



Excel Academy Eagle Update

December 1, 2023

UPDATES FROM THE SCHOOL

Dear Eagle Families,

As December rolls in, I wanted to take this opportunity to share gratitude for everyone in our Excel community. We are so fortunate to have a community of dedicated staff, supportive families, and incredible students. The level of involvement and commitment from our families to invest in our community warms my heart and elevates one of the best qualities of a charter public school. Our Board of Directors, PTO, and all of the various committees work tirelessly to provide opportunities for meaningful involvement, all grounded in enriching the academic, social, and emotional experiences of every student through rigorous curriculum and engaging opportunities. Thank you for choosing to be part of our wonderful community and contributing in whatever ways you are able to make this school a place where we work together to develop empathetic, confident, and responsible lifelong learners who see themselves as valuable contributors to their communities.



While we approach the half-way mark of the school year, we are already looking ahead to 2024-25. Round One of Jeffco's choice enrollment process opens December 5th and runs through January 12th. This is the time for you to confirm your intent to return to Excel Academy for the upcoming school year so that we hold your child's space. If you have another child who will be enrolling at Excel, this is also the time to apply and indicate Sibling Priority. If you have an 8th grader, this is also the time to apply to high schools. Please see an email sent on December 1st for details and

links. If you have questions or need support, please contact Mrs. Julie Smith in the front office at extension 109.

Knowing that families and staff plan vacations well in advance, our Board of Directors approved our Excel Academy 2024-25 School Calendar at their meeting earlier this week. You can [view the approved calendar here](#). The calendar closely mirror's this year's calendar due to favorable feedback about this year's calendar from staff and families.

We hope to see you at one or more of the wonderful events we have coming up over the next couple of weeks. In addition to the events highlighted below, I also invite all guardians to join us for our Leadership Coffee Chat on Wednesday, December 13th from 8:30 - 9:15 a.m. in the cafeteria. For those planning ahead, Winter Break begins on December 16th and students return to school on Thursday, January 4th.

Thank you for being part of our Excel Academy Community. I'm truly grateful to be here and working alongside dedicated staff, partnering with our supportive families, and nurturing our incredible students.

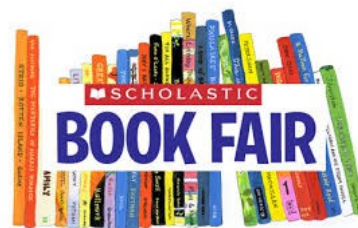
In Gratitude,
Kresta Vuolo
Executive Director

Scholastic Book Fair is Here!

The Excel Academy Scholastic Book Fair is coming! Take time to look at our [Online Store](#) front and set up an eWallet for your child so they do not need to come in with cash.

Book Fair Hours (please note, there will be NO buying during school hours):

- Dec 2nd - 10 am- 2pm during the PTO Winter Carnival
- Dec. 4th - 3:30 pm-4:30 pm
- Dec. 5th - 3:30 pm-4:30 pm & 5:00-8:00 during "Beauty & The Beast"
- Dec. 6th - 3:30 pm-5:45 pm
- Dec. 7th - 3:30 pm-4:30 pm
- Dec. 8th - Last Day! 3:30 pm-4:30



Beauty And The Beast: Middle School Students Performing their Fall Musical!

Join us for a delightful evening!

Tuesday, December 5th at 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday, December 6th at 6:00 P.M.

Tickets are \$5.00 a seat

Kids 2 and under are free

Beauty and the Beast Flyer

Tickets can be purchased from the links below.

Excel Academy Presents



Join us for a delightful evening
Tuesday, December 5th at 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday, December 6th at 6:00 P.M.
Tickets are \$5.00 a seat
Kids 2 and under are free
Tickets can be purchased from the links below.

Tuesday, December 5th

Wednesday, December 6th



[Tuesday, December 5th](#) or [Wednesday, December 6th](#)



Middle School NEWSLETTER #3 November 2023



[Middle School Newsletter](#)

Attention 5th Grade Families: Take a look at what is happening in our Middle School that your student will get to experience next year!

Sign-up For December Meals

Click [HERE](#) to sign-up for December meals.

ORDER NOW

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

December 6th: 4:00 pm

January 3rd: 4:00 pm - MIDDLE SCHOOL FOCUS

January 10th: 5:00 pm

[Prospective Parent Flver](#)



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/5 Specials: Spanish, art, music, PE, library/tech
- Highly qualified and endorsed teachers
- Paraprofessionals 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.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.jeffco.k12.co.us

YOU DO HAVE A CHOICE!
The **MISSION** of Excel Academy is to enrich the academic, social, and emotional experiences of every student through rigorous curriculum and engaging opportunities.

Our **VISION** is to develop empathetic, confident, and responsible lifelong learners who see themselves as valuable contributors to their communities.

Our **CORE VALUES** set us apart at Excel. We are very clear about the work we are doing to educate 21st century learners and what it takes for us to be a community in service to that work. We are deeply dedicated to these shared values to support a common understanding among staff, students, and families and ensure every student is getting the most out of their school day.

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

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

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

PRINCIPAL: KRESITA VUOLO
Enrollment Questions? Email: Julie Smith at julie.smith@jeffco.k12.co.us

Winter-Grams Are Here!

It's the perfect time of year to send a message to a special friend or your own child. Winter-Grams are a great way to let someone know you care while supporting students in NJHS. Each message will be delivered with a small fidget, sure to bring a smile to that special someone! Please send your message along with \$2 to the front office by December 13. Messages with fidgets will be delivered December 14 & 15. Thank you!

Winter-Gram (small fidget delivered Dec. 14 or 15 with message), \$2.00

Student Name _____
Teacher Name _____
Grade _____
Message _____

Please note how many fidgets below and attach payment to Winter-Gram. Orders due Wed. Dec. 13.

Please check this box if you want a winter - themed fidget and NOT a Christmas -themed fidget



	Number	X	Amount	=	TOTAL
Winter Fidget	x		\$2.00	=	

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Homeless Kit Service Project Items Needed

Some of our middle school students are working on a service project during our winter celebrations and need your help. They will be putting together kits for those experiencing homelessness. Please consider making a donation to help our middle schoolers with this project. Please drop donated items off at the front office by December 13. Thank you in advance! Sign up for [items needed here](#).

Maker Activities in December = MAD Makerspace

Our Middle School Life Skills Elective 1 class is hosting all Excel Elementary School classes in our Maker Space for some winter MADness. We have planned, collected supplies and are presenting a range of maker crafts and activities to work on with each of our elementary classes during the month of December. We began with Kindergarten and first grade and will host each class up until winter break when we end with the 5th graders. Yet, another great way that our middle schoolers are connecting and building relationships with our K-5 students.



Report Cards & Standards-Based Grading Scale

Our first semester ends on December 15th. Our teachers will be finalizing grades and posting report cards that will be viewable in the Campus Parent Portal after the end of the semester. Elementary students will bring their report cards home on December 15th while Middle School report cards will come home after winter break (though they will be viewable in the Parent Portal at the end of the semester).

This is the first year that our entire school transitioned to standards-based grading. Teachers shared information about this at back-to-school events and through newsletters during the semester. We know that Campus had issues with the rounding, which caused concern among some students and families. Mrs. Heather Haberman, our 8th grade Science Teacher and our School Science Coordinator worked with Mrs. Julie Smith to figure out the solution and supported teachers in updating their grade book settings and algorithms on our November 17th Professional Development Day. All grades should be rounding correctly now. You can [view our scale here](#) as well as see it below. Thank you for your patience as we worked to get this rectified.

3.5 - 4 Exceeds Standard = 4

Demonstrates complete understanding AND deeper learning of concepts beyond the level taught.

2.5 - 3.4 Meets Grade Level Standard = 3

Equates to an 80 - 100% on a grade level assessment.

1.5-2.4 Progressing to Standard = 2

Equates to a 60 - 79% on a grade level assessment.

.95 - 1.4 Does Not Meet Standard = 1

Equates to 59% and below on a grade level assessment.

0-.94 Insufficient Evidence = IE

Absent or not taking assessments.

Excel Athletics

Hello, Sports Fans, this is the sport wrap up for the week of 11/27-12/2. The boys' basketball teams made their debut on Tuesday night before a packed house, and they did not disappoint. The "B" team started things off jumping out to a quick lead behind the sharpshooting of Hagen Heintz. The Eagles went into half time tied 16-16. The third period saw the Eagles down 28-25, only to storm back and tie the game 32-32 at the end of regulation play. Into overtime the Eagles went only to be outscored 4-0 and eventually fell 36-32. Hagan finished with 21 points followed by Kaden Robles with 5, Ryan Lopez with 4 and Evan Muckle chipped in with 2.

The "A" team jumped out to a 10-4 lead in the first period with Barret Anderson and Zach Behrends scoring 5 and 4 points respectively. The Eagles maintained the lead into halftime. Period three saw the Eagles all tied up with WWA at 20. Going into the fourth quarter Cole Varner lead the way with 6 points and Christian Martin chipping in 4 points. The final tally was Excel 34 and WWA 30. Christian Martin lead all scorers with 8 points. Barrett Anderson and Paxton Fonte each had 7 points a piece. Zach Behrends chipped in with 5 while Chase Wilhelm had 5. Action continues next week on 12/4/23 when the Eagles travel to Lincoln to take on the Leopards starting at 4:15pm.



SOAR Winners

Congratulations to this week's SOAR drawing winners!

- Self-Discipline
- Outstanding Effort
- Acceptance of Others
- Resilience

KG-Luke W

1st-Benji P

2nd-Josh M Z

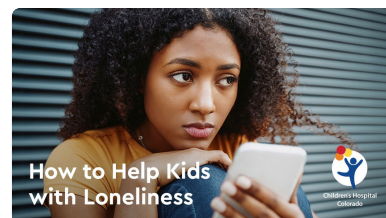
3rd-Nova T
4th-Scarkett S
5th-Ryker S
6th-Haleigh S
7th-Sophie V
8th-Alex D

FROM THE EXCEL ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM THE CLINIC

How to Help Kids Build Social Connection

Overcoming Loneliness: How to Help Kids Build Social Connection.
Click [HERE](#) to see the article.



PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

"SIGN-UP FOR RaiseRight and start earning for the school with your purchases!



Gift card fundraising, also known as scrip fundraising, has been the #1 fundraiser for nonprofit organizations across the U.S. for more than 25 years.

Why? Because it's easy and more convenient than selling goods or recruiting volunteers. Earn simply by buying gift cards to use for everyday purchases, instead of cash or credit cards.

Sign-Up at this link: [RaiseRight](#)



It is time to bring in your Longmont Dairy Milk caps!

It is time to bring in your Longmont Dairy Milk caps! Put them in the Longmont Dairy labeled box in the vestibule at the school! The PTO will be turning them in over the holiday break!

Details: Do you get Longmont Dairy Milk delivered? If you do, I hope you are saving up your milk caps for Moola for the school! MILK CAPS for MOOLA is a program sponsored by Longmont Dairy that helps families earn money for their school. All of their

caps are worth 5¢ each! The Excel PTO has a box in the front vestibule of the school for you or your student to deposit the caps in! The Dairy will recycle the caps and write the school a check! Thank you in advance for your support

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](#): **December** 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

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Location: [11500 West 84th Avenue, Arvada, CO, USA](#)

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ExcelAcademyK8>



Julie Smith

Julie is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters