

As a valued member of the High Point Community, we are pleased to share with you our first of two publications for the 2018-2019 school year. This online publication allows us the opportunity to keep the community informed of the happenings at High Point Academy.

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## Chief Academic Officer's Message

Dear HPA Community,

As a school leader, I know the hard work, focus, and intentionality that goes into making a school successful. Each year at High Point Academy we focus on ways that we can improve our practices so that our students have the best learning experience possible. We continue to focus our attention on two important initiatives; standards based grading and restorative justice discipline practices. Using standards to guide teacher planning and student learning helps ensure that the school day is focused on supporting students to become powerful and productive citizens of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Restorative justice discipline practices empower students to take accountability for their actions and restore the harm that they may have inflicted on a peer or on the community.

As you may know, the state of Colorado has adopted academic standards by which they measure student achievement and growth. Teachers use these standards to develop their larger units of study and day to day lessons. The standards provide a clear description of where students should be in their learning by the end of each grade level. At HPA, our teachers work tirelessly to create engaging and relevant learning experiences that bring these standards to life. We are excited about the difference teachers are making in their students' lives through our standards based curriculum.

Educators have long known that traditional, punitive approaches to discipline are not supporting students in learning and growing from their mistakes. To that end, there are many schools across the country that are looking at more effective ways to handle student discipline issues. High Point Academy is one of many schools nationwide considered "early adopters" of *Restorative Justice*. Restorative justice is a unique approach that supports students in learning from their mistakes, in contrast to the traditional punitive approach where schools use an escalating scale of punishments that ultimately remove a student from the school with 'out of school suspensions.'

What is most exciting about restorative practices is that it is a holistic approach that includes the ways we talk with students after they've made a poor choice, the ways we hold students accountable for their misbehavior, as well as the ways we ensure the student repairs the harm they may have caused. We are seeing amazing results from this work. To start, our students are



Spending more time in class. This ensures that students are receiving the necessary instructional time that they need to excel academically. Additionally, students problem-solving and conflict resolution skills are growing. We are noticing a huge increase in students taking the initiative to resolve conflicts as they arise. Our overall student discipline records show a major decrease in minor and major behavioral incidents that would have previously resulted in removal from class.

Both of these teacher led initiatives are empowering High Point Academy students to learn and grow not only academically, but also socially and emotionally. We know that schools today cannot ignore our responsibility to grow the whole child. Our vision at High Point Academy is to graduate students that are both socially and academically ready for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

It is a privilege and a pleasure working with such a dedicated staff, curious and hard working student body, and committed family community. I wish you all a happy holiday season and a Happy New Year.

With husky pride,

Keri Melmed  
Executive Director/Principal

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## High Point Academy Fall Cultural Potluck

At HPA, we know that diversity is one of our greatest strengths. Our students speak many different languages and our families come from many different backgrounds. What better way to celebrate our cultural diversity than a Cultural Potluck featuring food from the kitchens of High Point families, art from High Point students, and the friendship of neighbors and friends in the High Point community.

On November 8, 2018 High Point Academy hosted a Cultural Potluck in which many students and families attended the event to enjoy food, activities and music from Rocky Mountain Steel Band. It was a great evening of coming together and celebrating our diversity.



## Mommy and Me Tea

HPA held it's first ever Mommy and Me Tea on November 13. It was a great turn out and lots of fun! There was tea, cookies and pastries enjoyed by all who attended.



## Father and Son Breakfast

High Point Academy also had it's first Father and Son Breakfast on December 4th. They enjoyed fruit, waffles and the company of those around them. It was a great time for all!



**Thanks to Student Council, Mrs. Noble and our parents for making this happen!**

# High Point Academy Sports' Teams

## Girl's Volleyball A Team

Volleyball A team had another successful season. They worked hard all season and achieved an undefeated season. The team headed into the playoffs as the number one seed and beat Global Village Academy in the championship game!



## Girl's Volleyball B Team

This was the first year that HPA had two volleyball teams. Our B team was made up of a mixture of 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders. The team showed great improvement throughout the season and made the playoffs. Though they lost their first game in the playoffs, the girls are looking forward to next year!



## Girls on the Run

Girls on the Run is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating a world where every girl knows and activates her limitless potential and is free to boldly pursue her dreams. Meeting twice a week in a team, we teach life skills through dynamic, interactive lessons and running games. The curriculum is taught by certified Girls on the Run coaches and includes three parts: understanding ourselves, valuing relationships and teamwork and understanding how we connect with and shape the world at large. At each season's conclusion, the girls and their running buddies complete a 5K running event which gives them a tangible sense of achievement as well as a framework for setting and achieving life goals. The result—making the seemingly impossible, possible, and teaching girls that they can.



## Flag Football

This season was the best HPA has ever had. The team had a record of 7 wins and 1 loss with a few exciting games along the way! Unfortunately, the season ended in the first round of the playoffs. Our boys grew a lot through the season and with many 7<sup>th</sup> graders on the team, we should be a strong team next year. Go Huskies!



## Cross Country

Cross Country had great participation this year. The team had many meets and ran many miles! They enjoyed their season and can't wait for next year!

