



Excel Academy Eagle Update

March 15, 2024



Spring Break

NO SCHOOL MARCH 18th - 22nd. SEE YOU ON MARCH 25th!

UPDATES FROM THE SCHOOL

Dear Eagle Families

Can you believe we are in the final quarter of the school year? Spring Break is aptly timed in to provide an opportunity for rest and rejuvenation before heading into the very busy final two months of school.



In addition to performances, field studies, extended trips for our 4th, 5th, and 8th graders, spring sports, and our second Explorations Expo, students in 3rd through 8th grade will be completing our state assessments. While we at Excel Academy look to data to inform our instructional and curricular decision-making every year, this year holds even higher importance as this was our second year of using new curriculum in English language arts, science, and social studies. CMAS data provides the most comprehensive view we have of how effectively these resources are helping our students learn what they are expected to know based on the Colorado Academic Standards. We are also preparing to evaluate our math curriculum, as our current contract ends after the 2024-25 school year. Data from the CMAS math assessment will help inform this process and support us in evaluating other curricula moving forward. Most importantly, CMAS scores in achievement and growth contribute to teachers' understanding of each student, areas where they are strong, and areas where they could benefit from support. We are striving for 100% participation so that we have the most valid and reliable data possible for looking at how our students are doing, how our curricular resources are supporting learning, and where we as a school can focus for growth and improvement moving forward. Jeffco Public Schools created [this flyer](#) as an overview of CMAS. Should you have questions, please reach out to Ms. Michelle Coffey, who serves as our School Assessment Coordinator. She can be reached at Michelle.Coffey@jeffco.k12.co.us.

In order to support our students in best showing what they know while also creating opportunities for some fun along the way, our school will be engaging in the following:

- All 3rd - 8th grade classes will participate in a **kickoff assembly** on April 1st where we will be highlighting different ways students shine: athletics, arts, academic competitions, scholarship, and positive character.
- We will be **providing healthy snacks** for all of our 3rd - 8th graders each morning of CMAS testing. Watch for more information on how families can contribute toward this effort.
- Because make-up testing has a far greater impact on student learning than the actual assessments, we are striving for **97% on-time attendance during the testing days**. If we achieve this benchmark, middle school students who participated in CMAS will get to participate in **shaving Coach Miller's head** and elementary students who participated in CMAS will get to participate in **taping Ms. Rothstein to a wall**. I'm still thinking about something fun I could do with students to encourage strong attendance during CMAS. In the past I've dyed my hair blue and came to school with hair and makeup of the school mascot (and ended up needing to serve as a last-minute chaperone on a field trip!), led a dance party, sang karaoke with a colleague, got pelted with water balloons - stay tuned as I solicit ideas from students to see what might motivate them to get to school and be on time!

Please help us support students in doing their best by encouraging a good night's sleep, eating a nutritious breakfast (or getting breakfast at school), and getting to school on time. We will be administering CMAS assessments as follows:

- April 2 - 4: 3rd - 5th Grade Math 8:45 - 10:30 a.m. and 6th - 8th grade 8:45 - 10:45 a.m.

- April 17 - 19: 5th and 8th Grade ONLY Science: 8:45 - 10:45 a.m.

We thank our 3rd - 8th grade families for scheduling appointments and vacations outside of our testing times to minimize the need for make-up testing.

To proficiency and beyond!

In Partnership,
Kresta Vuolo
Executive Director

Dear Eagle Families,

Thank you to the families, staff, and community members who have already researched potential impacts of the proposed HB24-1363 bill would have on charter schools and taken time to write their legislators through the link on the Colorado League of Charter Schools website. You can find more information as well as pertinent links [here](#).



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.

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.

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

Chromebook Updates - Need to Bring to School 3/25

Calling all Middle School families: please be sure your student brings their Chromebook and charger to school on Monday, March 25th. We must complete important updates to the devices and software. In addition, we are preparing our device orders for the upcoming school year, and we

has lost their Chromebook, please contact Mrs. Williams in the library at Lauren.Williams@jeffco.k12.co.us so that she is aware of your student's specific circumstance.



S.O.A.R.ing in Different Spaces

First Annual "[S.O.A.R.ing in Different Places](#)" is a PTO sponsored event to celebrate the talents of our students while enjoying guest presenters.

Join us on Saturday, March 30th from 9:30 am - 2:00 pm.

Click [HERE](#) to see all the exciting events!

Students will need to be with an adult at all times.

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! Two different ways to Audition



1. 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.
2. Students can audition during their music specials class the week of March 25th-29th or April 1st - 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.



Excel Spirit Week, March 25 - 29

Join us for our next Spirit Week, sponsored by NJHS. As we return from Spring Break and prepare for CMAS testing, let's get our students excited to show what they know with some fun spirit days! Not only will we be gearing up for students to show what they know on CMAS, but also to show their talents at our new

community event, [S.O.A.R.ing in Different Spaces](#) on Saturday, March 30!

Here's our fun Spirit Week schedule:

Mon, 3/25 - Western Day - Let's Kick-Off Spirit Week by throwing on your cowboy boots, hats, and western wear!

Tues, 3/26 - Pastel Day - How many pastel colors can you wear at once? Throw on the pastels and let's welcome spring!

Wed, 3/27 - Excel Spirit Day! It's a wonderful Wednesday to show our school spirit! Wear your Excel shirts or school colors (teal, black, silver) and welcome our spring sports!

Th, 3/28 - PJ Day (Pay \$2 for NJHS Fundraiser) - Time to pack up your winter PJs and come to school in your comfy spring pajamas!

Fri, 3/29 - Floral Friday - Spring is here and flowers are ready to bloom. Wear anything with flowers to show we're ready for spring!

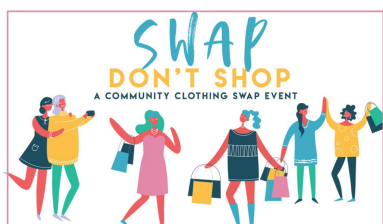
Soles4Souls Shoe Drive

Are you spending some time cleaning out your closets during Spring Break? If so, please send in those shoes you don't need or wear anymore. Our NJHS members are holding a shoe drive to help those in need. **Please bring in your gently used or new shoes and drop them in the bin at the front entrance between March 25 - 29.**



Soles4Souls is a nonprofit organization that turns shoes into opportunities for people in need. They focus on four different areas:

Soles4everykid, Soles4opportunity, Soles4relief, Soles4theplanet. Soles4Souls has been working with schools around the US to help people in need. Our goal is to get 150 pairs of shoes. NJHS is excited to see how much our school can collect!



First annual clothing swap!

The PTO and Mrs. Dozbaba are hosting the first annual clothing swap! The success of this event depends on the participation of all of our wonderful Eagle families! This event is a FREE event and is a win win for everyone! Let's get our closets cleaned out and

then restock it for FREE!

Starting Monday, March 25, 2024 bring in your gently used clothes and accessories in bags or boxes to the office! These items will be sorted by size then the day of the event (TBD) they will be laid out to get chosen from! **Please note that we are accepting men's, women's, teens, and infant sizes of clothing, as well as jewelry, purses, coats, etc.**

We will NOT be accepting toys/stuffed animals, or opened/used undergarments of any kind. However, socks and underwear in new, sealed condition will be accepted.

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.



Sign-up: April Meals

Click [HERE](#) to sign up for April Meals.

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!



Excel Athletic Update from Coach Miller

If you missed the Girls Basketball A-Team Championship game on March 13th, you missed a barn burner. From the beginning, it was obvious that Lincoln's game plan was to try to intimidate our players with physical play. They did their very best to beat up our guards Lily Doeseckle and Lily Varner, who spent most of the game picking themselves up off the floor. Unfortunately for Lincoln, they misjudged the resolve of the Excel Eagles. After the first stanza Lincoln held a narrow 6-4 lead. Their physicality and our tenacious defense made for a low scoring quarter. Just before half time, Xoe Quintana hit a three pointer to tie the game at 7-7. The fireworks happened in the fourth quarter just before the end of the game with Lincoln holding a slim lead. Xoe Quintana hit a

shot from so far under the basket it was a miracle that it went in. She then hit the go-ahead basket with less than a minute to play to give the Eagles the lead. The last minute was a scramble by both teams to score (Lincoln), and to defend (Excel). In the end the Eagles prevailed with a 15-14 win. The Eagles were led by Quintana's 7 points followed by Lily Varner's 4, while Gianna Marcolina and Sophie Valdez each pitched in with 2 points.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR A-TEAM ON YOUR UNDEFEATED SEASON AND FOR BEING LEAGUE CHAMPS!

Just a reminder that spring sport practices begin Monday, March 25th immediately following spring break. Enjoy the time off!

SOAR Winners

Congratulations to this week's SOAR drawing winners!

Self-Discipline

Outstanding Effort

Acceptance of Others

Resilience

Kinder-Maya F, 1st-Penny R, 2nd -Amina CB, 3rd-Isaac T. 4th-Parker L,
5th-Nolan Fratzke, 6th-Haleigh S, 7th-Ella Flournoy, 8th Zoe Dolph

Classroom: Ms. Komloski's Class for Self Discipline and Outstanding Effort.



UPDATES FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Clinic Needs Clothing



The Clinic is in need of clothes to provide for students who may need a change of clothes during the school day for various reasons. If you have any gently used or new clothing that your child has outgrown or no longer needs, we would greatly appreciate your donations for grades K-8. Donations can be dropped off at the front office. We kindly request that all items are clean and in good condition.

Here are the specific clothing items we are looking for:

1. **Bottoms** (Sweatpants, shorts, leggings) for all ages and sizes.
 2. **Socks** - (New or gently used) for all ages and sizes.
 3. **Underwear** - (New only) for all ages and sizes.
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UPDATES FROM THE PTO

We Want You To Join Our Team!

Are you interested in supporting Excel Academy and our community more? Maybe the PTO is for you! Please click [HERE](#) to learn more about the PTO and join our informational meeting on March 27th from 6-8 PM. (Kids are welcome)



PTO Links

[Excel Academy PTO Website](#)

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

[RaiseRight](#) online gift card fundraising site

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



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](#)





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>.

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](#)



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 Directions](#)

[Log Volunteer Hours](#) and sign-up for volunteer opportunities

[2023-24 Excel Academy School Year Calendar](#)

[2024-25 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

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