



# Excel Academy Eagle Update

March 8, 2024



## CALL TO ACTION: HB24-1363

**Dear Eagle Families,**

Earlier this week three legislators introduced a bill that could have devastating impacts on charter schools, including Excel Academy. I don't often ask you to get involved, but this new bill, HB24-

1363, has such far-reaching impacts to charter schools across Colorado that I felt you should know about it.

The following are a few quotes from the Colorado General Assembly publication regarding this bill.



*The bill requires a charter school application or renewal to include:*

- *Its annual minimum pupil enrollment requirement. **Failure to satisfy this requirement is grounds for revocation or nonrenewal of the charter contract.***
- *The bill repeals the second remand to the state board, so that the local board's final decision ends the appeal process.* (Currently, the State Board of Education has the final decision in matters where the charter school and authorizing district disagree.)
- *The bill creates a process for community members to appeal a local board's decision to approve a charter application.*
- *The bill allows a local board to revoke or not renew a district charter school charter because of the school district's declining pupil enrollment or the district charter school's declining enrollment.*

What this last item means is that a declining enrollment district, like Jeffco, could revoke any or all Charter Contracts, closing any charter school in the district regardless of the individual school's enrollment or performance. Please know that I don't believe current leadership in Jeffco would do this, but I do believe there are districts that would use this clause to shut down charter schools.

I am asking that you become informed and that you reach out to your legislator to let them know how you feel about this proposed bill. The following links are provided to make this easier to research:

- [Colorado General Assembly HB24-1363 Bill Summary](#)
- [News article about HB24-1363](#)
- [Bulletin from the Colorado League of Charter Schooler School about HB24-1363](#) (This includes a link where you can write to members of the committee)
- [HB24-136 Complete Text](#)

The Colorado League of Charter Schools has a program that helps charter school families stay informed about charter school matters. Visit the [Act Network](#) webpage for more information and the opportunity to sign up for important notices in the future.

Our community has made a difference in the past. You once again have an opportunity to voice your opinion while the bill is still in committee. Thank you for looking at the potential impacts of HB24-1363 and considering taking action to let the Colorado House Education Committee members and your representative know where you stand.

In Partnership,  
Kresta Vuolo  
Executive Director

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## Check Lost and Found

The groundhog said Spring is coming, and all the coats in the lost and found confirm! Teachers are doing their best to have kids look for their coats as they pass every day, but please remember to check when you are in the school as well.

We will keep the lost and found through March 30th. All items left after that day will be donated to our upcoming free clothing drive in the Spring. Look for more details coming about this great upcoming opportunity, run by Mrs. Dozbaba, with help from the PTO.

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## Handicap Parking & Crosswalk Reminder

The handicap spaces in our parking lot are reserved for those with a handicap placard or handicap license plates at all times. We have a number of parents, grandparents, staff, and guests who are eligible to use these designated spaces and it's frustrating when they are unable to use them when cars without the required permits are in them. Thank you for leaving these spaces for those who truly need them.



**Please also remember to use the designated crosswalk when crossing the driveline.** Not only is this the safest manner of walking across the drive line, but it models appropriate procedures for children. If you are driving through the parking lot or driveline, please drive slowly and carefully, being mindful of pedestrians.

**Finally, please follow the directives of our staff and pull all the way forward in the driveline before letting children out in the morning or loading in the afternoon.** Once you are ready to depart, carefully pull to the outer lane to exit the parking lot. Pulling as far forward as you can allows us to unload or load as many as ten cars at a time and expedites the drop-off and pick-up process for all.

Thank you for helping keep our children, staff, and community safe in our parking lot and drive line!



## Talent Show Extravaganza!

### Announcing Excel's 20th Annual School Wide Talent Show Extravaganza

Friday, April 19, 2024, from 6 to 8 p.m.

#### It's time for Auditions! Three different ways to Audition:

1. Click on the link below and choose a day and time.
2. Auditioning acts may choose to send in a video instead of a live audition by Friday, April 5th for consideration. Send it to [Lori.Boyd@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:Lori.Boyd@jeffco.k12.co.us).
3. Students can audition during their music specials class the week of April 1 - 5th.

**Performances need to be 3 minutes or shorter.**

If one of these times does not work for you, please reach out to Mrs. Boyd to set up an alternate time.

Click [HERE](#) to sign-up for a day and time.

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## Science Fair

### K-5 Science Fair Judging

Students who registered for the K-5 science fair will bring their projects to school on Monday, March 25. Students will present their projects to their class in preparation for the judging on Thursday, March 28th for grades K-3 and on Friday, March 29th for grades 4 and 5.



**We need volunteer judges** to help with scoring the elementary projects. No experience or STEM expertise is necessary, as a short training will be provided. The judging will be in the Maker Space from 2:30-3:30 each day. Tallying scores will take place from 3:30-3:45. If you are interested, please contact Erin at [erin161679@yahoo.com](mailto:erin161679@yahoo.com)

**All K-8 science fair projects will be on public display in the library for our Soaring in Different Spaces event on Saturday, March 30th from 10 AM-2 PM.**

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## Spring Explorations

Our spring Explorations are under way and students are excited about the new topics they will be exploring. Students will be in need of supplies before we know it, so we are once again asking for donations. Please take a look at this [Explorations Supplies Sign-Up Genius](#) and send in any supplies that you can help with. Your donations count towards your volunteer hours and are greatly appreciated. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, April 24, when we will be holding our Spring Exploration Expo!

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## Scholastic Book Fair!

The Excel Academy Scholastic Book Fair is HERE, come and shop and help us reach our school goal of \$4,000! **This semester, all rounding up of totals and donations will go towards sending each student home with a book for the summer.** Please help support our school community. You can take the time to look at our [Online Store](#) and set up an eWallet for your child so they do not need to come in with cash. Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to an amazing Spring Book Fair!





## 6th Grade Mission to Mars Trip - Amazing!

Our 6th Graders had an incredible time on their Mission to Mars, Arizona trip last week! Some of the highlights of the trip included the Biosphere 2, Sonora Desert Museum, Tonto National Park and Cliff Dwellings, Flandrau Science Center & Planetarium, Colossal Caves, and a service project at the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona. We packed in so much fun combined with hands-on activities that connected students learning from the classroom to real-life experiences. Memories that will last a

lifetime!



## Excel Athletic Update from Coach Miller

The Eagles hosted Woodrow Wilson Academy on Tuesday night at home and things went basically like they have all season long. The "B" team, without any help from the "A" team members scored in double digits for the first time all season long. If you haven't been to the games, the "B" team is playing so much better than in the beginning of the season, even though the score may not indicate that. The effort and learning that has occurred is a tribute to the girls' grit and tenacity. Once again Addy Saucedo led the Eagle attack with 6 points followed by Raina Newlon's 4 points. One of the skills most improved is the passing of the ball between teammates and finding the open person.



The "A" team continued their domination of the competition in a convincing 27-9 victory. Sophie Valdez went off with a team leading 10 points followed by Lily Deoseckle with 7, Gianna Marcolina added 6, while Ella Heinz and Addy Saucedo (first A team points) chipped in 2 a piece. Lock down defense again was the order of the day until the fourth quarter when the Eagles just packed in the lane.

Basketball continued on Thursday as the Eagles journeyed up the hill to play Evergreen Country Day School. Too little height (they play about five fourth graders due to poor turnout) and too little firepower was ECDS's downfall. The Eagles rolled to a 25-10 win. Once again Sophie Valdez led the

charge with 10 points Gianna Marcolina and Lily Varner added 6 and 5 points respectively. Ella Heintz, Raina Newlon and Alex London chipped in with 2 and 1 points.

Next week playoff basketball begins. The "B" team will travel to Evergreen Country Day School on March 11th for a playoff contest vs WWA at 4:15 PM. If they win, they play at 4:15 PM on March 13th at Woodrow Wilson Academy. The "A" team gets a bye into the championship game (due to their undefeated regular season) to be played on March 13th at 5:15 PM at Woodrow Wilson Academy. Good luck, Eagles!

An All-Star game will be played on 3/14/24 at Lincoln, game time to be announced. Representing Excel in the All-Star game will be: Lily Doeseckle, Gianna Marcolina, Lily Varner and Xoe Quintana. Congratulations, ladies!



## SOAR Winners

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

Self-Discipline

Outstanding Effort

Acceptance of Others

Resilience

Kinder- F. Rice, 1st- E. Engel , 2nd- A. Young, 3rd- E. Coffin, 4th- A. Delgado, 5th- R. Terrazas,

6th- M. Trenchev, 7th- E. Flournoy, & 8th- C. Upton

Mrs. McMurray's Core 1 class

## UPDATES FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

### 9 Common Childhood Illnesses

From stomach bugs to roseola, some sicknesses are bound to happen at some point during childhood. But as a parent or caregiver, it can be hard to identify what these conditions are, or when you should ask for help. Plus, many sicknesses can have overlapping symptoms, making it hard to differentiate what illness your child may have. Fortunately, our partners at Children's Hospital Colorado share expert information on key signs and symptoms of common conditions, how to help your child heal and more.



[https://www.childrenscolorado.org/conditions-and-advice/parenting/parenting-articles/common-childhood-illnesses/?utm\\_source=partner&utm\\_medium=partner\\_social&utm\\_campaign=jac](https://www.childrenscolorado.org/conditions-and-advice/parenting/parenting-articles/common-childhood-illnesses/?utm_source=partner&utm_medium=partner_social&utm_campaign=jac)

# UPDATES FROM THE PTO



## Grown-ups Night Out!

Thank you to all the grown-ups who came out to ax throwing on Thursday. It was great to see new faces and connect as a community. We look forward to doing it again!

## PTO Links

[Excel Academy PTO Website](#)

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

[RaiseRight](#) online gift card fundraising site

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

## AI Bootcamp summer program for Middle School Students

Middle School students interested in learning about AI? We're AI Camp! Founded by Stanford Ph.D.s - we are leaders in AI education and we have made it our mission to open doors for students into the tech industry! We would like to invite Excel Academy Charter School students to apply for the [2024 AI Camp Scholarship](#) (Deadline: March 10, 2024)!

The scholarship is designed for our highly popular AI Bootcamp summer program, a three-week, online journey through the fascinating world of AI. Here, over 5000 students have already transformed their curiosity into creation, developing their own AI product under the guidance of experts from top companies and universities like Google, Stanford, MIT, and many more.

### Scholarship Details:

Open to middle and high school students, the AI Camp Scholarship—ranging from full to partial—is designed to make AI Bootcamp accessible to all. **Scholarships are awarded on a first come, first served basis. The deadline for applications is March 10, 2024. Please advise students to act fast, as spots for this program are filling up quickly!**

**Want to learn AI this Summer?**

JOIN AI CAMP THIS SUMMER FOR OUR THREE WEEK AI BOOTCAMP

**ABOUT THE PROGRAM**

AI Bootcamp is a three-week online journey into the world of AI. Students will have the unique chance to build their own AI product under the guidance of industry experts from top universities like Stanford, MIT, Carnegie Mellon, and many more!

**Scholarships Available**  
Deadline to Apply: March 10, 2024

**WHY CHOOSE US?**

- No Coding Experience Required
- Guidance from Top AI Instructors
- Boost Your Resume & College Apps
- Top Students Get Paid Internships

**100% ONLINE**

**APPLY TODAY**

To help spread the word with students and parents, we've created a handy, [shareable flyer](#). It contains all the vital details about AI Bootcamp and the scholarship opportunity!

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## AWest Cheer Camp

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

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## 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](#)



## Arvada Center Summer Camp

The Arvada Center offers summer camp opportunities for children age 3-18. Check out all of their offerings on their website at <https://arvadacenter.org/education/summer-camps>.

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## 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: [I.Wolfe@denverymca.org](mailto:I.Wolfe@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](#)



### **Skate City: FREE Membership**

Skate City is offering **students and parents FREE membership to the Skate City Family Freebies Club!** Click on the link below to see the amazing perks of our Family Freebies Club Membership. We currently have over *6000 families in our FFC* and the free year of membership has a value of \$5 for each guest.

[Skate City 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**

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

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

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



**Julie Smith**

Julie is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters