



THE EAGLE UPDATE

HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - August 23, 2024

Back to School Bash!

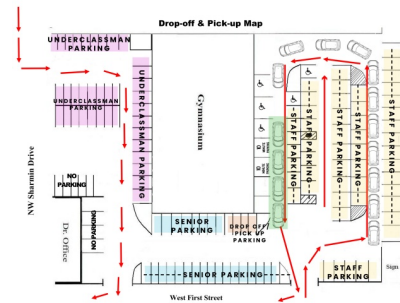
You're invited to join us Friday, August 23, for the PTF's Back to School Bash! This will be held at Sandpiper Recreation Area in Polk City and will have a potluck and a social time for the students and parents. We will not be holding Principals and Popsicles in the Park this year, so the Bash will be a great opportunity for students to connect with each other before school begins.



Drop-off/Pick-Up Procedures

The safety of our students is of the utmost importance to us. Drop-off and pick-up times make our parking lot a very busy place. There is a very specific drop-off and pick-up procedure that is outlined below, and a diagram is provided for those who would like to see it visually.

There will be staff that will be directing you; please follow their instructions. The staff may be direct at times because their primary concern is the safety of our students and ensuring a smooth drop-off and pick-up process. Car signs for 6th grade only were available for pick up at Back to School Night or the first day of school if you did not attend Back to School Night.



DROP-OFF PROCEDURES

Enter from the north on Sharmin and follow the arrows on the map and exit heading west on First Street. There will be no left turns permitted out of the parking lot during drop-off and pick-up hours. If you need to get out of your car for *any* reason (good-bye hugs, getting band instruments out of the trunk, walking them to the sidewalk), you must park. Please also yield to traffic entering and exiting the chiropractor's office. **You may not enter from Sharmin from the south.** You will be asked to drive down Sharmin, turn around, and come back.

PICK-UP PROCEDURES

Please arrive at 3:35 to pick up your 7th-12th grader as the final bell rings at 3:30 and students need time to pack up. Please enter the parking lot on Sharmin from the north. **Entering from the south will not be permitted.** The staff will call the names as far as they can see on Sharmin; once you have your child you may leave, even if you don't go through the parking lot. If you do go through the parking lot, please yield to the cars at the chiropractor's office and turn right (west) out of the parking lot. Staff will not call names for cars entering on Sharmin from the south or who are parked on the road. If you are parking and asking your child to walk, please park on 3rd Street.

If you have an elementary child and secondary student, your secondary student will need to meet your elementary child within the building and exit together out the west lobby doors.

No elementary students will be allowed to stay for secondary student practices after school. They will be escorted to Little Eagles Nest, our after school program.

When you are picking up your children, we want to be good neighbors. Please do not park at Casey's, the strip mall or the chiropractor's office.

Volleyball and Cross Country Spirit Wear

The fall sports store is open for volleyball and cross country spirit wear. The store will close August 25!

[Shop Here](#)

Lunch Vendor Allergen Information

Here is the [link for allergen items](#) in the new lunch menu. Please note for those with Celiac, they cannot guarantee cross contamination.

Lunch for Monday

If you did not order a lunch through the link or with your teacher on Back to School Night, please plan to send a cold lunch with your child on Monday. There will not be extra lunches to purchase, and there will not be hot pockets or corn dogs available. If your child does not have a lunch this year, the office will call you and ask you to bring them one.

Setting up the HotLunch Account

Here are instructions for setting up the HotLunch account:

- Families will log into <https://acalunch.ahotlunch.com/login> and sign up for an account.
- Select “**Parents click here to sign up**”
- The “Campus Code” is **acalunch**
- Once students are added to your account, you will be asked to pay a \$10 per student for a software maintenance fee.
- Complete payment and you will be ready to purchase lunches.
- To purchase lunches, select the student, the current (September) menu, and then add lunches that you wish to purchase.
- Purchase for additional students and checkout.

Lunches can be purchased in advance for the open menu. The menu will close at 9:00pm, 2 business days before the lunch is served. This deadline allows us to notify the caterer, in advance, of the number of meals purchased.

If the event you need to cancel an order or items within the order:

Login and click on “My orders”.

Click the order you want to edit/cancel.

If you cancel your order before the deadline, a credit will be applied to your account.

After you have registered you can use **Hotlunch.com’s iOS APP and use the authentication code: acalunch**

In School Fundraiser Changes

We love that our students have great hearts and great ideas trying to support different organizations and nonprofits. We have many students who request to sell items to raise money at ACA to donate to various causes. So, to coordinate and manage this interest in supporting other organizations, the school will be moving away from allowing fundraisers within the school and instead be implementing a Change Drive program. This program is entirely voluntary and there is no expectation that families need to support it.

Eleven Iowa non-profits have been identified who share in our Christ-centered mission that we would love our students to bless through this program. The organizations chosen for the 2024-2025 school year are Hope Ministries, Blessman International, Agape Pregnancy Center, Wildwood Hills Ranch, Hidden Acres, Faith Baptist Bible College, The Fletcher Foundation, Biking for Babies, Ruth Harbor, Alpha Women's Center, Martha's House of Hope, and Freedom for Youth. Additional potential partners can be brought to the school for research and

consideration. If they are a good fit with our ACA mission, they will be added as a mission partner for next year to potentially be selected in the next year.

In the elementary school, the mission partner for the year will be selected by the two grade teachers. In middle school and high school, each grade may vote to select their mission partner for the year. At the end of the year all of the funds from the change drive will be given to the mission partner by that grade.

This strategic shift in small in-school fundraisers will make the efforts more coordinated, effective, and make it part of our student and school culture to support God's kingdom outside of our walls.

If there are any questions about these fundraising changes, please reach out to ACA's advancement director, Hans Hoeksema (hans.hoeksema@aca eagles.net or 515.518.7898).

Senior Trip Fundraiser Changes

Each year, our graduating class celebrates their upcoming graduation with a class trip. Fundraisers are held throughout their high school years to offset the cost of the trip. Trip destinations and activities were chosen based on how much money the class had raised. In a strategic effort to streamline the senior trip and the expenses associated with it, ACA will be standardizing the senior trip. This allows students and parents to know what to expect and to be able to plan accordingly. Along with the format of senior trips, how the trips are funded will change as well.

Managing and oversight of these fundraisers has largely been on the backs of teachers whose primary goal at the school is to teach the students, but they have wanted to help the classes succeed, and took on that responsibility. To help our teachers focus on their goals, fundraising for senior trips at and through the school will be phased out over the next three school years. The cost of the senior trip will be the responsibility of the student/parents.

The current 10th - 12th graders will be allowed two fundraisers per year, one each semester. Parents, students, and teacher advisors can work together on fundraisers. The current 9th grade class will not be allowed to have onsite or school managed fundraisers. Plans for previously successful fundraisers will also be given to teacher advisors of the 10th-12th graders. ACA's advancement director, Hans Hoeksema, will be meeting with the classes and will be available to assist with some of the planning for these fundraisers.

Lunch Volunteer Needs

Fridays—1st Friday of each month and 3rd Friday of each month.

Substitute Volunteers—If you have a flexible schedule on any day of the week, please let me know and join our substitute volunteer list! Substitute volunteers fill in as lunch service volunteers and lunch teacher assistant volunteers when our regular volunteers are unavailable.

PTF Ice Cream Days

The PTF offers ice cream sundaes once a month for \$1. A special thanks to Tier 1 Technologies who supplies the ice cream and toppings! We are in need of a few volunteers to help serve. If you are willing and interested, please sign up here. Volunteers are especially needed for the first date, September 13. [Sign up here.](#)

Parent Prayer Meetings

We have a group of parents who pray for the school each week. If you would like to join them weekly or as you are able, they'll meet at 9:00 on Thursday mornings in the lobby. This will begin on September 5.

Upcoming Events

August

PTF Back to School Bash at Sandpiper Recreation Area

23

August

26

1st-12th Grade: First Day of School

5:00 PM - JV Volleyball 2 (Only cashless tickets - Purchase tickets [here](#))

6:00 PM - JV Volleyball 1 (Only cashless tickets - Purchase tickets [here](#))

August

27

Beginnergarten and Kindergarten First Day of School

5:00 PM- Varsity Quad Volleyball at Ankeny High School

August

29

4:30 PM - Varsity Boys and Girls Cross Country at Collins Maxwell

5:30 PM - JV 1 Volleyball at North Polk

6:30 PM - Varsity Volleyball at North Polk

August

31

9:00 AM - Varsity Girls Volleyball Tournament at Ankeny Centennial

September

2

Labor Day - No School

September

5

7:00 PM - Board Meeting

September

6

5:30 PM - Faith Family Night



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