



Excel Academy Eagle Update

January 26, 2024

FROM THE EXCEL ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Board Approves Schedule Shift Starting in 2024-25 School Year

Thank you for your recent feedback regarding the Instructional Leadership Team's proposed schedule shift. As representatives of the Excel community, we prioritize what will ultimately be best for our students. We value our unique position to gather community

feedback and make informed decisions.

After gathering feedback from parents and staff, we saw an even split in preference from parents, with the main concern being economical childcare solutions on Fridays. In contrast, the majority of our staff supports the change, believing it will enhance their teaching capabilities.

With the feedback in mind, the board has voted to implement the schedule change in the 2024-25 school year.

The considerations that ultimately led to the approval include:

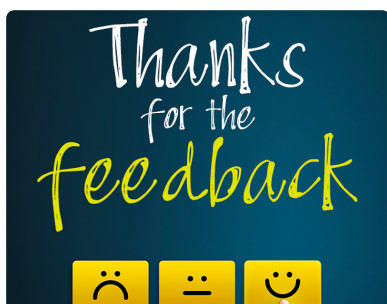
- Through improved professional development, this shift aims to create the best learning environment for our students, which aligns with our mission and vision.
- Supports greater job satisfaction for our teachers and is anticipated to be a positive element of our school that will help us to recruit and retain great teachers.
- Similar approaches in other districts and schools have shown positive outcomes by improving the time in the classroom.

With the approval of this shift, there is also the expectation to provide economical solutions that would ease any burdens this shift presents. Ms. Vuolo and her team already have amazing ideas to ease the burden and now that the decision has been made, they will work to set up these solutions. Updates will be shared in the coming months.

Once again, we are thankful for this amazing community and feel fortunate to represent our families and advocate for what is best for our students. We look forward to seeing the positive impact of these changes.

In Partnership,
Your Excel Academy Board of Directors

UPDATES FROM THE SCHOOL



Dear Eagle Families,

Proposed Schedule Adjustments for 2024-25 School Year

One of the hallmarks of charter schools is the high level of involvement of guardians and staff in ensuring the success of the school. Included in this is the ability to have a voice in important decisions. In November, the Instructional Leadership Team brought forth a proposal to both adjust our school-day start times and dismiss all students at 2:15 p.m. on Fridays not already designated as Professional Development Days. Between November 29th and January 16th, guardians and staff had the opportunity to provide feedback about the proposed adjustments via surveys and a Board of Directors Roundtable event. Thank you to all who took time to complete the surveys, participate in the Roundtable, ask questions, express concerns, and engage in discussions. Your input was central to the Board discussion at their January 23rd meeting, at which they voted to approve these adjustments, starting in August for the 2024-25 school year.

The time on Fridays will be designated for staff professional development, opportunities for collegial and vertical teaming and planning focused on curriculum, meetings focused on supporting student success, and time for our staff committees to meet. The earlier daily start time (8:10 a.m. for Middle School and 8:15 a.m. for Elementary) will both reduce the time impact of the Friday early dismissal as well as increase time for our Middle School students in their homeroom classrooms and for our elementary students to engage in their Morning Meeting activities.

We are already starting work to plan various neutral and low-cost options for our students on Friday afternoons in order to minimize impact on the families and our staff members who have children who attend Excel who indicated the 2:15 p.m. dismissal time would present a challenge. Some of the ideas we are vetting include:

- Encouraging volunteer-led group activities such as scouts, Destination Imagination, Navigators, etc. to meet on Fridays after school
- Providing opportunities for our Middle School students who are saving for extended field studies to provide low-cost activities with proceeds being applied to their trip funds
- Reaching out to the YMCA after-school program to see if they can add a low-cost Friday-only option for those who need care until the 3:30 p.m. regular dismissal time

Watch the Eagle Update in the coming months for more information as we finalize plans to augment our offerings on Friday afternoons during the upcoming 2024-25 school year.

Annual Family Survey

This is also the time of year that Jeffco Public Schools seeks input from guardians via the annual Family-School Partnership Survey. Panorama Education is conducting our annual family survey to provide us with benchmarking against national norms. We encourage you to complete this survey about your experience with Excel Academy. If you have one or more students at Excel, please take the survey thinking about your *oldest student* enrolled. Be sure to select the submit button at the end of the survey so your responses are captured. The survey is open until **Friday, February 23**.

The survey is anonymous and takes approximately 15–20 minutes to complete. Results will be used to improve Excel's learning environment. You can view [previous survey results](#) under the School Culture tab. You can [click here to complete this year's survey](#).

In closing, thank you for the many ways you support your student and our Excel Academy community. Your input is truly important, and the Excel Board of Directors, Administration, and Instructional Leadership Team value and use results from surveys to guide our decision-making and identify ways to improve our school in support of our students, families, and staff. Thank you for helping us grow!

In Partnership,
Kresta Vuolo
Executive Director

Leadership Coffee Chat This Wednesday

Bring your questions or topics of interest and join us Wednesday, January 31st from 8:30 - 9:15 a.m. for the monthly Leadership Coffee Chat in the cafeteria. Light breakfast foods provided.



Kids Heart Challenge: Two More Weeks to Go!

[Help Today!](#)

Did you know that not only are we helping save lives, but the more we raise, the more chances we have to help our school earn much needed school equipment that supports mind and body health? Can you help us reach our school goal of \$9,000? It's easy. Just send 10 texts, emails or E-cards today. If you haven't already registered, you can do so by downloading the AHA Schools app or visiting heart.org/schools. Thank you for supporting our team, our school, and our community through KHC!



Students that complete Finn's Mission will earn an entry for two tickets to Super Bowl LIX in 2025 and our school will be entered to receive a \$10,000 fitness equipment makeover for every 18 students who complete Finn's Mission.

[Our School Page](#)

https://www2.heart.org/site/TR?fr_id=9733&pg=company&company_id=446168

ORDER NOW

Order February Meals

We recommend ordering for the complete month of February all at one time. We turn off the response form each Sunday evening for the following week. **For instance, If you would like your child(ren) to have hot lunch the week of February 5th, YOU WILL NEED TO**

FILL OUT THIS FORM BY JANUARY 28TH. We place our order each Monday for the following week. Once lunches have been ordered, we are unable to make adjustments.

Click [HERE](#) to order.



Middle School Shirts

Middle School Shirts Courtesy of our Amazing PTO!
On Wednesday, January 17th, your student received a gift in the form of a class shirt from our PTO. We were able to get a picture of our entire middle school wearing the shirts for our yearbook. Shirts are provided by the PTO in the hopes that they will be worn on field studies and community days (like field day) to represent our school with pride.

Click [HERE](#) to view the picture.

Please thank our PTO the next time you get a chance.

Middle School Newsletter

January Middle School Newsletter.

[NEWSLETTER](#)



4/5 Music Program

**4/5 Grade Colorado History Music Program
Wednesday, February 28th at 6:00 p.m.**

- Students should arrive by 5:45 p.m. and report to their classroom teachers. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. and last about 45 minutes. After the program, students will be released to their homeroom teacher where you can pick them up.
- Students can wear items that represent Colorado: Colorado professional sports teams, Colorado College's, Arvada high schools, Native American, Spanish settlers, pioneers, mountain men, or they can dress up in nice clothing. I ask that if students are going to wear jeans that they are in nice condition and please no shorts or T-shirts other than those listed above.

Speaking and other special parts are being handed out in specials this week. All assignments should be memorized by February 9th.

Thank you for your support



Excel Athletic Update

Our girls basketball season kicks off this Wednesday, January 31st at Lincoln Academy. B-Team tip-off is at 4:15, with A-Team taking the court at 5:15. Good luck, ladies!

SOAR Winners

Congratulations to this week's SOAR drawing winners!

Self-Discipline

Outstanding Effort

Acceptance of Others

- KG- Everly B.
- 1st- Adam T.
- 2nd- Luke L.
- 3rd- Anaiah C.B
- 4th- Ariel A.
- 5th- Fiona C.
- 6th- Calvin G.
- 7th- Eli Q.
- 8th- Ben S.

Classroom: Mrs. Adams' Kindergarten Class for Self Discipline.



FROM THE CLINIC

Required and recommended vaccines

Students attending Colorado kindergarten – 12th grade schools for the 2024-25 school year: We know there's nothing more important than making sure your children stay healthy and learning all year long. Getting vaccinated is an important part of keeping kids in school, as it prevents them from catching and spreading diseases that can make them sick. The letter below includes important information about Colorado's school vaccine requirements, as well as other resources.

[LETTER](#)



The Importance of Sleep

Sleep is extremely important for children and adults. We have been seeing some students coming into the health room tired and/or stating they did not get enough sleep or went to bed late. Sleep is needed to maintain good health and setting good sleep habits early is important. It is hard to learn in school when you are tired. Sleep is especially important for children due to the impact it has on both mental and physical development. Sleep is the time for restoration and for children's bodies to recharge and retain the information they have learned throughout the day. According to the American academy of pediatrics children ages 3-5 need 10-13 hours of sleep, ages 6-12 need 9-12 hours, and ages 13 and over need 8-10 hours nightly. If your child is struggling with sleep, share this with your medical

provider so they can work with you to establish better sleep. [HealthyChildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org) has some great tips and information on this topic and many others.

Click [HERE](#) for tips supporting a good nights sleep for your children and yourself.

PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

Excel PTO Community Night Out! Kids Welcome!

Join us on February 9th at 3rd Shot Pickleball from 6:00 - 9:00 pm. All levels and abilities, including those who are new to pickleball, welcome. Equipment also available to use.

Click [HERE](#) for details.

Click [HERE](#) to RSVP on Track it Forward



Red Robin will give
**20% OF FOOD SALES*
BACK TO**

EXCEL ACADEMY PTO

Show this flyer or simply mention the fundraiser to your server to have your sales counted.

FUNDRAISER DETAILS

7460 W. 52Nd Avenue, Arvada, CO 80002
February 22, 2024*

If ordering online, please follow these instructions:

1. Start your order at [order.redrobin.com](https://www.redrobin.com) and select the restaurant above.
2. In the menu, go to the category labeled "Fundraisers (This-Is-Only)" and click on that item.
3. Click the "add" button, and then "add to bag."
4. Add your meal items and check out.
5. Once at Red Robin, come in, say hi, grab your food and be on your way! If your location has outdoor seating, we're waiting for your call!

*Fundraiser during designated operating hours. Offer valid on all food and beverage purchases. Excludes sales from catering, bar sales, alcoholic beverages, and delivery. Offer valid on all food and beverage purchases. Offer valid on all food and beverage purchases. Offer valid on all food and beverage purchases. Offer valid on all food and beverage purchases.

Red Robin Excel FUNdraiser Night! February 22nd ALL DAY!

It is time for some BURGERS and FRIES!

Excel Academy PTO will receive 20% of fundraiser sales during this fundraiser! Participate by showing the flyer below to your server, mentioning Excel Academy, or by ordering online at [redrobin.com](https://www.redrobin.com) or on the Red Robin mobile app. For online and mobile app orders you must add the fundraiser to your cart before you check out for the sales to count towards the fundraiser.

Red Robin Flyer

Red Robin Address: 7460 W. 52Nd Avenue Arvada, CO 80002

See instructions for ordering online in the attached flier!.

"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. You can also purchase electronic cards with instant availability for your online purchases. You receive the full amount on the gift card, and the PTO receives a percentage of every purchase from RaiseRight. Sign up today!

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

PTO Links

[Excel Academy PTO Website](#)

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

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

YMCA Summer Day Camp!

YMCA Summer Day Camp! Registration now open for the Excel location!

www.DenverYMCA.org

Ages: 5-12

Cost: \$230/week for members, \$280/week for non-members

Hours: 8:00 AM- 5:30 PM

Summer Camp [FLYER](#)

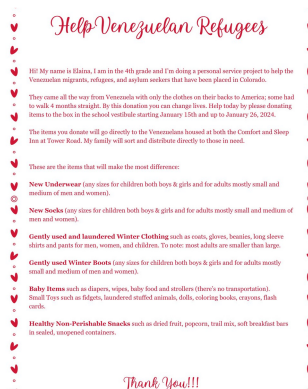


It's Girl Scout Cookie Time!

Excel students in Girl Scout troop 68204 will be selling your favorite cookies after school 3:30p- 3:45p. the week of Feb 20-24. Cash and credit cards will be accepted. Boxes are \$5-\$6 each. Find the girls in the grassy area at the end of the drive line.

Thank you so much for you help!

Kelly Pilger



Help Venezuelan Refugees

My name is Elaina, and I am in 4th grade and I'm doing a personal service project to help the Venezuelan migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers that have been placed in Colorado. They came all the way from Venezuela with only the clothes on their backs to America; some had to walk 4 months straight. By Donating you can change lives. Help today by donating items to the box in the school vestibule starting on January 15th. Click [HERE](#) to see what they need. Thank you

Helpful Links & Resources

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

[Excel Academy Standards-Based Grading Scale](#)

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



Julie Smith

Julie is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters