

# Excel Academy Eagle Update

November 3, 2023

## UPDATES FROM THE SCHOOL

### Dear Eagle Families

Happy November! The days are getting shorter, the air crisper, and our calendars fuller. We have many wonderful events between now and Winter Break and we hope you will attend as you are able.

One of the biggest events for the adults in our community is coming up next Friday, November 10th as our **PTO hosts Vegas Night** at the Table Mountain Event Center from 6:30 - 11:00 p.m. The PTO could use help with setting up and decorating from 5:00 - 6:30, staffing the registration table from 6:45 - 7:15, the Spin the Wheel game from 8:00 - 11:00, and clean up from 11:00 - 12:00. Please sign up to help through [Track It Forward online](#) or via the app.



Our students are gearing up for **Explorations Expo** the afternoon of Wednesday, November 15th. Come see the amazing creativity, ingenuity, and fun our students are having as they create artifacts to demonstrate their learning. See all the details below. Remember to bring a valid government-issued ID for check-in any time you will be spending time at the school.

Finally, remember to set your hours back one hour on Saturday night, as **Daylight Savings Time ends** and we return to Mountain Standard Time!

In Partnership,  
Kresta Vuolo  
Executive Director



**EXCEL ACADEMY**  
A K-8 PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

**OUR K-8 PROGRAM OFFERS:**

- Smaller class sizes: 20 students in K/1 classrooms to focus on early literacy skills.
- Highly qualified staff to support a variety of student needs, including gifted & talented, intervention support & special education.
- A research-based social and emotional learning curriculum.
- K/1 Spanish, Spanish, art, music, PE, library/tech.
- Highly qualified and endorsed teachers.
- Parent/educators to support students.
- Opportunities for student leadership and voice across elementary and middle school.
- National Junior Honor Society in middle school.
- Opportunities for academic acceleration.
- Project based and multi-age opportunities for students.
- 7th and 8th grade end of year projects to build skills and prepare students for high school and beyond.
- An environment where staff knows all students' strengths/needs.
- Intentional use of campus spaces, including small group areas, science labs, art studio, and makers space.

**APPLY ON ENROLL JEFFCO:**  
ENROLLJEFFCO.ORG

**ROUND ONE CHOICE ENROLLMENT**  
(FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR)  
DECEMBER 5TH - JANUARY 12TH

**CONTACT**  
PHONE 303-467-2295  
ADDRESS 11500 W 84th Ave Arvada CO 80005  
WEBSITE excel-academy.jeffcopublicschools.org

**PROSPECTIVE PARENT INFORMATION MEETINGS & TOUR**  
K-8 INFORMATION MEETINGS NO RSVP NEEDED

- November 14th - Tuesday 9:00 am
- December 6th - Wednesday 4:00 am
- January 10th - Wednesday 5:00 pm

**SCHOOL TOURS EVERY TUESDAY AT 9:00 AM NO RSVP NEEDED**

PRINCIPAL KIBETA WICKO  
Enrollment Questions? Email: Julia Smith at julia.smith@jeffco.k12.co.us

## Prospective Parent Information Meetings

Excel Families tell your friends and family about our upcoming Prospective Parent meetings.

**We would love to have your Friends and Family at Excel Academy!**

### Upcoming Meeting Dates

November 14th: 9:00 am

December 6th: 4:00 pm

January 10th: 5:00 pm

[Prospective Parent Flyer](#)

## Join The Excel Outreach Committee

Have you heard of the Outreach Committee? Are you looking for more volunteer opportunities? Here's a way to help fellow Excel Academy teachers, students, and families! Serving on the Outreach Committee is a

wonderful way to help fellow Excel Academy families and staff in a time of need or celebration! We assist with gifts, rides, meals, etc. when an Eagle family has a life altering event.

As a committee member you can expect to be emailed as needs arise. At that time if you feel you can help then a sign-up will be provided. As a reminder time & money counts towards your volunteer hours! Sign-up [HERE](#) to be added to the Outreach Committee list.

*Outreach Committee*

**\*\*Please reach out if your family would benefit from our care.**

**\*\*We are discreet in our communications and respect the confidentiality of the families we support.**

Email Tara Schirner at [exceloutreachcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:exceloutreachcommittee@gmail.com).

## Driveline Reminders

Brrrrrr!! With cold weather upon us, we want to remind everyone that our school doors do not open for students until 8:00 am. Please **do not drop your children off before 8:00 am** unless they are participating in the YMCA before-care program or are member of a scheduled and supervised activity (NJHS, Lexia Lab). If you arrive before 8:00 am, we ask that your students remain in your vehicle until the school is open.



We need your help making our driveline process run smoothly! Please be respectful to those parents coming in behind you and pull your car forward as far as you can before stopping to let your children out. Especially when the weather is cold, we need to make full use of the sidewalk along the north side of the school in order to get all students and staff in the building in a timely manner.

Also, please be courteous to our staff who stand outside every day in all the different kinds of weather to help keep your students safe!

Announcing Share Day in music classes K-5

Each student will be asked to share an interest, passion or talent they have with their classmates during music class. (See schedule below) This performance is not for parents however you may want to practice with them so they are prepared to share. Students can talk about, do, or show something that is unique or important to them. Acts should not last more than 2 minutes to allow time for each student to share. Please support your child in being prepared for their special day.



Some acts I have seen in the past include magic, cup-stacking, bouncing a ball, gymnastics, dancing, karate, singing, reciting a poem, skits etc. We will also discuss and practice appropriate audience behavior. Students will be graded on their preparedness and supportive, respectful audience behavior. The expectation is that each child will share. Share Day allows each child the opportunity to practice presenting and practice supportive, appropriate audience behavior.

### **Schedule**

**Thursday, November 9th - Zerr**

**Friday, November 10th - Rensberger, Mader, McDaniel**

**Monday, November 13th - Mackey, Clark**

**Tuesday, November 14th - Raffa, Malmgren, Henningsen**

**Wednesday, November 15th - Mesa, Kuhl, Dexter**

**Thursday, November 16th - Adams, Criswell**

I look forward to sharing this special day with your amazing children.

Mrs. Boyd



## Author, Tom Phillips, Visits Excel!

Excel is excited to have author, Tom Phillips, visit our 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th graders on **Thursday, November 9**. Tom Phillips is the author of The Curious League of Detectives and Thieves: Egypt's Fire and The Curious League of Detectives and Thieves: SOS. The series includes a hilarious, non-stop adventure, a mysterious jewel heist, and a detective team like no other. Kids that are fans of A Series of Unfortunate Events and Enola Holmes will enjoy this series. Tom Phillips will be personalizing books after his visit. Order a copy of his two books [here](#).



Excel Academy's NJHS students are collecting any extra/unwanted Halloween candy and deployment items for the USO Colorado November 1 through November 10. *The United Service Organizations (USO) strengthens America's military service members by keeping them connected to family, home and country, throughout their service to the nation.*

NJHS members have learned that because our involvement in Eastern Europe has increased significantly, the USO has a greater need for items to include in service members deployment bags. The USO is in need of many individually wrapped items, in addition to the Halloween candy, to add to the deployment bags of our troops.

Large containers located at the front entry of the school are the collection point. We'll be delivering the candy and other donated items the weekend of Nov. 11 so, all donations need to be at school no later than 3pm on Friday Nov. 10th. Thank you!

**Items Needed:**

Travel-size shampoo/conditioner

Toothbrush/toothpaste

Razors/shaving cream

Chapstick

Individually wrapped HARD candies

Small bottles of hot sauce (less than 3 oz.)

Hot chocolate and hot cider packets

Individual snack items: cookies, chips, beef jerky, fruit snacks

Small toys: fidget spinners, sticky hands (anything that is nostalgic and reminds them of home)

Puzzle Books

Anything that fits into a gallon-size bag



## Veterans Day Celebration November 10

**Excel Academy invites you and your veteran family member, friend, or neighbor to our Veterans Day Celebration being held on Friday, November 10 from 8:30 - 9:30 AM.** We would like to honor veterans and their family members on this day. Please join us for a tour of the school, light refreshments in the cafeteria, and an optional visit as a guest speaker in the classroom. All visitors, please bring your driver's license or state issued ID and check-in at the front office for a visitor's badge. Only students who have invited a guest, will be excused from class. **Your [RSVP here](#) by Wednesday, November 8 is much appreciated. Thank you.**

## Explorations Expo - You're Invited!

Our students have been working hard on their Explorations projects and will be finishing up with final touches on Wednesday. **We invite the Excel community to come to our Expo on Wednesday, November 15 to view the creativity and effort that our students have put forth.** The Expo is set up similar to a gallery walk where students will be showing and discussing their projects and what they've learned. Please connect with your 2nd - 8th grade student to find out if they will be presenting their project in the first or second half of the Expo (their class will determine that next Wednesday). **All visitors must check-in at the front office with a driver's license or state issued ID to receive a visitor's badge. Please do not plan to check your student out early as there is a lot of movement on this day. Thank you for your cooperation.**



### Explorations EXPO Schedule, Wednesday, November 15

#### **K/1 Schedule:**

First half begins 8:45 am

Second half begins 9:06 am

Expo ends 9:25 am

#### **Grades 2 - 8 Schedule:**

First half begins 1:35 pm

Second half begins 2:30 pm

Expo ends 3:15 pm

Dismissal 3:30 pm



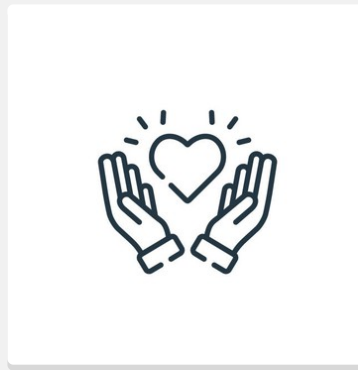
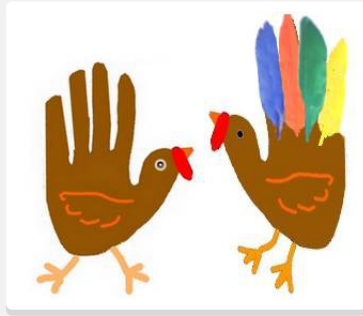
## Original Works

Your Children's Original Works in grades K-5 are ready to be ordered! Preserve your child's masterpiece on keepsake products perfect for holiday gifts. Order forms went home in your child's Friday Folder last week and have directions on how to order. The deadline to order is Tuesday, November 7th!

## PJ Day!

**Wednesday, November 8 is PJ Day at Excel. Bring \$2, be comfy and wear your PJ's for the day!** All PJ's must be school appropriate and follow school dress code. Funds raised will benefit students in the YouthBiz Exploration who are working on raising money for their overnight field study costs.





## Mr. Gobble Thankful Hands and NJHS Food Drive

Please join the PTO and NJHS students as we come together to reflect on the things we are thankful for this season while also remembering those in need. The PTO is sending Mr. Gobble feather hands home in Friday Folders (middle-schoolers will complete this in homeroom) and ask that all students, staff, and families fill out a Mr. Gobble Thankful Hand and return it to the front office, then watch Mr. Gobble grow!

Alongside showing our gratitude with the Mr. Gobble hands, the National Junior Honor Society members ask that we also think of those in need. Please consider picking up some canned goods and dropping them in the collection bin at the front entrance of the school. Our food drive will benefit those who are hungry in our local community and will be delivered to The Community Table right here in Arvada.

**Both, Mr. Gobble Thankful Hands and The Community Table Food Drive will run from November 6 -16. Let's show our gratitude while helping those in need!**



## Excel Athletics

Congratulations to our Fall Sports Athletes for a season well played. We saw growth in personal ability, endurance, teamwork, and skill. We are also grateful to our coaching teams:

- GIRLS VOLLEYBALL: Coach Connor Riley, Assistant Coach Char Marcollina
- BOYS SOCCER: Coach Barbara Copeland, Assistant Coach Lisa Heinz
- CROSS COUNTRY: Coach Eric Moen, Assistant Coach Patty Stott

Thank you to parents for supporting our student athletes in so many ways. Boys Basketball starts Monday, November 6th.



## SOAR Winners

Congratulations to this week's SOAR drawing winners!

Self-Discipline

Outstanding Effort

Acceptance of Others

Resilience

K- Wyatt Malozzi

1st -Jack Palmer

2nd-Sam Papazoglou

3rd-Layla Metaferia

4th-Alea Krasniqi

5th-Luciano Otero

6th-Liam Gilmore

7th-Aaliyah Ortiz

8th-Argjend krasniqi

Class Winner: Mr. Clark's 4th grade class for Self-Discipline

## FROM THE EXCEL ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### A Note from the School Accountability Committee

The School Accountability Committee has been working with the leadership, educator team and parent community to identify key goals for this school year. One of our goals is to ensure we have a culture of belonging and safety. This is something that Jeffco measures through a survey that is administered every January, however we'd like to do a short pulse survey to track our progress and identify opportunities for improvement.



This anonymous online survey will be administered to students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade during Social Studies classes the week of November 13th and is expected to take approximately 15 minutes. The survey will include specific questions taken from the district survey so we can evaluate the data against last year's survey as well as the district data. While we would like all students to participate in order to have data reflective of our students, as parents, you have the option to opt your student out of taking this survey. If you'd like to do so, please email Mrs. Rothstein at [Alia.Rothstein@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:Alia.Rothstein@jeffco.k12.co.us) by 3:30 p.m. on Friday, November 10th.

Thank you for your continued support of your students at Excel.

In Partnership,  
Brittany Tangsrud  
SAC Committee Chair and Board of Directors Secretary

## FROM THE CLINIC



**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](#)

## PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

### PTO Links

[Excel Academy PTO Website](#)

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

## ENRICHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

### 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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