

Happy September Wildcats

Athletic competitions, music rehearsals, fall play auditions, art club starting, Star testing, pictures - so many things happening at The Academy this past week. We trust your student(s) has had a great week and is settling into a good routine.

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## Emergency Drills

Because the safety of our students and staff is a top priority, we practice emergency drills on a regular basis. Colorado law states that we conduct a fire drill every month. Our students did a fabulous job on the August fire drill as well as the shelter drill. One day next week we will practice a lockdown drill. You can read a bit more about each of the drills and when they are used on the [Emergency Sign](#) information sheet.

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## Middle School Parent Community Night

Parents and Guardians - you're invited to join the middle school administration on Wednesday, September 14, from 6-7 pm for our first community night of the year. Please read the [official invitation](#) for complete details.

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## High School Dress Code

Good afternoon,

I wanted to send out a message to all HS families about our dress code. This past Monday our students went through the safety and expectations video for The Academy High School. Part of that presentation covered the dress code. The dress code was/is a student created dress code that focuses on guidelines that are equitable and fair to all students. The school dress expectations balance the rights of expression with the expectations that every student and adult at The Academy can inhabit an environment that promotes mental health, a discrimination-free social life, and that encourages academic progress and participation without feeling unsafe, uncomfortable, or unsupported. Please click on the link for the [Student Handbook](#) to read the entire dress code – here is the blurb that was shared with students on Monday and the part where many students are being “dress coded”:

- Shirts, bottoms, and shoes that meet these standards are a requirement at all times.
  - Shirts that have fabric in the front going down to at least the top of the belly button, back, and connect under the arms.
  - Buttocks must be fully covered with opaque fabric no shorter than the upper thigh.
- Private areas of the body must be covered with opaque fabric.
- Undergarments must be covered with exceptions of bra straps and waistbands.

The highlighted yellow part is where most “violations” are taking place, as we are having students arrive at school in items that are far above the belly button and/or backless. Many of these item's hemlines end right underneath the breast or pectoral area.... Much higher than where the belly button lies. This is in violation of the dress code.

Please help us to keep students and staff feeling safe, supported, and comfortable in their learning environment by having a conversation with your students about appropriate clothing at school.

**Stephanie Mann**  
High School Principal

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## 3-5 Family Connections Meetings

I am so happy to announce that we will be starting monthly family connection meetings at the Upper Elementary level, grades 3-5. Based on family survey feedback from last year, the community expressed wanting more engagement opportunities and the need for more than just one timeframe offered. You can read more about these meetings on the [3-5 Family Connection Meetings](#) information sheet.

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## Charter School Parent Ambassadors Program

*Interested in getting involved in the charter school world outside of The Academy?* The charter scene is always in need of more support, and the greatest advocates for charter schools in Colorado are those at the heart of the charter school community - teachers, school staff, and parents. Read more about the [Ambassadors Program](#) if you're interested in this opportunity.

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## Lending your Voice to the Exceptional Student Services Unit

This fall members of the Exceptional Student Services Unit from the Colorado Department of Education are hosting **BIPOC Parent Listening Sessions**. Our priority is to attend to the perspectives of representative voices when making decisions about policy, training and supports designed for students with exceptionalities. The desired outcome for these four fall listening sessions is to learn from parents about ways to better serve and support BIPOC students with exceptionalities.

Read the [English](#) and [Spanish](#) flyers announcing the sessions. Please feel free to distribute widely to parents/guardians you believe would have an interest in participating.

For additional information, please contact Michael Ramirez at, 303-866-6991 or [ramirez\\_m@cde.state.co.us](mailto:ramirez_m@cde.state.co.us).

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## Golf Classic Scramble

Tee off for a great time on Saturday, September 24, for our Golf Classic Scramble. Full Details are on the [Scramble flyer](#). If you're not a golfer but you still want to contribute, you can be a [sponsor](#).

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## Enrollment Openings

Spread the word! The Academy currently has just a few openings left in certain grade levels. If you have any friends or neighbors still looking for a great school option, please encourage them to apply by visiting [our website](#) and completing the application. Applicants will be notified of their status within 48 hours of their submission.

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As always if you have questions, please email the [Help Desk](#). Have a wonderful Labor Day weekend!