



THE EAGLE UPDATE

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - August 23, 2024

Back to School Bash!

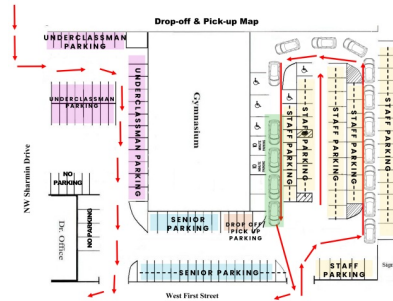
You're invited to join us Friday, August 23, for the PTF's Back to School Bash! This will be held at Sandpiper Recreation Area in Polk City and will have a potluck and a social time for the students and parents. We will not be holding Principals and Popsicles in the Park this year, so the Bash will be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

6th grade - will be picked up on the EAST side.

Please come at your **OLDEST** child's time. If you arrive earlier, you will be asked to park. Please also note that Friday times are different than Monday-Thursday in minutes, not just hours.

Monday-Thursday
6th - 3:35

Friday
6th - 1:45

At 3:45 on Monday-Thursday, all remaining students BK-6th grade will be escorted to after school care. At 1:50 on

Fridays, all remaining children BK-6th grade will be escorted to after school care.

Our main goal during pick-up time is to get cars off of First Street, so please follow these instructions to ensure a smooth, quick process. Please have your car signs with last names to be shown on passengers side front window or dash. To pick-up your child in carline, please enter from First Street. You will follow the arrows (on the provided map) around the parking lot. Staff will load your child as they are able. As soon as your child is loaded, please exit the parking lot by heading west on First Street. No left turns will be permitted, nor will staff allow cars to go in front of the gym to exit through the west driveway. It is recommended you go west to Abilene to turn north as Sharmin is very busy during this time for Middle School/High School pick-up.

In an effort to get cars off of First Street, staff may instruct you to go down the center aisle. Please stay as far to the right as possible. If you are instructed to pull down the center aisle, your student will be loaded into the car in that aisle. DO NOT pull into the drop-off line. After your child is loaded, you can pass the cars on the left and exit the parking lot.

If your child cannot buckle their seatbelts, you must park and walk up to the door to get your child. Staff will not buckle any students. If you are parking for any reason, please tell staff and they will direct you where to park.

7th & 8th Grade

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.

Pedestrians/Bicyclists

Students or adults riding a bike on or off campus should dismount and walk their bicycle on the sidewalk through the school's parking lot and walk it up onto the sidewalk around the gymnasium toward the front entrance where bike stands are located.

Pedestrians / Bicyclists leaving the school grounds moving West should walk the bike on the sidewalk around the gym cross the lot at the corner of the gym moving diagonally towards the chiropractic building and walk the bike on the sidewalk past that business and across Sharmin Street.

Pedestrians / Bicyclists leaving the school grounds moving East should remove bike from bike stand near the main entrance then walk the bike along the main sidewalk to the end move toward the lot duty vested person to cross the lot and exit the main driveway traveling West on the First Street sidewalk to the traffic light. Obey the pedestrian light and walk the bike across State Street to continue ton travel West on the sidewalk or travel North on State Street on the East side of the street.

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 Allergen Info

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

Setting Up HotLunch Account

Here is information on setting up your new 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**

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.

Welcome to Middle School Packet

Here is the [link](#) for the middle school packet that was handed out at Back to School night.

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@acaegles.net or 515.518.7898).

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

23

PTF Back to School Bash at Sandpiper Recreation Area

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

Labor Day - No School

2

September

7:00 PM - Board Meeting

5

September

5:30 PM - Faith Family Night

6



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