



Excel Academy Eagle Update

February 23, 2024

Jeffco Family Partnership Survey

Please take 15 minutes to complete the Jeffco Family-School Relationship Survey (click the button above). We're up to 73 respondents, but hope to have more before the survey closes. Share where you think we shine and where we need to grow. Thank you!

UPDATES FROM THE SCHOOL



Dear Eagle Families,

Whenever I ask students what the most important part of my job is, most answer without hesitation: "To keep everyone safe."

Students who do not feel safe are unable to learn. Staff who do not feel safe are challenged to readily connect and do their best work with students and colleagues. Nearly daily, we see stories in the media of violent acts carried out on school campuses across the nation. Whether one victim or dozens, each incident is truly a tragedy that brings life-long impacts to victims and those who love them as well as creates ripples through communities and

those who work in education. As a school leader, I take this responsibility to heart. Working in partnership with our school's leadership team and Board of Directors, we strive to leverage policies, procedures, and infrastructure that promotes safety in balance with a welcoming environment. While it's not appropriate to share all details of regarding our systems and

infrastructure, there are things that every member of our school community are part of to contribute to the overall safety of our school campus for students, staff, families, and visitors.

Raptor Visitor Management System: We endeavor to assure that our school, classrooms, and grounds are secure and that all people on site have a legitimate reason to be here and are signed in through the front office. One of the tools we use to support campus safety and security is the Raptor Visitor Management System.

A school visitor management system eliminates uncertainty and helps schools know precisely who is on campus. By scanning their ID, each visitor's information is screened against the sex offender registry in all 50 states and custom databases, including those with custody orders, expelled students, dismissed employees, and banned visitor status. The system instantly alerts school officials if a visitor is flagged as a security risk.

In the event that a visitor has no scan-able form of ID, the Raptor system allows for the manual entry of information (first name, last name, and date of birth) for screening purposes. Only the minimum data needed to accurately identify an entrant is collected (i.e., no address information, no Social Security number, no physical characteristics data—hair color, eye color, weight—is ever captured). No other data is collected from the ID, and a photocopy of the ID is not retained.

Once signed in, the system produces a badge that the visitor is expected to wear while on campus. This is a quick visual cue to our staff indicating that you completed the proper sign-in procedure and are permitted to be on campus. Visitors need to sign out by turning in their badge as they depart so that we can then sign them out. This step is crucial, as we must account for every person on our campus in the event of an emergency drill or situation.

We understand that completing the Raptor sign-in and sign-out process adds a bit of time when visiting Excel. We've invested in additional components to process two lines of people at time for school-day events, and continue to tweak our procedures to expedite the sign-in process without compromising safety. Of course we are open to suggestions as well, so if you have ideas that could support a faster process during school-day events, please [email me](#) and [Ms. Julie Smith](#) to share your thoughts.

Thank you for doing your part to promote campus safety for our students, staff, families, and visitors. Each of us plays an important part in the overall safety and security of our Excel campus.

In Partnership,
Kresta Vuolo
Executive Director

Leadership Coffee Chat: March 6th

We've bumped our **Leadership Coffee Chat**, normally held on the last school-day Wednesday each month, to **March 6th from 8:30 - 9:15 a.m.**, as several members of our leadership team will be attending the Colorado League of Charter Schools Annual Conference, and Mrs. Smith will be in Arizona with our 6th graders as they embark on their Mission to Mars extended field study. Bring



topics or questions and join us for light breakfast bites and conversation with our school's leadership team!



5th Grade Newsletter

Look what our dedicated fifth grade journalists have published! Two editions of *The Eagle Gazette*.

This is a scrolling Newsletter. Scroll down to read articles.

[The Eagle Gazette](#)

[The Eagle Gazette - Editorial Edition](#)

Ms. Dexter & Ms. Komloski: 5th Grade Teachers

LAST CALL: Sign-up for Session Three!

Bonus Learning Session Three Starts This Week - **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.
- 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



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](#)

Excel Athletic Update from Coach Miller

Well as they say, nothing lasts forever, and that notion proved prophetic as the "B" team ended its losing streak against Evergreen Country Day School on February 20th. The "B" team handicapped a bit by eligibility issues and backed by some "A" team players for depth, triumphed in a 35-14 victory. The first quarter proved to be a comedy of miscues for both teams as they missed easy layup opportunities and threw misguided passes. At the end of quarter one the score was a 4-4 tie. In the second quarter the Eagles exploded for 16 points. At that point the Eagles never looked back and started piling up the points. Defense and rebounding really sealed the deal for Excel. In the end the Eagles prevailed with a resounding 35-14 win. The Eagles were paced by Lily Doeseckle's 10 points, followed closely by Gianna Marcolina and Sophie Valdez's 8 points apiece. Addy Saucedo added 4 points. Eliana Yamasaki scored 2 points (her first points of the season, yeah). Lily Varner scored 2 points but led the team in rebounding in addition to the many defensive steals she made. Maillee Wallace chipped in with 1 point. The Eagles have a long layoff due to the 6th grade trip and don't play again till March 5th when we play Woodrow Wilson Academy at home and then away at Evergreen Country Day School on March 7th.



SOAR Winners

Congratulations to this week's SOAR drawing winners!

Self-Discipline
Outstanding Effort
Acceptance of Others
Resilience

Kindergarten- D Valdez, 1st- M Priddy, 2nd- E Fonte, 3rd- L Lopez, 4th- L Miller, 5th- N Kroyer, 6th- M Trenchev, 7th- E Rios, & 8th- E Malone

Mrs. Criswell's 2nd grade class

UPDATES FROM THE 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.](#)

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



PTO Links

[Excel Academy PTO Website](#)

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

[RaiseRight](#) online gift card fundraising site

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

AWEST CHEER PROSPECT CAMP

Prospective members, join us on March 27th and 28th to learn from us and get a look into what it's like to be an AWHHS Cheerleader!

Scan the QR code to learn more and to register for this camp!

Open to incoming 7th-12th graders who are not current members of our team

AWest Cheer Camp

Join AWest Cheer Camp for 7th-12 grade students. March 27th and March 28th.

African Drumming Circle: With Mrs. Boyd

Join Mrs. Boyd on Thursdays from 5:00-6:00 for African Drumming!
April 4th - May 23rd

[African Drumming Circle](#)

performing Arts Academy
Presents:
African Drumming Circle

THURSDAY'S 5:00 TO 6:00
APRIL 4TH - MAY 23RD
AT EXCEL ACADEMY MUSIC ROOM
11500 W. 84TH AVE, ARVADA, CO
\$80 for class (2nd - 6th grade)
RisingStarPAA@gmail.com



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.

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](#)

Helpful Links & Resources

[Order Breakfast or Lunch](#): (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](#)

Excel Academy K-8 Charter School

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Julie Smith

Julie is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

