



Husky Talk Newsletter

High Point Academy Thursday, September 17, 2015 Volume 10, Issue 3

Our mission is to provide a strong foundation of academic excellence in partnership with family and community in which each individual is challenged to achieve his/her highest potential academically, socially, and personally.

Keri Melmed
Chief Academic
Officer/Principal

Chad Miller
Chief Business
Officer

Michele Garver
Elementary School
Assistant Principal

Kelle Bongard
Middle School
Assistant Principal

Juanise Cornell
Dean of Students

Barbara Hill
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Erica Konieczny
Director of Student
Services

Teresa Frasier
Office Manager

Sharla Williams
Enrollment
Coordinator

Amanda Delgado
Medical Assistant

Ryan Frazier
Governing Board
President

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If you're on Facebook, like High Point Academy to receive school updates in your newsfeed.

Know a family looking for a great school?

We still have openings in both 1st and 4th grade. If you know of anyone who would like to become part of the High Point family and is looking for a great school for their children, please have them reach out to our Enrollment Coordinator, Sharla Williams, at (303) 217-5152.

Volunteer Training

Are you interested in working in a classroom, going on field trips, or helping at the school? If so, you need to complete a one-time volunteer training and background check. If you have completed the training in a previous year you need to complete the background check **annually**. The next volunteer training will take place on October 6 at 4:00 pm. Please contact Erica Konieczny at ekonieczny@highpointacademy.net or 303-217-5152 to RSVP for the training.

Girl Scout Information Night

Interested in joining Girl Scouts? Com to an informational meeting on Wednesday, September 23, 2015, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the DSST GVR, West Commons, 4800 Telluride Street, Denver, CO 80249. Have questions? Contact Heather Browning at 303.668.5785 or by e-mail at heather.browning77@gmail.com.

2015-2016 Colorguard

High Point Academy Colorguard is now accepting new members, K-8 boys and girls, through the end of October. Practices are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:15-7:00 pm in the HPA gym. Interested in more information? Please email Kathy Frazier at katfrazi77@msn.com or come by before or after practice.

PTO Fall Fundraiser

Boosterthon Fun Run! The program wraps **FITNESS, LEADERSHIP, and CHARACTER** together for an unforgettable experience. The student is the star. Additional information to follow.

Picture Day

School picture will be Tuesday, September 29 all day. Forms to order your child's picture went home in Thursday folders last week. You can also order online by [clicking here](#) (Picture Day ID: CG025709Y0). Students must be in uniform for these pictures. We are also looking for parent volunteers to help with picture day. Please see volunteer and donation opportunities on page 3 for more information.

Families Looking for Carpool Help

Helping other HPA families by carpooling is a great way to build community as well as earn your parent volunteer hours. The following are families looking for help getting their children either to school or home from school. If you can help please contact Erica Konieczny at ekonieczny@highpointacademy.net

- Afternoon carpool help needed to Montbello. Major cross streets are Crown Blvd. and 51st St.
- Afternoon carpool help needed after school to the GVR area, 53rd and Dunkirk St.
- Morning carpool help from the Green Valley Ranch area.
- Morning and Afternoon carpool help needed, Chambers and 40th Ave area.

King Soopers Gift Cards

If you shop at King Soopers, please consider helping HPA to raise money by purchasing a reloadable gift card and using it to make your purchases of groceries, gas, and more! 5% of all purchases will come back to HPA. Gift cards cost \$5 and are for sale in the office. If you have questions about the program, please contact parent Joan Cordo at jjcordo@msn.com.

Important Dates:

September 17: Evening Conferences 4-8pm

September 18: NO SCHOOL

September 18: HPA Community Night at the Rockies Game 6:40pm first pitch.

September 21: Volleyball Game at Vanguard West at 5:00 pm

September 23: Flag Football Game at the High Point field at 5:00pm

September 24: Flag Football Game at the High Point field at 5:00pm

September 25: Jean Day for \$1

September 25: Volleyball Game at Lotus at 5:15pm

September 28: Volleyball Game at Global Village Academy at 5:15pm

September 29: Picture Day

September 29: Flag Football Game at the High Point field at 5:15pm

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Message from the Principal

Dear HPA Families,

It has been wonderful seeing families and students in the building for parent-teacher conferences. Thank you for taking time to meet with your child's teacher (s). Our goal is to meet with each family. Fall conferences are extremely important, as they are a starting point for teachers and parents to develop positive relationships. When teachers and parents are on the same page, and each feels comfortable approaching the other, it sets the stage for a much more successful partnership, which will enhance students' academic achievement and well-being throughout the year.

1. At conferences, teachers may go over our new grading practices. As a school, we have three goals that we are working to achieve by the end of this school year. Here are the highlights of our new grading system: Separating student behaviors (effort, responsibility, participation, behavior) from content understanding.
 - * This means you may see two grades for each course/class. One reflects what your child knows and is able to do according to the Colorado state standards. Another that reflects your child's effort, responsibility, participation i.e. attributes that are important for being a successful student.
 - * Why is this important? When we separate content understanding and other variables such as behavior and responsibility we can more accurately assess where students struggle and what support they need to growth.
2. Communicating student achievement towards Colorado state standards
 - * This means that you may see assignments, tests, quizzes, etc. listed in PowerSchool Gradebook as standards. For example, instead of "worksheet 2.5" you may now see it listed as "I can cite evidence from a text."
 - * Why is this important? By communicating your child's progress through our state standards you will have a more accurate picture of where they are in relation to state expectations.
3. Indicating incomplete or missing work by placing INC (incomplete) or M (missing) in the gradebook for individual assignments and INS (insufficient evidence) for their overall grade rather than a zero.
 - * This means if you see INC, M, or INS you know your child needs to complete or turn in work.
 - * Why is this important? When we place an INC or M for a missing assignment we avoid penalizing a student for turning in work late and it more accurately reflects their current standing. Zeroes distort the actual achievement record and can decrease student motivation to learn. Placing an INC, M, and INS forces the child to complete the work. At HPA the consequence for not completing work is completing the work. Students no longer have a zero "opt-out" option.
3. Other Important Grading Facts:
 - * Awards ceremonies – In order to qualify for high honors, students must receive all A's in content and their responsibility grade (s). In order to qualify for honors, students must receive all A's and B's in content and their responsibility grade (s).
 - * Report cards – We will continue to close gradebooks at the end of each quarter. Once the quarter is over the gradebook is closed and missing or incomplete work are no longer collected. This means that any missing or incomplete work will convert to a zero. The change from incomplete or missing to zero will result in lowering a student's overall grade. We highly encourage families to monitor missing or incomplete work throughout the quarter to help ensure their child has all of their work completed prior to the end of the quarter.

These grading and reporting practices are a work in progress and each grade level is working toward implementing these goals at a pace that is supportive of their students. Please let me know if you have any questions about the information that is shared with you at conferences.

I hope you all have a wonderful long weekend!

With husky pride,
Ms. Keri Melmed
Chief Academic Officer/Principal

Donation and Volunteer Opportunities

- **Picture Day Volunteers Needed:** Picture Day will be Tuesday, September 29. We need parent volunteer from 8:00am to about 2:00pm. Please contact Erica Konieczny at ekonieczny@highpointacademy.net by Friday, September 25 if you can help.
- **Volunteers Needed for After School Sports:** Help is needed at the score table for the volleyball games on the following dates, October 8 from 5:00-6:15pm and October 13 from 4:15-5:30pm. Please contact Erica Konieczny at ekonieczny@highpointacademy.net if you can help.
- **School Garden Volunteers Needed:** Our parent garden coordinator, Jogita Auzina, is seeking volunteers to assist with the school garden. This is a perfect opportunity to be involved in the wonderful work that is being done for our school. Please contact Jogita at jogitaa@hotmail.com or 912-414-3867.
- **Vision and Hearing Screening Volunteers Needed:** Vision and hearing testing is November 30 through December 3. We need 10 volunteers each day from 8:15am to 3:15pm, lunch will be provided. If you are interested please contact Erica Konieczny at ekonieczny@highpointacademy.net.