installed filters on all drinking sources throughout the building. The City of Arvada also provides annual reports on their water quality, and you can view those results through this link <https://www.arvadaco.gov/448/Water-Report>

[Water Quality Report | Arvada, CO](#)

Read the Water Quality Report from 2022 (Reporting Year 2021). www.arvadaco.gov

We hope this gives you some assurance to the quality of water the Students and Staff consume while here at Excel Academy,

Solar Eclipse Viewing

At about 10:30 a.m. Mountain Time on Saturday, Oct. 14, the moon will pass in front of the sun above much of the western U.S., creating a blazing “ring of fire” in the sky.



[Vea este video en español.](#) (Credit: Fiske Planetarium)

The event is called an annular eclipse, and it will be the first of two eclipses that North America will witness in the coming year. Boulder doesn't lie in the path of the full October eclipse, but Colorado residents can still see an impressive partial eclipse, said John Keller, director of the [Fiske Planetarium](#) at CU Boulder. The planetarium will host a viewing party open to the public on the Norlin Quad from 9:30 a.m. to noon as part of CU Boulder's [Family Weekend](#).

“You should never look at the sun at any point without eye protection in the form of solar viewing glasses during the October annular eclipse,” Keller said. Other viewing options: [Solar Eclipse Viewing](#) Saturday 10/14 at UCAR in Boulder

Put this fun family event on your calendar! [Super Science Saturday](#) family event at UCAR in Boulder on 11/4.

Classroom Fall Parties

On Tuesday, October 31st students can wear costumes to school.

All costumes must be Rated "G", meet dress code requirements, be school appropriate, and follow the guidelines below:



- No face masks, hats, weapons, or depictions of scary characters or violence
- Face paint must still allow staff to easily identify the person
- No blood, gore, or things that could frighten our youngest scholars
- No Inflatable Costumes
- Students must be able to sit easily at their desk and do schoolwork
- As our school endeavors to provide an environment where families of all backgrounds feel safe and welcome, we ask students and staff to read and follow the recommendations of Jeffco's Department of Community Partnerships in not dressing up in costumes related to indigenous peoples. Please read the guidance document, which contains additional resource links, [here](#).

We will have a regular school day until 2:45 when class parties begin. Please keep this in mind, as costumes could get soiled or damaged during the school day activities.

Classroom parties will start at 2:45. For space reasons and to support students for whom noise, crowds and activity can be overwhelming, we ask that classroom volunteers be limited to 2 people. Watch for an email from the classroom teacher with ways to donate to the class party.



Kindergarten and 1st Grade Music Program

Kindergarten and 1st Grade Music Program

Thursday, Oct. 26th 6:00 p.m.

Click [HERE](#) for details.

Explorations Needs - Volunteer Opportunities

Supplies: Explorations is underway, and our students have begun planning and crafting their projects. Students have come up with a supply list and we are looking for donations to fulfill their wish lists. It would be wonderful if we could get some of these supplies by

Wednesday when Explorations meets again. If you are able, please consider donating to our

Explorations supply needs: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094EAFAF2BAB9-44975057-explorations>

Remember that for every \$10 you spend, you can log one volunteer hour with the PTO.

Thank you so much!



Sewing Machine and Volunteer: Our middle school Fashion Explorations class wants to learn how to sew their own clothes. **Do we have any volunteers who would be willing to bring in their sewing machine and give a demonstration?** Better yet, any volunteers willing to come in every week during Explorations to help the kids learn and practice? Explorations is every Wednesday from 2:40 - 3:30. *Please contact Shelley Smith at Shelley.Smith@jeffco.k12.co.us if you would like to volunteer. We would love to have you join us!*

Busy Week for Excel Athletics!

With the need for rescheduling athletic events due to the 7th grade trip, this past week has been a busy one for Eagle athletes.

The week started with a bang as the **soccer** team notched their first win of the season, a 3-1 victory over Evergreen Country Day School. Barrett Anderson provided the scoring punch with two goals. Argjend Krasniqi added the third tally!

Wednesday was a sport lover's dream with two teams competing, as volleyball and soccer had games.

- The **soccer** team suffered a 4-0 loss to Lincoln.
- The **volleyball** teams, both "A" and "B" scored victories. The "B" team notched their first victory of the year albeit it didn't come easy. After winning the first game they lost the second and then gained the victory with a convincing third game performance. The "A" team won in straight games 25-7 and 25-13.



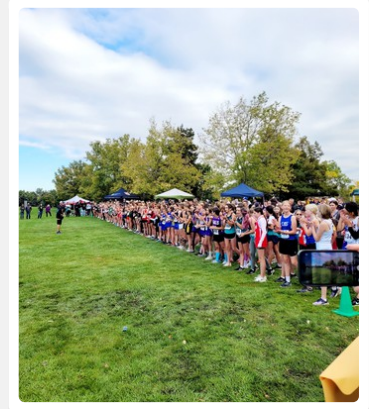
The allure of Fall break must have been too much for the Lady Eagles as the volleyball teams bowed to the Leopards of Lincoln Academy in straight sets on Thursday. Communication seemed to be a major

issue throughout the evening with many balls hitting the floor as players looked on. One more game on the schedule before the tournament. Looking ahead it's likely the Eagles will be a third or fourth seed in the tournament which will be held starting October 30th and ending November 2, 2023.

Action resumes after the fall break with soccer visiting ECDS on 10/23/23 (players excused at 3:15pm) and volleyball heading to Woodrow Wilson on 10/25/23.

Check out our Cross Country runners (photos below) as they participated in the Runners Roost #2 last week!

Enjoy Fall break!



SOAR Winners

- K-Lincoln Porras
- 1st-Kalena Post
- 2nd-Emilia Glass
- 3rd -Maverick McDaniel
- 4th- Elizabeth Kublitskiy
- 5th-Donesa Pantina
- 6th- Indigo Dickens
- 7th- Owen Tassano
- 8th- Zoe Dolph

Classroom: Mrs. Raffa's Class for Outstanding Effort

Middle School Newsletter

Middle School Monthly Newsletter

Check out the [Middle School Newsletter](#). It contains lots of great photos and information pertaining to our class trips, curriculum, and our upcoming fall parties.

FROM THE EXCEL ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Update: Why Do We Have a Board of Directors?



The Excel Academy Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on September 26. Ms. Vuolo shared her [director's report](#), which provided updates aligned to our strategic plan buckets: our learners, our community, our people, and our operations & resources. The board continues the work started last year updating board policies to align with current practice and law. We also approved updated [bylaws](#) to allow for more flexibility in recruiting board members with needed skill sets to support Excel Academy (sections 3.2 and 3.3).

Why does Excel have a Board of Directors?

One defining feature of a charter school, by law, is its local governance model. The governing board holds Excel's contract, or charter, with our authorizer, Jeffco Public Schools. The board must renew this contract periodically in order for Excel to continue to operate. The board ensures we are meeting the conditions of our contract such as remaining financially stable and maintaining strong academic results.

The Excel board is composed of up to seven directors. We are public servants who are elected or appointed and serve 3 year terms. The board is a representative group of parents and community members who have a vested interest in the success of Excel Academy.

What does the Board of Directors do?

The board's number one responsibility is to ensure the organizational health and viability of Excel. In partnership with staff and community, we set the mission, vision, and values of the school as well as the strategic direction for Excel's future.

Beyond this, the board is responsible for additional, important activities which include:

- Hires the Executive Director to execute the strategic direction, goals and policies
- Supports the school's [grievance process](#) as defined by the school's grievance policy
- Reviews and approves high-level policy, mainly Jeffco policies that we may opt to waive out of.

How can the school community partner with the Board of Directors?

- [Attend an Excel Academy Charter School Board Meeting](#) and sign up for public comment to share the great things happening at Excel as well as concerns.
- Take school surveys and provide honest and constructive feedback.
- Learn more about the board by visiting the [Board of Directors page](#) on the Excel website.
- Consider joining the board. Elections are held each spring.

Thank you for your commitment to our great school community!
The Excel Academy Volunteer Board of Directors



**Children's Hospital
Colorado**

Why your child needs regular wellness checks

How regular checkups keep kids healthy

Visiting your pediatrician regularly helps ensure that your child is healthy and happy. In addition to covering basic wellness exams, these visits are also important for vaccinations, vision and hearing tests, mental health screenings, physical development and so much more. Plus, these visits are a key part of disease and illness prevention throughout childhood. Learn more about the importance of wellness checks from our expert partners at Children's Hospital Colorado.

[Children's Hospital](#)

Family Healthy Habits & Physical Activity

Family Healthy Habits & Physical Activity. Click [HERE](#) for the flyer.



PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)



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>

PTO Links

[Excel Academy PTO Website](#)

ENRICHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

CU Wizards

CU Wizards provides FREE monthly science seminars for students and their families at the CU Boulder Campus. Check out their [monthly schedule here](#).



Trunk Or Treat

Are you looking for a sensory-friendly Halloween celebration? Join Behavioral Innovations ABA center for costumes, candy, activities and more!"

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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