



# Excel Academy Eagle Update

February 16, 2024



## See You on Tuesday!

No School on Friday, February 16th - Staff Professional Development Day

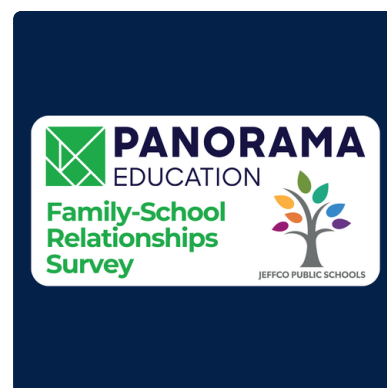
No School on Monday, February 19th - Presidents' Day Holiday

No Bonus Learning February 19th - 23rd - See Info for Session 3 Sign-Ups Below!

## UPDATES FROM THE SCHOOL

### Dear Eagle Families,

**This is the last call to complete the Jeffco Panorama Family Survey**, which closes on February 23rd. As of today, 46 of our 328 Excel families have completed the survey. Please take 15 minutes to share how you think we are doing as a school, and help us identify where we shine and where we have room for growth and improvement by completing the survey [here](#). Results from this survey supports our leadership teams as we wrap up this school year and plan ahead for 2024-25. In addition, the Board of Directors looks to survey data to formulate goals and measure my performance as a school leader. The greater the participation rate, the more reflective the results will be of the broad experience of our families. Thank you for helping Excel grow!



Our School Accountability Committee is forming a **Dress Code Committee** consisting of representatives from students, parents, and staff. In response to feedback from the Excel community, we will look more deeply at our dress code through formulation of a diverse committee that will review the current dress code policy along with those from schools around us, seek input from all stakeholder groups, and make recommendations for modifications necessary to enhance our culture, promote inclusivity, and provide a safe learning environment for our students. The committee will be composed of students, parents, and staff. The time commitment is expected to be one, one-hour meeting monthly for 3 months. If you are interested in serving on the Dress Code Committee, please [complete this survey](#) by 7:00 a.m. on Monday, February 26th.

In Partnership,  
Kresta Vuolo  
Executive Director

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## Congratulations to Our School Spelling Bee Contestants!



**Classroom Spelling Bee  
Winners**



**School Spelling Bee  
Winner, JJ R.**

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### Spring Explorations Begin Feb. 21st

We are gearing up for our next round of Explorations and excitement is in the air! We listened to feedback from staff, students, and families and used that opportunity to grow in our Explorations program. Our staff participated in two sessions of professional development in this area, as Explorations is facilitated much differently than the usual classroom environment. Our staff enjoyed the training and are ready to dive into Explorations.

Earlier this week, we asked our students to rank their top choices this time around. Some topics were so popular that we are using two classrooms to facilitate the same topic. Most students received their first or second choice. We believe that with these changes, students will be even more engaged in Explorations. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, April 24th when we will hold our Spring Exploration Expo!

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## Bonus Learning Reminders

### Important Bonus Learning Dates & Information

- There is **NO Bonus Learning** next week February 19th-23rd.
- Bonus Learning Session Three will start February 26th.



### Session Three Bonus Learning: Sign-up now!

Sign-up now for Session Three Bonus Learning. Click on the Google form below to sign-up for Excel teacher taught classes.

For outside partner taught classes see their flyer at the back of the catalog. You will register and pay them directly.

Sign-up by February 23rd. You will receive an email confirmation letting you know that your child is enrolled, and the payment will be added after the first class.

### New Classes this Session:

- Chess Club: Taught by Mr. Moen
- Dungeons & Dragons: 5th-8th Grade
- Makerspace 3rd-5th
- Hula Hoop Dance 3rd-8th Grade
- Hip Hop K-5th Grade
- Sign-up [HERE](#) for Excel Teacher Taught Classes
- Click [HERE](#) for the Bonus Learning Catalog



## Kids Heart Challenge

We have completed our most successful KIDS HEART CHALLENGE to date!

Here are the final stats:

Total donations: \$13,278!

Students Registered: 92 students participated!

All students who complete Finn's Mission will get automatically entered in a raffle to win tickets to the 2025 SUPERBOWL!

The grade that had the most students complete Finn's Mission OVERALL gets a Glow in the Dark Party! Congrats to Charlie, Griffin, Alexandria, Barrett, Juno, Veronica, and Sienna for completing Finn's Mission and **earning SECOND GRADE a GLOW IN THE DARK PARTY.**

## Congratulations to the TOP EARNERS from each class that will get the special opportunity to be PE TEACHER FOR THE DAY!

Adams: Hudson L | Zerr: Mabel E. | Malmgren: Felix L. | McDaniel: Amelia A. | Mesa: Joshua K. | Mader: Barrett B. | Prather: Wyatt M. (Top earner in the entire school with over \$1,000!) | Raffa: Madison K. | Clark: Parker L. | Criswell: Sienna F. | Dexter: Fiona C. | Komloski: Alessia C. | Kuhl: Emelia C. | Mackey: Callen S.

### The BIG BUSTER Leadership Award

Three special students are chosen for this award for demonstrating outstanding effort and leadership throughout the entire Kids Heart Challenge! They worked hard to improve their heart health by practicing jump rope skills and encouraging their classmates:

Dillon C, Josie K, & Dayle R

**Remember**, any student who raised \$50 received an e-mail to purchase discounted tickets and get a special ON COURT experience with the Denver Nuggets! [CLICK HERE!](#)

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## Seeking Full-Time Paraprofessionals

We are currently seeking full-time paraprofessionals for the following roles:

- working with Elementary students who receive Special Education services
- working with our 2nd graders
- temporary position to help cover while a current Para is on leave



If you or someone you know might be interested in learning more, please find additional information via the links below or on the Employment page of our Excel Academy website.

### [Job Descriptions](#)

[Apply here](#)

**Questions about any of our open positions?** Please email [hr@excel-academy.org](mailto:hr@excel-academy.org) or call the school at (303) 467-2295.

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## Excel Eagle Yearbook 2023-24

From the student yearbook team of 2023-24:

**The yearbook team is working hard creating and finalizing our Excel Eagle Yearbook for the 2023-24 school year.** Students

across grade-levels have made record submissions for our front and back cover artwork. Pictures are streaming in from all around the school community for inclusion in our pages. The 2023-24 Yearbook promises to be a good one for sure!

**You may have already purchased a yearbook as the fee has been in Campus account since the**

online to the Excel parent portal in Infinite Campus where you pay school fees, and pay \$25 for a Yearbook. You can also call the front office and pay over the phone. Of course your student could bring in cash, or check (made out to Excel Academy Charter School) in an envelope labeled with their name and "Yearbook" to the front office too!

**P.S. If you have taken pictures of any Excel school event, activity, sport or otherwise and would like to share them, please use the Yearbook Photo links at the bottom of this newsletter to upload your potential Yearbook pictures.**

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## ISO Food Truck for Community Event

Do you or someone you know run a food truck business? The PTO will be sponsoring a community event here at Excel on Saturday, March 30 and we're looking for possible food trucks for the day. Please reach out to Lauren Williams at [Lauren.Williams@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:Lauren.Williams@jeffco.k12.co.us) if you have some information to share. Thank you!



## Girls & Science Event

The annual Girls & Science event will be hosted by the Denver Museum of Nature and Science on Friday, March 1st from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Come explore the many diverse opportunities a future career in science, technology, engineering, and math can bring. Bring the whole family for a night all about igniting a passion for science - try it on, test it out, and play! Click here to learn more and register for your spot: [Girls & Science](#)

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## Excel Athletic Update from Coach Miller

Girls Basketball continued this week with two games on the schedule. The Eagles traveled to WWA on February 13th and the "B" team showed continued improvement as the season progressed. The scoreboard doesn't tell all of the things going right for the young Eagles as they take positive steps forward every game. The final score was 29-9 in favor of WWA. Mailee Wallace was the top scorer with four points, followed by Raina Newlon who scored on a beautiful shot followed by the free throw because she was fouled.

Rounding out the scoring was Addy Saucedo with a bucket of her own. "A" team once again relied on stifling defense to prevail 29-9. Point guard Lily Doeseckle was the top scorer with 11 points, while Sophie Valdez and Gianna Marcolina chipped in eight and seven points respectively. Rounding out the scoring was Xoe Quintana hitting the only 3 pointer of the game for the Eagles.



February 14th found the Lincoln Leopards invading the Eagle realm with similar results as the previous night. The "B" team lost by 11 points 19-8. If you look at past history this is the same group of girls who were beaten 36-2 by the Leopards in the first game of the season. Our "B" team shows improvement each time out in every aspect of the game. The Eagles were led by Ella Heintz's 4 points followed by Alex London's first two points of the year on a beautiful shot and Addy Saucedo with two. Playing with only six players for the game, the Eagles were worn down by the second half as they were outscored 9-2. The juggernaut, a.k.a. the "A" team continued to dominate their opponents with another fine outing. Defense and rebounding were the key ingredients to success as several of the players were strapped with foul issues. Lily Varner was a maniac on the boards and at one point collected 7 straight offensive rebounds off missed offensive shots. Xoe Quintana, always a force defensively, came up with seven of her team high eleven points in the second half to offset the absence of her teammates in foul trouble. Lily Doeseckle despite her foul woes still managed six points, followed by Ella Heintz and Maille Wallace with four each. Sophie Valdez added an additional two. Action continues with one game vs Evergreen Country Day School on February 20th at home. Only one game at 4:15 p.m.

## SOAR Winners

**Congratulations to this week's SOAR drawing winners!**

Self-Discipline

Outstanding Effort

Acceptance of Others

Resilience

K- Rain Marks, 1st- Andy Oakberg, 2nd- Londyn Quintana, 3rd- Kennedy McGoveran, 4th- Jaedyn Hardin, 5th- Cecelia Durbin, 6th- Kenna Dowling, 7th- Chris Dunn, & 8th- Xoe Quintana  
Classroom- Mrs. Raffa



## UPDATES FROM THE PTO

### 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](http://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

*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 [redrobin.com](http://redrobin.com) and select the restaurant above.
- 2 In the menu, go to the category labeled "Fundraiser (It's-Go-On!)" and click on that item.
- 3 Click the "add" button, and then "add to bag".
- 4 Add your meal items and check out.
- 5 Arrive at Red Robin, come in, say hi, grab your food and be on your way! Your location has confirmed your visit, we can bring it to your eye too!

\*Fundraiser during regular operating hours. Visit [redrobin.com](http://redrobin.com) and find this location to view hours. Operation based on 24-hour and drive-in and to-go food sales only. Excludes sales from catering or event locations. In-party ordering and delivery area. Alcohol, gift cards, credit, tax and gratuity. Offer valid if item is distributed or used the restaurant during business hours.

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## GROWN-UPS NIGHT OUT

A Night for Fun!

Adults 21+ Only  
Cost is \$10 per person

RSVP TODAY at:  
excelpto.org  
Or scan



Thursday, March 7th  
6-8pm

**VIKING AXE THROWING**  
9975 Wadsworth Pkwy, Unit M2B  
Westminster, CO 80021

Bring Your Own  
Beverages (adult drinks  
okay!)  
Snacks provided by PTO



### Next Grown-Ups Night Out!

Join our wonderful Excel community for an exciting grown-ups night out. We've rented out Viking Axe on March 7th from 6-8 PM. The cost is \$10 per person and the PTO will cover the rest. The PTO will also provide light snacks. Additional food can be ordered in for delivery if you'd like. Bring along anything you'd like to drink, adult beverages are ok. We can't wait to see you there!

[Flyer with QR Code.](#)

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### PTO Links

[Excel Academy PTO Website](#)

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

[RaiseRight](#) online gift card fundraising site

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## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



### YMCA Drop In Care & Summer Camp

AM and PM Drop-In Care is available with the YMCA OST program at Excel. For more information or to request a drop-in date, please email: [LWolfe@denverymca.org](mailto:LWolfe@denverymca.org).

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

[www.DenverYMCA.org](http://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](#)

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### It's Girl Scout Cookie Time!

Excel students in Girl Scout troop 66540 will be selling their favorite cookies after school from 3:30-3:45 the week of Feb 12-15.

## AND

Excel students in Girl Scout troop 68204 will be selling your favorite cookies after school 3:30-3:45 the **week of Feb 20-24**.



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## 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](#)

Yearbook Photo Submission Folders: [Kindergarten Pictures](#) | [1st Grade Pictures](#) | [2nd Grade Pictures](#) | [3rd Grade Pictures](#) | [4th Grade pictures](#) | [5th Grade photos](#) | [6th Grade photos](#) | [7th Grade Photos](#) | [8th Grade Photos](#) | [All Sports](#) | [School Events & Activities](#) | [Candid Pictures](#) | [Excel Families & Community](#) | [Electives](#) | [8th Grade Then and Now \(kinder & recent\) Pictures](#)

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## Excel Academy K-8 Charter School

Email: [Julie.Smith@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:Julie.Smith@jeffco.k12.co.us)

Website: <https://excel-academy.jeffcopublicschools.org/>

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

Phone: [303-467-2295](tel:303-467-2295)

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



**Julie Smith**

Julie is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters