



# Husky Talk Newsletter

High Point Academy Thursday, September 19, 2019 Volume 14, 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*  
Executive Director

*Yesta Ealy*  
Assistant Principal

*Jessica Ranalletta*  
Assistant Principal

*Juanise Cornell*  
Dean of Students

*Jen Rendón*  
Restorative Justice  
Coordinator

*Timiya Jackson*  
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*Teresa Frasier*  
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Operations and  
Human Resources

*Jill Fitz*  
Enrollment  
Coordinator

*Tonya Gray*  
Business Service  
Coordinator

*Linnette Reyes*  
Clinic Assistant

*Christi Julian*  
Governing Board  
President



## **King Soopers New Rewards Program**

We wanted to let everyone know about King Soopers new Community Rewards program. We no longer have to use gift cards. You can now link your King Soopers loyalty card to High Point Academy and the school will receive a percentage of your purchases. All you have to do is go into your on-line account, click on Community Rewards (under My Account), and select High Point Academy. You only have to do this once and all future purchases will help to benefit the school! This is a great way to help our school earn money without spending anything extra.

## **Medical Forms**

Allergy and asthma action plans, medication administration forms and meal modifications forms need to be turned into the clinic as soon as possible. The forms DO NOT roll over from last school year. If you would like the forms emailed to you, please email [lreyes@highpointacademy.net](mailto:lreyes@highpointacademy.net).

## **Facility Rental**

Besides working hard to provide an individualized learning plan for your child, we are committed to partnering with the local community. During the year, we are willing to host events at our school. Please contact Teresa Frasier at [tfrasier@highpointacademy.net](mailto:tfrasier@highpointacademy.net)

## **Like HPA on Facebook**

If you're on Facebook, [like High Point Academy](#) to receive school updates in your newsfeed.

## **Health Clinic Donations**

Our clinic is looking for the following donations of the following:  
new boys underwear sizes 4-6, new girls underwear size 4-6, new childrens socks, small wash cloths, leggings.

## **Picture Day**

Picture Day is September 27th. All students will need to wear a uniform shirt to be photographed.

## **Husky Pride Reward Donations**

Each week students have a chance to earn Husky Pride tickets. These tickets are collected in each student's classroom. Every Friday names are drawn from each grade level from the collected Husky Pride Tickets and prizes are handed out to those who have their names drawn. Grand prizes are given out monthly. Prize donations are greatly appreciated. Anything from small prizes to grand prizes such as gift cards, headphones, small toys, coloring books etc. Bring any donations to the front office.

## **Free and Reduced Lunch**

Please remember to fill out you free and Reduced lunch application. Completing the application ensures your student is charged the correct amount for lunches; and helps the school with program funding. Please [click here](#) to fill out the application.

## **HPA Has Partnered with American Furniture Warehouse**

Need home furnishings? If so, support our school at the same time. [Click here](#) for more information.

## **Middle School Ala Carte Lunch Items**

Middle School can now purchase Ala Carte items in the lunch room. Items available for purchase are Fruit Snacks \$.75, Izze Sparkling Water \$1.25 and Naked Juice \$2.00. They can purchase these items with cash or their lunch account.



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## Message from the Executive Director/Principal

Dear HPA Families,

We hope you had a great parent teacher conference last night. We have another round of conferences tonight from 4:00-8:00PM. Please take this valuable opportunity to speak with your child's teacher. We aim for 100% attendance to ensure that we are working in partnership with you to support your child and their unique needs.

To find out more information about our school-wide goals and focus this year, please attend a session tonight at Parent-Teacher Conferences 5PM or 7PM, or read the message below:

As you may know, a driving principle at High Point Academy, is improvement and progress. Each year we set goals to keep us moving forward and evolving. We believe strongly in exhibiting a growth mind-set for our students. We know that aiming higher, failing forward, and continuous improvement, models for kids what it takes to succeed in life and supports us in being the very best for our kids. With that in mind, we would like to share a bit about one of our initiatives for the 2019-2020 school year.

As a parent or guardian, you expect the environment at school to be safe and rigorous so that your child is learning and growing. As a staff, we have the same expectation, with the success of your child at the heart of our work. Last year, we began to collect data on the HPA school environment, which included input, analysis, and feedback from multiple sources including: The Colorado Department of Education, HPA Building Leadership Team, HPA School Accountability Team faculty, and family surveys and focus groups. Our work concluded that **elevating behavioral expectations will result in more learning time and decrease unwanted behaviors so that all students succeed, learn, and grow at HPA.**

We refer to this initiative as our Culture Code. The Culture Code focuses on behavior in the hallway, lunchroom, and classrooms. We have described a few components of the code and provided some context for why it is important.

- **Students transition silently throughout the building.** Why is this important? Silent transitions support the learning environment in our building and classrooms. Throughout the school day your child will transition to recess, lunch, and other classrooms. Grade levels have the same schedule and therefore they travel at the same time. This means that approximately 75 to 160 students may be moving from one place to another at the same time. You can probably imagine how high the volume level could get if each student was having a conversation with their friend, or how chaotic it could become if students were running, or not paying attention to their teacher. Simply put, when you multiply even the quietest conversations by 75, we quickly reach a volume level that distracts the learning of the classrooms nearby, and makes directions from faculty and staff difficult to hear and follow. Last year, transitions often disturbed the learning of others and resulted in unnecessary behavior referrals, and disciplinary action. Our approach this year keeps transitions quick and quiet. Teachers are able to get students from place to place in about a minute increasing the learning time and the time students are engaged on task.
- **Students remain in the classroom during instruction and use appropriate volume levels.** Why is this important? At HPA our instructional approach includes a 10-20-minute lecture or 'mini-lesson' at the start of each class. This is when the teacher demonstrates and teaches the new concept for that day.

**September 19:** Conferences 4pm—8pm

**September 20:** NO SCHOOL

**September 25:** Flag Football Game vs. Aurora Academy at HPA @ 5pm

**September 25:** Volleyball Game vs. Aurora Academy at Aurora Academy @ 5pm and 6pm

**September 25:** Cross Country Meet at Global Village Academy @ 5pm

**September 27:** Jean Day \$1

**September 27:** Picture Day

**September 30:** Flag Football vs. Omar D. Blair at HPA @ 5pm

**September 30:** Volleyball Game vs. GVR-Strive at GVR-Strive @ 5pm

**October 4:** PJ Day for \$1



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The HPA instructional approach also includes 'work-time' when students collaborate or work independently to practice the new learning. In the past, we saw a great deal of students leaving the classroom during instruction and missing vital learning. We also saw that the 'work-time' was unnecessarily loud. The Culture Code asks that students remain in the classroom during the lecture time so that they do not miss the critical learning for that day; and that the volume level of the classroom is conducive for learning so that students are able to focus on their work.

- **Students sit, eat, and talk with their peers in the lunchroom and when 5 minutes remain the lights are turned off to signal to students that they need to finish their lunch, clean up their spot, and prepare to leave the lunchroom.** Why is this important? We found that students were not finishing their lunch during lunchtime and were not cleaning up properly after themselves. This resulted in a messy lunchroom and hungry students in the latter part of the school day. Our new structure ensures that kids are using lunchtime to not only socialize with their peers but to refuel their bodies. It also ensures that students are taking responsibility for their spot and ensuring it is clean for the students who use the lunchroom after them.

To support students in learning the Culture Code we spent time the first 8 days of school practicing and teaching these expectations. Students were incredibly responsive and quick to learn the expectations. We have already seen a tremendous shift in our school-wide culture. Our middle school students have been an exceptional role model for the younger kids. They have exhibited respectful and responsible behaviors during transitions throughout the building, in the lunchroom, and in the classroom. Our intermediate and primary students have also quickly shown ownership of the Culture Code expectations. We are thrilled to see more focus and attention on learning throughout the school.

We remain steadfast to the HPA Way, ensuring that our approach to discipline is restorative, our classrooms culturally responsive, and our instruction engaging and compelling. Our initiatives align with each of these core values and ensure students are able to grow and learn in a safe learning environment.

We hope you have a wonderful 3 day weekend.

With husky pride,

Keri Melmed

