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# Husky Talk Newsletter

High Point Academy

Thursday, August 18, 2016 Volume 11, Issue 1

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.

## Welcome Back!

Happy first week of school! Many thanks to everyone who attended Back to School Night and Student Testing last week, it truly helped make this week about student learning. If you missed Back to School Night, please take a moment to check out the [Power Point Presentation](#) from the evening.

## Middle School Fall Sports

Sports available to 6th-8th grade students this fall are Girls Volleyball, Boys Flag Football, and Girls and Boys Cross Country. Practice will begin on Monday, August 22. There will be tryouts for girls volleyball on August 22 and 23. **There is a parent meeting today after school at 4:00pm in the gymnasium.** To print off paperwork and forms please [click here](#) and you will be redirected to the Activities page on the schools website. If you still have questions email Erica Wood, at [ewood@highpointacademy.net](mailto:ewood@highpointacademy.net) or call the school.

## PM Access to the Building

To keep our students safe we are not allowing students to wander the building after school. If students are not picked up during carpool they will be sent to Husky PACK. Husky PACK parents please come through the lunch room door to pick up your child. Preschool parents and families, please pick up students from the outside doors at the end of the day.

## Attendance and Tardies

Welcome back! We wanted to let everyone know that we will start marking tardies beginning on Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. A student will be marked tardy if they arrive to school or to their homeroom classroom after 8:00am. Please remember that you can drop your child(ren) off beginning at 7:30am to avoid the carpool line.

Middle School students will also be marked tardy throughout the day if they arrive to their classes late following their three minute passing period.

## Rockies Tickets on Sale NOW!

High Point Academy community night at the ballpark is Friday, September 2. Tickets are \$3 a piece and can be ordered using the form coming home in Thursday folders today. Please return [this form](#) with money (CASH ONLY) to the front office by August 19th at 4:00pm to reserve your tickets.

## Girls on the Run

Girls on the Run starts the week of September 12<sup>th</sup>. Girls on the Run inspires girls to a lifetime of self-respect and a healthy lifestyle through an innovative program that combines training for a 3.1 mile run/walk race with a fun, health education lesson plan. We will meet Mondays and Thursdays after school from 3:45-5:00 pm. Open to all HPA 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls. Registration is now open at [www.girlsontherunrockies.org](http://www.girlsontherunrockies.org)

## Jean Day

The last Friday of every month is a jean day. Students can wear jeans for \$1. This money helps support the yearbook and keep the cost down for families. The jean day schedule for the year is available [here](#).

## School Newsletters

HPA school newsletters are sent out bi-weekly. These publications are sent out electronically via email. For the first few editions we will also be printing them and sending them home in Thursday folders. If you would like to continue to receive a paper copy throughout the year please contact Tonya Gray at 303-217-5152 or via email at [tgray@highpointacademy.net](mailto:tgray@highpointacademy.net)

## Snack Policy

A friendly reminder that our wellness policy allows only fresh fruits and vegetables to be brought for snack.

Thank you in advance for your support.

## Important Dates:

**August 18:** Middle School Fall Sports Parent Meeting 4:00pm in the gym

**August 19:** Rockies ticket order forms and money due by 4:00pm (see pg 1 for details)

**August 25:** PTO Meeting at 5:30pm

**August 26:** Jean Day-\$1 to wear jeans

**August 29:** Volunteer Training 8:00am

**September 5:** NO SCHOOL Labor Day

**September 7:** Coffee with Keri 8:00-8:30am

**September 7:** Volunteer Training 8:30am

**September 21 & 22:** Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00-8:00pm

**September 23:** NO SCHOOL

**September 30:** School Picture Day

We also have a HPA app that can be downloaded at the app store.

# Husky Talk Newsletter

## 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](mailto:jjcordo@msn.com).

## Volunteer Training

We have several volunteer trainings coming up on Monday, August 29 at 8:00am and Wednesday, September 7 at 8:30am following Coffee with Keri at 8:00am. If you are interested in working in a classroom, going on field trips, or helping at the school and have not completed the training in previous years, you need to attend this training and clear a background check before going into classrooms. Please RSVP to Erica Wood at [ewood@highpointacademy.net](mailto:ewood@highpointacademy.net) or 303-217-5152 if you are planning to attend. If you have completed the training in a previous year you need to complete the background check annually. Please email Erica Wood to get the form to complete this process.

## 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 Wood at [ewood@highpointacademy.net](mailto:ewood@highpointacademy.net)

- Morning carpool help needed from Singletree area (58th Drive).
- Morning and afternoon carpool help needed from 40th and Mitchell.

## Carpool Reminders

During afternoon carpool please utilize both lanes in the pick-up area. The lane closest to the curb is for elementary school families and the lane closest to the diagonal parking spaces is for middle school families. Also please remember to pull all the way forward and stay in your car when picking up your child. Your child will walk to the car once the car has come to a stop.

## PowerSchool & My School Bucks Letter

Coming home in Thursday folders today is a letter for creating a PowerSchool account which will allow you to track student grades and attendance, as well as update contact info and settings. If you have an account from last year you can disregard this portion of the letter. If you have any questions about PowerSchool please contact Erica Wood. Also in the letter is your child's student ID number, which is needed to create your child's lunch account. If you have any questions about My School Bucks please contact the front office.

\*\*If you do not receive a letter it is because we are still waiting to receive your child's ID number from the state. As soon as this information gets to us we will get the letters out.\*\*

## Traffic Increase

We are experiencing an increase in traffic due to the construction in the area. Please use caution in these areas, especially when dropping off and picking up students. If your child walks to school, please review safety procedures.

## Donation and Volunteer Opportunities

- **Library Volunteers:** The library is in need of parent volunteers. If you are interested in helping in the school library or would like more information please contact Timiya Jackson at [tjackson@highpointacademy.net](mailto:tjackson@highpointacademy.net)



# Husky Talk Newsletter

## Message from the Principal

Dear HPA Families,

It is with great enthusiasm that, on behalf of the entire HPA staff, I welcome you back to school!

Teachers and staff returned to work the first week in August. Over the last two weeks there has been lots of excitement and energy planning for the new school year. Staff was eagerly organizing their classrooms, revising curriculum, meeting within teams, getting appropriate medical training, as well as diving into texts and most current research on best teaching practices. The building was abuzz with activity and anticipation for the new year.

Our preparations culminated on Thursday evening with Back to School Night. It was wonderful to see so many familiar and new faces in our classrooms and hallways. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to engage in our first community event of the year. It was a great opportunity to meet teachers and see classrooms. For those of you who were unable to attend Back to School Night or who missed the general session, the highlights of the presentation are listed below.

As a school we are continuing to focus on the **HPA way** supporting our students learning and growth from a social, emotional, and academic standpoint. Ms. Juanise Cornell, our Dean of Students, is working with six other staff members in leading our work around restorative practices. A way of thinking that helps shift culture from viewing discipline as an opportunity to punish, to viewing discipline as an opportunity to repair harm and learn from your mistakes. Mrs. Michele Garver, our Elementary School Assistant Principal, is working with a handful of teachers to lead our work around personalized grading practices. You will see a shift in your child's grades as teachers separate a student's level of responsibility from their level of content understanding. You will also notice that your child's grade in each subject area will be based on our state standards. This will tell you so much more about how your child is performing. Mr. Jackson Westenskow, our Middle School Assistant Principal, and his team are leading staff in refining their instructional practices and ensuring that students are engaging in meaningful, relevant, and compelling work. We are also continuing to learn how to be more culturally responsive educators. Cultural responsiveness allows us to use what we know about our students to meet their academic, social, and emotional needs so that they are learning and growing in our care. As you can see we are highly focused on becoming better practitioners for your students. This work is done during our staff meetings on Wednesdays, during team meetings throughout the school day, as well as during our non-contact professional development/teacher work days. The staff is energized by these initiatives and we are excited to continue our growth in each area.

The Colorado Department of Education has release the CMAS/PARCC results from 2016; this includes science (5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade), math and English language arts (3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade). We will send out a more detailed report of our scores in September after the state releases more information. In the meantime, we are happy to share that our overall student performance was positive. We are particularly proud of the growth we saw in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade math, as well as 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts. Our science results are also very positive and we saw strong growth in both 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This exciting growth is a product of our students' hard work, the support and partnership of our families, and the commitment and passion for teaching and learning that our teachers provide each day.

If you have any questions about any of these topics, please feel free to email, call, or stop by my office.

We have had a wonderful first week back and look forward to many more weeks of learning and fun together!

With Husky pride,

Ms. Keri Melmed

Chief Academic Officer/Principal