



Husky Talk Newsletter

High Point Academy Thursday, October 19, 2017 Volume 12, Issue 5

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
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Officer/Principal

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Chief Business
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Elementary School
Assistant Principal

Jessica Ranalletta
Middle School
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Dean of Students

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High School Planning
Liaison

Erica Wood
Director of Student
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Teresa Frasier
Office Manager

Jill Fitz
Enrollment
Coordinator

Amanda Delgado
Medical Assistant

Michael Fields
Governing Board
President

Like HPA of Facebook

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

Middle School Basketball Parent Information Meeting

High Point Academy's middle school basketball season starts in November. If your 6th, 7th, or 8th grader is interested in playing, please plan to attend the parent informational meeting on Tuesday, October 24th at 4:00pm at the school. All forms, fees, and sport physicals will be due November 16th this year so please plan accordingly.

Quarter 1 Awards Ceremonies

The quarter one awards ceremonies take place Friday, October 20th in the gymnasium.

Friday, October 20th, 2017

7th and 8th Grade—11:50-12:10

Kindergarten & 1st—12:30-1:15

2nd & 3rd—1:30-2:15

4th & 5th—2:30-3:15

Tuesday, October 24th, 2017

6th Grade—11:20-11:40

Book Character Dress Day

On October 31, students can dress up as their favorite book character. Students must have their costume idea pre-approved through their teacher and have the book in hand on Character Dress Day.

Gifted & Talented Student Testing

From November 6th through the 10th, we will be administering tests to all second grade students to determine eligibility for gifted and talented services. All other students may be recommended for testing based on specific characteristics, which include but are not limited to: advanced problem-solving skills, intense interests, motivation to pursue self-selected tasks, and test scores above the 95th percentile. For a more extensive list, please visit <http://www.coloradogifted.org/>. For more information on HPA's gifted identification process or to refer your child for testing, please contact Katie Vining, kvining@highpointacademy.net.

New Lunchroom Procedures

We have updated our lunchroom procedures. Read more below about the change and how we are ensuring that students are set up for success.

Previously:

- Students entered the lunchroom and sat at assigned tables (some grades have assigned seats while other grades get to choose who they sit with at lunch).
- Each table in the old system had two sides; therefore there were 5 students facing another five students.
- At about ten minutes until the end of lunch an instructional assistant would get the attention of all of the students in the cafeteria to let them know it was time to clean up.
 - ◇ Student sweepers would begin to sweep, other students would get up to throw away trash and one trashcan would be pushed through the aisles to help collect the trash.

In the new system:

- Students enter the lunchroom and sit at assigned tables (no grade has assigned seating, but they must sit with their homeroom).
- ◇ This adjustment gives students flexible seating so they can sit and talk to friends within their homeroom.
- Each table is now separated and all tables are facing North. Each table fits up to 5 students.
- ◇ An expectation is that students are facing forward and talking to their 'elbow partners'. Essentially anyone sitting at their table.
- ◇ This also keeps the volume down with over 150 students in the lunchroom at a time. Students now have 2-3 people to talk to rather than 6-7.
- ◇ Students are allowed to talk with an inside voice (same as before).
- With five minutes left in the lunch period an instructional assistant turns off the lights in the cafeteria to signal a silent lunch. The IA informs the students that all students should finish eating their food, start cleaning up their personal area and that sweepers are now able to get up and sweep.
- Typically students are talking and not eating in the old process. Rather than take away recess time, the five minutes allows students to focus on themselves, finish eating lunch, and prepare for a transition. This also helps with the adults in the cafeteria having to raise their voices over talking students and moving trashcans.
- ◇ Student sweepers begin to sweep.
- ◇ The lunch times have not changed for any grade but the routine and structure of the cafeteria has become more efficient.
- With about 2 minutes left in the lunch period, students are dismissed by rows, taking their plates and trash and tossing their garbage into the trash cans on the way out of the cafeteria.
- ◇ This creates a seamless process so that not all 150 students are moving throughout the cafeteria at one time attempting to clean up and throw away trash.

Important Dates:

October 19: Volunteer Training at 2:45pm

October 19: PTO Meeting 6-7pm in the library

October 20: K-5 and 7-8 Quarter 1 Awards Ceremonies

October 21: Middle School State Cross Country Meet 8am-NOON

October 23: Flag Football Game (GOLD) vs. Denver Language School at Denver Language School at 5:15pm

October 24: 6th Grade Quarter 1 Awards Ceremonies 11:20am

October 24: Middle School Basketball Parent Information Meeting 4-4:30pm

October 24: Garden Work Day 4-5pm

October 24: Cross Country Meet—2 Miles at Vanguard Classical School at 5:00pm

October 24: Flag Football Game (GREEN) vs. Compass Academy at Kepner Middle School at 5:30pm

October 25: Governing Board Meeting 7:30am

October 25: Flag Football Game (GREEN) vs. Denver Language School at HPA at 5:15pm

October 26: Volleyball Game vs. Ricardo Flores Magon Academy (RFMA) at RFMA at 5:30pm

October 27: Student Jean Day for \$1

October 30: NFL Day—Students can wear a football jersey or top with jeans

October 31: Book Character Dress Day—see pg. 1 for details

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Message from the Chief Academic Officer/Principal

Dear High Point Academy Families,

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of first quarter! It feels like this school year is flying by! The end of each quarter is a great time to stop and reflect on how things are going. Asking ourselves - what worked well this quarter and how can we do more of that? What can we do better next quarter? And, what can we do differently? Are we getting to school on time? Are we providing a quiet workspace to complete homework? Are we ensuring a good night's sleep? As parents and staff we are the primary caretakers of your children, and asking ourselves those very questions can help us ensure that we are doing the very best to support our students to achieve and grow.

First quarter report cards will be sent home next week, and how we respond to our child's progress can impact their attitude about learning and school. To support families in having meaningful conversations about report cards, we encourage you to take the time to go over the report card with your child by asking them two simple questions: 'how do you feel about your report card?' and 'what's your plan for next quarter?'

When you ask your child how they feel about their report card, often the responses they give are more telling than the actual grades. It also helps students take 'ownership' of their learning. By asking, "How do you feel about your report card?" we send the message that this is their report card – not yours, and therefore, you want to know how it makes *them* feel. As you know, the report card doesn't tell us the complete story of their learning and their assessment of how they did can shed light on any issues that might be interfering with their growth and learning.

While we want students to take their progress seriously, we don't want students to think it determines their worth. If your student did poorly, this can lead to feelings of despair and that doesn't motivate a student to do a better job at school. What is more supportive and motivating is creating a plan to move forward. Discuss the obstacles that got in their way, and how they can move past them. Asking, "What worked well and how can you do more of that? What can you do better? And, what can you do differently"- are all productive, solution oriented questions. So, while we use the report card to provide valuable feedback to our students and families, it is simply one measure of success.

At HPA, we value celebrating our students and their accomplishments! Each quarter we pause to recognize the hard work, growth, and learning that occurred during that time. To do this we hold award ceremonies at the end of each quarter. As you know, we are taking a standards-based grading approach to provide a much more personalized report of what your child knows and understands according to the Colorado state standards. Our end of quarter celebrations will include the following **awards**:

- **Husky Scholar** – this award goes to the students that received all Accomplished and Exceeding for academic classes
- **Perfect Attendance** – students that were present and on time every day of the quarter (starts over every quarter)
- **Best Effort** – acknowledges one student per class who gives their best effort, works hard, and is an example to their peers of the power of perseverance.
- **Husky PRIDE** – students who demonstrated participation, responsibility, integrity, determination, and excellence. Five students per homeroom class in K-5th grade and one student per grade level for 6th-8th grade will be chosen to receive this award.
- **Specialists**– for K-6th grades, there will be one student per grade per specials class that demonstrated outstanding achievement. For 7th/8th grade, one student per specials class will be chosen.

Content Awards- In grades 6th-8th, content teachers will choose one student per grade that demonstrated excellence and achievement in their content area.

We are looking forward to celebrating our amazing students with you at our first end of quarter award ceremony on Friday, October 20. As always, please reach out to any administrator with any questions you may have

If your child receives an award or not, we are looking forward to celebrating them and acknowledging all their hard work this first quarter of school. If you have any questions about your child's progress, please feel free to reach out by email or stop by my office.

With husky pride,

Ms. Keri Melmed



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Donation and Volunteer Opportunities

Upcoming Garden Work Day Opportunities: Our last garden work day is Tuesday, October 24th from 4-5pm. Please contact Garden Coordinators, Paige Fredericks, pfredericks@highpointacademy.net, or Emily DelRoss, edelross@highpointacademy.net, if you are interested in joining the fun.

Book Donations Needed: Our 7th grade English language arts teacher is in need of donations of the following books: five copies of *Summer of Mariposas*, five copies of *Under a Painted Sky*, five copies of *Weedflower*, five copies of *Inside Out and Back Again*, and five copies of *Red Pencil*.

Note: Every \$10 spent on a school donation equals one parent volunteer hour. High Point Academy asks all families to volunteer 10 hours for a single parent home and 20 hours for a two-parent home.

Husky Wear

Did you see HPA's Husky Wear items? Visit <http://denver.educationaloutfitters.com/find-my-school/high-point-academy/> to order your polo shirts, hoodies, jackets, and much more.

High School Night

High Point Academy's first high school night will take place on Thursday November 2nd from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM. We will be hosting several high schools from Denver Public Schools, Brighton Public Schools, and Aurora Public Schools. Please come to see what each high school has to offer so that transitioning from HPA to high school can be seamless. If you have any questions about High School Night or if you would like to volunteer to help, please contact our middle school counselor, Rachel Bauer: rbauer@highpointacademy.net or at 303-217-5152. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you there!

Free Skiing for Fifth Grade Students & Discounted Skiing for Sixth Grade Students

Colorado Ski Country USA believes that every student should have the opportunity to learn Colorado's signature winter sports. That's why for over 20 years the CSCUSA Passport Program has helped thousands of 5th and 6th graders ski or snowboard for free. With no parent purchase required, CSCUSA's 5th grade Passport Program is the only ski pass that gives your kiddos **THREE (3) FREE DAYS** of skiing or snowboarding at 22 of Colorado's premier mountains. 6th Grade participants receive **FOUR (4)** days of skiing or snowboarding at each resort for \$105 if you register before Wednesday, November 30th. Make sure your child does not miss out on the fun and sign them up today! The quickest and easiest way to register for the 5th and 6th Grade Passport Program is online at coloradoski.com/passport.

HPA Has Partnered with American Furniture Warehouse

Are you thinking of home furnishings? If so, support our school at the same time. Questions regarding the program can be directed to Erica Wood at ewood@highpointacademy.net.

Reduced Cost Individual, Couple, and Family Therapy

Regis University's Division of Counseling and Family Therapy provides progressive, experiential learning in a state-of-the-art counseling center. At the Thornton campus, our clients will have access to designated Child and Adolescent Play Therapy rooms. This campus has earned the esteemed designation as an Approved Center of Play Therapy Education by the Association for Play Therapy (APT). Please visit <http://www.regiscounseling.com>, call 303-964-5786, or email macplab@regis.edu for more information.

Handicapped Parking Spaces in Parking Lot

Parents please do not park in the designated handicapped parking spots without the handicap placard or license plate. Thank you for your consideration.

Volunteer Training

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 a volunteer training and clear a background check before going into classrooms. Please contact Erica Wood at ewood@highpointacademy.net or 303-217-5152 to find when the next training is taking place.

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.

<http://coloradoski.com/passport>