

ECA / CEC News

October 5, 2022

Letter from our Principal

ECA & CEC Parents, Students, staff and Community:

Wow!! We are eight weeks in and Fall Break is already here! This is our second newsletter of the year in our desire to provide you with as much information as possible about what is happening at our school. It has been an eventful four weeks since the last newsletter.....



ECA celebrated our unique version of Homecoming. The seniors were dominated by the underclassmen in a serious game of kickball on Wednesday. Tyler Sanchez kicked the longest ball in kickball history but the underclassmen used teamwork and great fielding to beat the seniors. There was a lot of fun and laughs (mostly at seniors!) during Spirit Week and it all culminated with a Friday night dance in our new outdoor venue. It was incredible!!

We continue to work with our ECA students in Advisory classes on socio-emotional issues, concerns and information. We have done a tremendous job of teaching students some skills and strategies to cope with an ever-changing environment and they are starting to pay off. Our CEC instructors are collaborating together and receiving professional development from the NM Public Education Department. This partnership with NMPED is one more example of how we are bringing

the very best of NM together to create incredible learning opportunities for your students.

We have also had our share of safety concerns. We had two lock-downs in less than ten days as a result of incidents at our neighbor school, Albuquerque High School. As per APS policy, if AHS goes into shelter-in-place, lockdown or evacuation, we do the same. We appreciate the patience that our students, parents and staff have shown as we work through these situations. Please remember that while our ECA students are here on campus all day, we have five different CEC sessions of classes, meaning that we have to train five different groups of students on where to go during a fire drill and also what to do in a shelter-in-place, lockdown or evacuation. Our students have been amazing and this was evident during these two most recent events. We are currently working with our district to develop a systematic approach to communicating with families and we feel we are very close. For starters, we have taken the lead on how we will respond during future incidents. We understand that the initial moments of an emergency situation can be the most intense for parents so we will get that announcement out via robocall or schoolmessenger as quickly as possible to announce that we are in a shelter-in-place, lockdown or evacuation. We have assigned a staff member to get that message out and we anticipate that message should go out within five minutes of making the announcement to the school. At that point, it will be the district's responsibility to send out a more detailed explanation of events while the event is occurring. At the conclusion of the event, we will then follow up with an APS-approved message detailing the events. We take the safety of our students seriously and want to be transparent with parents and the public.

We commit, through regular and ongoing training, to ensure that our school is a safe place where students can learn and grow, free from concerns about safety. Daily measures are taken to ensure this safety, including locking the exterior doors; training our staff for a variety of crises that may be encountered from health issues, accidents, intruders, and weather-related crises; routinely monitoring security cameras throughout the school;

and ensuring our facilities are well maintained and all equipment is in working order. As mentioned earlier, we are working on communication protocols and procedures that outline how we will communicate with the school community in an emergency.

Bus Transportation and Schedule

Please click here [CEC BUS SCHEDULE](#) to go to the latest copy of the 2022-2023 ECA-CEC Bus Schedule. We continue to encourage ECA and CEC students to ride the bus to school and back home. Please remember that bussing is available from every home school and back for all CEC classes. All buses are fitted with GPS devices to ensure they leave school sites on time. Buses do not leave sites before the indicated time on the bus schedule. Students who encounter issues with buses are encouraged to immediately contact Principal Arguelles on his cell phone (505-252-0225) to ensure a rapid response to the situation.

WE ARE A MAGNET SCHOOL OF AMERICA!

The Early College Academy and the Career Enrichment Center has been awarded the distinction as a certified Magnet Schools of America Demonstration School. Only 18 high schools in the United States received this honor, and we are one of them. This honor is shared among all stakeholders because the partnership we have developed between student, parents and instructors is unmatched and something to behold!

FINAL THOUGHTS

Next issue please look forward to a new feature: **Teacher Showcase!** Over the course of the school year we will feature a photo and profile of every



teacher and staff member on our campus. We have an amazing staff and we want you to meet them as well! Here is an example: today, Chemistry teacher Casey Grange dressed up like Alex Trebek and played Chemistry Jeopardy in his class.

Our teachers are innovators and it makes class fun and interesting! Casey will be teaching Physics for LPN Nursing Students and Astronomy in the Spring 2023 semester.

Patrick Arguelles, Principal
 Career Enrichment Center /Early College Academy
2022 Magnet School of America
2019 National Blue Ribbon High School
 cell (505) 252-0225 office (505) 247-3658

Calendar of Events

- Oct 6-7** Fall Break - NO SCHOOL
- Oct 10** Indigenous Peoples Day – NO SCHOOL
- Oct 12** **PSAT Day for 10th & 11th graders**
- Oct 12** Senior Class Trip to TopGolf
- Oct 25** APS School of Choice Fair
- Oct 26** Flu Clinic w/CEC LPN students
- Oct 31** **Deadline for Selfless Senior nominations**
- Nov 1** 2nd 6 week grading period ends
- Nov 2** Whirlwind College Tour (NM Tech, NMSU)
- Nov 4** ECA Fun Night (5:00p-7:30p)
- Nov 8** Election Day - NO SCHOOL
- Nov 11** Veterans Day - NO SCHOOL
- Nov 17** ECA Recruitment Open House
- Nov 21 & 22** SLC Conferences - NO CLASSES
- Nov 23-25** Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL
- Dec 3** City of Alb Twinkle Light Parade
- Dec 7-8-9** **CEC Finals**
- Dec 15-16** **ECA Finals**
- Dec 20** End of Semester; Winter Break begins

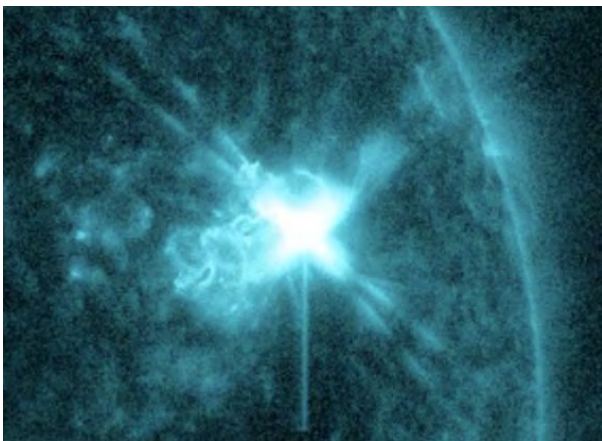
Schedules, ParentVue and StudentVue

All students and parents can review schedules, attendance, grades and more in StudentVue and ParentVue. If you are experiencing any problems accessing information, please contact registrar Amanda Cortez (amanda.cortez@aps.edu) or tech support Sue Estell (estell@aps.edu). The date to make changes to your schedule is passed, but if you have any concerns with your schedule, please contact Principal Arguelles (arguelles@aps.edu) or Assistant Principal Thomas (thomas_d@aps.edu).

ACADEMIC CAREER EXPERIENCE (ACE) THROUGH CEC: As your students get settled and are engaged in learning, please keep in mind that CEC offers the ability for students to earn ACE credit if they are working or interning in a professional/career focused setting this school year (paid internships can be considered as well). These credits are FREE and students can earn up to 1.5 elective credits per semester. Students must already have a job or an internship placement to apply, and space is limited. Please reach out to Gabino Noriega for additional information (noriega_g@aps.edu).

Planetarium Update

The sun has been very active the last week. The largest sunspot in several years is now starting to face in the direction of the earth. Another smaller sunspot launched the first X-class flare (the most intense of solar flares) in five months on Sunday. An ultraviolet image of the flare taken by the Solar Dynamics Observatory is below.



Please look forward to joining us for a Planetarium Show for families of ECA & CEC students!
 Email John Glaser at glaser_j@aps.edu to learn more.
 Come see the wonders of the universe!

Promote Physical Activity for Students

October is a great time to focus on Outdoor Physical Activities. Here are a few ideas and resources to support increasing opportunities for outdoor physical activities for your students, families, and other school community members. Activities/Ideas: [Start a Walking School Bus](#) or plan an event for [National Walk & Roll to School Day](#) on Oct. 12th. During [Outdoor Learning Week](#), Sept. 26 – Oct.

1, 2022, incorporate physical activities into your [Outdoor Education programming](#). See this [tip sheet](#) for help.

Engage with your Out of School Time providers to incorporate physical activities into their daily programming. Or incorporate a physical activity component into an event for the [2022 Lights on Afterschool](#). Contact Robert Donovan for help.

Resources:

[Be Fit to Learn Google Site](#)

[10 Ways to Celebrate Walk to School Days CSHA Toolbox](#)

For more information, please contact studentwellness@aps.edu.



SENIORS AND FAMILIES-

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can be filled out now!

The application for the 2023-24 college year opened on October 1st. Even if you think that your income will not qualify your student for federal aid, you are encouraged to fill it out anyway. There are scholarships that ask for a completed FAFSA as a requirement.

[FSA ID](#) (Create before filling out the FAFSA)

Both the student and ONE parent need to create an FSA ID

[FAFSA Website](#) (Opens October 1, 2021)

If your family needs assistance in filling out the FAFSA, there are a few great options to get help from a financial aid expert:

- **MONEY MONDAYS-** Starting next Monday, October 10th and nearly every Monday after that through May, your family can get personalized FAFSA assistance from 3-6pm during this ongoing virtual event.

For more information about the FAFSA and the ZOOM link for Money Mondays visit:

<https://www.nmeaf.org/fafsa-fund-your-future>

- UNM WORKSHOPS AND ONE-ON-ONE appointments from October through December For more information visit:

<http://finaid.unm.edu/fafsaworkshops/>

- The Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) for ONE-TO-ONE APPOINTMENTS For more information call Jenny Quinones at (505) 277-0350

AMERICAN INDIAN SENIOR DAY AT UNM, OCTOBER 12th!

Starts at 8am in the student Union Building. To register today go to: [AISS.UNM.EDU](https://aiis.unm.edu)

SCHOLARSHIP SEASON IS OPEN!!

It's time to gather your deadlines for scholarships that you will be applying for.

Where to start?

- Check the colleges that you are applying to first.
- Check local scholarships next (less competition, more likelihood of getting one)
- Check where you work, do they offer scholarships
- Check the Senior google classroom- I am posting scholarships as I receive the information
- Check my counseling page for links to the APS Scholarship google sheet and scholarship links for local and special groups.

HIGHLIGHTED LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS:

Michael Danoff Scholarship, November 4th deadline (2.5 GPA and essay)
Details in the Senior Google Classroom

MLK Essay Contest November 30th deadline (2.5 GPA and essay)
Details in the Senior Google Classroom

Coach Mike "Papa" Brown MSA Scholarship February 28th deadline (student athletes, 3.5 GPA)

Details in the Senior Google Classroom Link for information:

<https://www.myscholarship.app/coach-mike-papa-brown-msa-scholarship>

JUNIOR AND SENIOR FAMILIES:

Mark you calendars! November 2nd is ECA's WIRL WIND COLLEGE TOUR!

We'll be visiting NMTech and NMSU in one day!

This it is a fantastic way for students to get the highlights of two very different types of colleges outside of Albuquerque to see what fits them best- programs, locations, and campuses. Seniors have priority for this trip but need to sign up now.

Seniors can register to save their spot on the bus by filling out the google form. It is posted in the Class of 2023 Google Classroom. Juniors are welcome to register now but seniors will have priority. The day's agenda is in the google form. I'll post this link in the Junior Class of 2024 google classroom next week.

The link to the google form is:

[ECA WHIRLWIND COLLEGE TOUR](#)

Many of our ECA students work very hard to become strong students and earn high GPA's while taking on a very rigorous high school curriculum. Our students should be checking out various HONORS COLLEGES that most Colleges and Universities have. Students who apply and enter an Honors College within a University get to do things a little different and have special access to classes and opportunities that students outside of the Honors College do not. If you are interested in

learning more about an Honors College, there is a local in-person opportunities coming up:

- **Information session NMSU Conroy Honors College presentation** on Monday, October 17, 2022 at La Cueva High School at 6:00pm. ALL students are welcomed.

La Cueva High School
7801 Wilshire NE
Albuquerque, NM
6:00 pm

Questions: 575 646-2005 or honors@nmsu.edu

- **UNM has an impressive Honors College** as well. For more information go to: <https://honors.unm.edu/admissions-scholarships/index.html>

ALL ECA FAMILIES:

ASVAB TESTING Thursday, October 20th from 9am-11:30am in the Lecture Hall.

This is an online test. BRING YOUR CHROMEBOOK for testing.

You will be excused from classes. You can go to the first part of second period and then will be called to the lecture hall for testing at 8:50am.

Why should you take the ASVAB Career Exploration Test?

The ASVAB CEP calculates your scores for career exploration only. You can use your scores to explore careers that are suited for your interests both in and OUTSIDE of the military.

This is not a test for military enlistment into one branch of the military. If you were to participate in the enlistment testing program you would have to choose a service to sponsor you to take the ASVAB. Only that service would have access to your scores and you would only choose a job from that service. You would be limited to job choices offered by that service. One of the many benefits of participating in ASVAB CEP is you can use your ASVAB CEP score to enlist in any service and we

encourage you to have meaningful discussions with each service to see which one offers the job, mission and environment that fits you best. If you are interested in the Military your ASVAB CEP scores can help you negotiate with each of the services before committing. Contact a recruiter to discuss your options.

If you would like to take the ASVAB, please register for a spot by filling out this google form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Azrvs98343t_OQ9RLmCuLeu7pCdOi6vTek9NaJE2Z18/edit

Collegeboard's REAL TALK- Career Fairs, Paying for College- for Black Students.

Several upcoming virtual events. For more information visit:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/communities-events/real-talk>

All High school students can begin exploring careers and colleges at any time!

Start your students account with Collegeboard's Big Future and have fun exploring

[early!https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/)

Thanks!

Alicia Faulds, M.A., LMHC
ECA/CEC School Counselor
Work cell (505) 967-9525



PSAT TESTING DAY INFO

Wednesday, October 12 7:30a-12:30p

ECA Sophomores and Juniors that are PSAT testing can catch a bus like usual at approx. 7:00a and be returned at 2:00p.

No CEC CLASSES on Wednesday except LPN Sr Nursing students (6:30a-9:45a) and EMT Session II and III students - look for a message from your CEC teacher soon

Seniors will be going to TopGolf!

Calling all awesome ECA/CEC families! We hope you'll join us on Tuesday, October 11th in our beautiful new building (or on [Google Meet!](#)) for our second Booster Club meeting of the school year. This alliance of families, teachers and community members serves an important role in our school's success, and we hope that you will join us! We have several projects on deck this year, and lots of opportunities for families to get involved; from fundraisers and classroom projects, to dances, field trips and advisory boards, there's something for everyone. Our monthly meetings happen on the second Tuesday of every month from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Please join us on the 11th and help make this a year to remember for our students!

You can find out more about our Booster Club by [visiting our webpage](#), or contacting either Assistant Principal Thomas at thomas_d@aps.edu or our PTO President, Ms. Jenny Galasso, at galassoj@yahoo.com.

Hope to see you there!

🍁🍁🍁🍁🍁🍁🍁🍁 **Fall Into These Fun Events!** 🍁🍁🍁🍁🍁🍁🍁🍁

- Tues Oct 11th 5:30-6:30 ECA/CEC Booster Club meeting in the Lecture Hall (please join us!)
- Wed Oct 12th Senior trip to Top Golf (1 chaperone needed at this cool venue)
- Sat Oct 15th NMACS Central District Event (Student Govt Conference, need 2 chaperones to help out these great leaders representing our school)
- Fri Oct 28th Fall Festival (3 volunteers to serve snacks and enjoy the festival)
- Wed Nov 2nd NMTech & NMSU Campus Tour Field Trip (2 chaperones - learn about these great schools)

Learn more and sign up at our website [ECA CEC Booster Club \(google.com\)](#)

Do you have a Smith's Rewards Card? Smiths will give a portion of your sales to our great school.



Designate Career Enrichment Center/Early College Academy (PF208) as your Inspiring Donations Program recipient!

Go to www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/account/communityrewards/

Senior Parents, it is Class of 2023 Selfless Seniors Nomination Time! There are just a little more than 3 weeks left to nominate Selfless Seniors.

This school year marks the 15th year in which Frank Frost Photography has presented Selfless Seniors.

The APS Education Foundation is asking for nominations for the Class of 2023 Selfless Seniors. If you have a senior who fits the bill of being a SELFLESS SENIOR, either give us a detailed description of what they have done or please feel free to nominate them yourself. Later this fall, a volunteer selection committee will review the nominations and select one Selfless Senior to represent each APS traditional high school and one to represent APS magnet schools. That means that only 14 high school senior students will represent our entire APS student body for their philanthropic efforts, and we want the honor to be well deserved.

Selfless Seniors, as the title indicates, are often hard to identify because they don't seek the spotlight. These high school seniors give of themselves so that others feel valued. They volunteer in community programs; they help out at their schools; they assist neighbors and family members. They aren't resume-building; they simply and sincerely want to help.

Selfless Seniors must:

- Be a senior at an APS comprehensive, magnet high school.
- Have a GPA of at least 2.0 and be in good standing with the school in terms of attendance and behavior.
- Give back to a school and community without generally being recognized for those efforts by peers or the school.

Please visit the link below to submit a nomination. For questions concerning the Selfless Seniors recognition, contact Val Burch at valerie.burch@aps.edu.

Deadline is October 31, 2022.

[Submit your Selfless Senior 2023 Nomination Here](#)

CONGRATULATIONS! National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists

According to the College Board, last year more than 1.3 million high school juniors took the PSAT/NMSQT, but the National Merit Scholarship selected only 15,000 finalists. Of those, only 7,500 will be Finalists.

That's less than a fifth (1/5) of one percent (1%).

The Early College Academy just received notification that two of our students are

2023 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists:

- **Francisco Vigil**
- **Victoria Scott**

ECA LATE WORK POLICY

9th Grade:	1 st day late 20% off 2 nd day 40% 3 rd day 50% 4 th day late work not accepted
10th Grade:	1st day late 20% off 2 nd day 40% (teachers may work with individual circumstances) 3 rd day late work not accepted
11th Grade:	No late work; however, teachers may work with individual circumstances.
12th Grade:	No late work; however, teachers may work with individual circumstances.

SCHOOL RECOGNITION

Early College Academy has added a new award to the recent National Blue Ribbon Award won in 2019 – ECA is now a 2023 Certified National Magnet High School.

Only 18 magnet high schools in the entire United States earned the distinction of becoming a Magnet Schools of America HS Demonstration School. They earned the distinction from [Magnet Schools of America](#), the national association of magnet and theme-based schools.

The certification process is designed to recognize the most exemplary magnet schools in the nation and help them as they continue to grow and provide high-quality, innovative curricula and instructional programs that promote choice, equity, diversity, and academic excellence for all students.

As a Nationally Certified-Demonstration Magnet School, ECA demonstrated through evidence, reflection, and strategic action that they have established the Standards of Excellence in their schools and fulfilled a commitment to community stakeholders.

[Magnet Schools of America](#)



Have a GREAT Break!

**(but don't forget to
come back on**

Tuesday, the 11th 🎒)