

July 2023 Newsletter



School Hours

Monday through Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friday 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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IMPORTANT DATES

- **7/3-7/7 SCHOOL CLOSED- no students or staff**
- **7/12 RSVP for Yearbook Pick Up**
- **7/14 Yearbook Pick Up**
- **7/20 Summer Food Truck Rally**

[Click Here to View Our July Calendar!](#)



Birthdays this month

Ms. Michelle
Mr. Craig
Ms. Adrienne

Monthly Message From Our Executive Director, [Michelle Tuengel](#)



Summertime in Colorado is so wonderful, many families are in the middle of summer vacations, taking a road trip, a quick getaway into the mountains, or just

spending time at a swimming pool to cool off. Here at Accelerated Schools, we are starting to plan for the fall. Our official start date for the 2023 - 2024 school year will be Monday, August 7, 2023. By now all families should have received the registration packets, which included an application, a registration form, a 2023 - 2024 school calendar, and information about immunizations. If you did not get one please let the school know and we will be happy to get one out to you. Thank you to all of the parents who have already returned this information to the school, we appreciate it.

Our Summer program started on May 30, 2023. We have a great group of students and staff working here over the summer. Staff are prepping, planning, and teaching over the summer as well as getting the building ready for the return of the students who chose to take the summer off.

Just a reminder that the Food Truck nights are back at the

Donor Spotlight June 2023

We would like to thank the following individuals and companies for their generous donations and pledges of support during the month of June:

- Madonna Nuce
- Jeanne Ryan
- Michael Ryan
- Jason- Neurodiversity Works

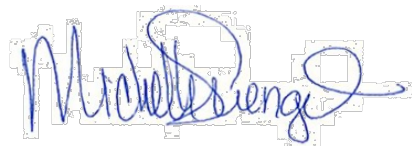
For information on becoming a donor, please visit acceleratedschools.org or contact us via [email here](#).

school. They will be here the 3rd Thursday of each month through August. For July that will be Thursday, July 20, 2023, from 5:30 - 8:00 PM. Feel free to bring a blanket or chair and come enjoy the delicious food available.

The school and building will be closed the week of Independence Day. Monday, July 3 through Friday, July 7, 2023, in observance of Independence Day. I hope each of you will be able to spend time with friends and family celebrating this fantastic country over the long holiday weekend.

Happy Independence Day, Stay safe.

Best,



Summer Educational Engagement

Liam Murphy, Community Outreach/Enrollments High School Instructor

Keeping students engaged in education during the summer, especially those with learning differences, requires a tailored approach that considers their unique needs and challenges. Here are some strategies to promote engagement:



1. **Individualized Learning Plans:** Develop individualized learning plans that take into account each student's learning differences and strengths. Collaborate with parents, teachers, and specialists to create goals and activities that are engaging and align with their learning styles.
2. **Multi-sensory Instruction:** Incorporate multiple senses into the learning experience. Provide hands-on activities, visual aids, auditory cues, and interactive materials to enhance comprehension and engagement. For example, using manipulatives or incorporating technology-based learning tools can be effective for different types of learners.
3. **Project-Based Learning:** Design projects or themes that tap into students' interests and allow for meaningful exploration. Encourage students to work on long-term projects that require research, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. This approach promotes active engagement and self-directed learning.
4. **Gamification:** Introduce game-based learning activities to make the educational experience enjoyable. Incorporate educational games, quizzes, puzzles, or interactive online platforms that provide immediate feedback and rewards. Gamification can motivate students and make learning more engaging.
5. **Regular Breaks and Movement:** Recognize the need for breaks and physical activity. Incorporate movement breaks during learning sessions to keep students

energized and focused. Physical activities can enhance brain function and improve attention spans.

6. **Varied Instructional Strategies:** Utilize a variety of instructional strategies to cater to different learning styles. Incorporate visual aids, videos, real-life examples, and storytelling techniques. Differentiating instruction based on individual needs ensures that all students can engage with the material effectively.

7. **Peer Collaboration:** Encourage collaboration and peer learning. Pair students with similar learning differences to work together on projects, problem-solving activities, or discussions. Peer support can enhance motivation and build social connections.

8. **Supportive Environment:** Foster a positive and inclusive learning environment. Create a safe space where students feel comfortable expressing their thoughts, asking questions, and seeking help. Encourage open communication and provide constructive feedback to reinforce progress.

9. **Incorporate Real-World Connections:** Show students the relevance of what they're learning by connecting it to real-life situations. Highlight how the knowledge and skills they gain can be applied in practical contexts. This approach increases engagement by making learning meaningful and applicable.

10. **Celebrate Achievements:** Recognize and celebrate students' accomplishments and progress. Provide positive reinforcement, rewards, or certificates to boost motivation and self-esteem. Acknowledging their efforts encourages them to stay engaged and continue their learning journey.

Remember, individualized support, understanding, and patience are key to engaging students with learning differences. By implementing these strategies and tailoring them to students' specific needs, you can create an inclusive and engaging learning environment during the summer.

Environmental Science

Dan McMahon, Science Instructor

One of the courses offered this summer is environmental science. During this introductory session we will be identifying personal Environmental Value Systems, looking into the 3 classic systems and discussing their origins. The class has also chosen to continue to conduct field work from this past year on the Harvard Gulch Watershed.

The summer's field site is the stream that passes through McWilliams Park on East Yale Ave. We have visited the stream and completed a basic visual survey including calculating the stream flow in m^3/sec . In the coming weeks the class will conduct a visual biological survey as well as start a biological monitoring routine. Work has already identified the dominant brown algae in the substrate and the classroom cultures are producing a number of small invertebrates.

Students have also identified one invasive species within the study section. Further work will include evaluating the stream habitat and riparian zones. If time allows the students will conduct a habitat parameter survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the stream as a flood control management tool.



Summer Colors

Raechel Kimsey, Fine Arts Instructor



There are unique things to appreciate about each season, but the energetic, vibrant colors of summer are one of the best things about it. Think of the electric pink peony blooms that catch your eye from the sidewalk on a summer stroll, or the sticky sweet red white and blue popsicle as it melts in the heat. Then there's the denim-blue stain it leaves on your tongue along with the faintest taste of raspberry that serves as a reminder throughout the day to cherish the memories you make in the long days spent with friends. Of course, memories are not made only during the day. Who could forget the way fireworks

illuminate the night sky on the Fourth of July? Or the tranquility of a cool, deep-gray lake as cicadas chirp around a campfire?

As we celebrate summer, I welcome my students as well as anyone reading this article to observe the colors around them. In art class, the cloudless, warm days provide us with the opportunity to observe the colors of the earth produced naturally, and to explore our relationship with the outside world. There are abundant greens, browns, yellows, pinks, grays, and blues to explore. The list of colors is endless! Next time you take a walk, I invite you to observe the colors around you and take note of how they make you feel.

Unplug. Reconnect with Yourself!

Adrienne Chainey, Science/Creative Writing/Spanish Instructor

What does the month of July mean?

Blooming delphiniums and pops of fireworks in the US signal the start of the Gregorian month of July. To me, the month of July has always been a pinnacle of the Summer Season. I suppose that's true for many of us in the Northern Hemisphere, with 14+ hours of sunlight a day here in Denver!

The leisures of a long day allow us to discover, cultivate, and nourish our hobbies, friendships, and faith.

Spiritually, July is said to signify big changes, growth, and defiance in the face of risk.



Why is July a good month to UNPLUG??

Cell phones. Too many cell phones. July is full of sounds, sights, smells, and activities that do not involve technology! Enjoy an ice cream, paddleboard at the reservoir, or head out of town to gaze at the constellation Lyra directly above in the early night sky. Relieving oneself from the anxiety and anticipation of receiving notifications. The instant gratification, and irritation with delays that utilizing modern technology can cause has significant effects on how teenagers develop relationships, and interact with their peers and families.

"We actually don't need a phone to survive.

When you cut off constant stimulus, you discover where your emotions come from, and then can deal with them.

Once you've worked through them effectively, you don't depend on your phone for a sense of security anymore."

101 Therapy Talks, Boone Christianson

How do you CONNECT with yourself?

Ensure that you spend some time, every day, doing something physical. If that means you do chores, play a game outside, or actually "workout," and do it without your cell phone!

Cell phones, when used smartly, can be an incredibly helpful tool, and it is awesome to be connected to the world in such an intense, technological world. However letting the bad side effects of mobile phone addiction can have irreversible effects on relationships, studies, friendships, and family bonding.

Do something that you enjoy, with people you enjoy, and find ways to connect with yourself. Get a good night's sleep, without the cell phone nearby which leads to sleep interruptions and increased tiredness among teenagers. Find ways to stay rooted in the present, many go though life blindly, without thinking about the ways their actions and

words impact those around them. Meditate, take a nap, or reflect upon yourself in a mirror.

When I meditate, I use this simple method, and usually spend less than 5-minutes total “meditating.” I do this multiple times a day, whenever I feel stress, anxiety, overly-opinionated, or need to self reflect. 4 simple steps, check them out:

1. Breathe in, through your nose. 1-2-3 seconds.
2. Hold it. 1-2-3 seconds.
3. Breathe out, through your mouth. 1-2-3 seconds.
4. Repeat.

12 Touchstones of Teaching at Accelerated Schools- Touchstones 7 and 8

Evan Simpson, Dean of Students

7. Use Feedback to Encourage Effort

As a mastery based school, Accelerated Schools not only works with students’ individual learning styles and goals, but also provides direct feedback at the end of each class. Students can see their performance in real time throughout the school day and are reassured that each class is a new chance for improvement. This continual cycle of feedback helps to focus students while also demonstrating expectations to them directly. In addition to their daily report cards students also take quarterly standardized tests. These tests are not about measuring their academic achievement compared to their peers or against national averages, but specifically designed for growth and targeted specific learning objectives. Accelerated Schools use the MAP NWEA dynamic growth system which adjusts the testing questions based on student responses. Students are also allowed to choose their own accommodations with no means-testing and the tests are untimed. The results of the test are shared with the student as well as their parents/guardians, they are able to see their growth from test to test in each subject as well as their suggested learning targets for the future. Students who have a growth mindset and clear learning goals that fit their needs and styles are more likely to participate in class and push themselves for higher outcomes (Wu, Qi, & Zhong, 2022). This continual feedback cycle is part of students’ Individualized Success Plan and helps them monitor their own learning as well as providing teachers and administrators with feedback to best support students’ learning goals.

8. Create an Oasis of Safety and Respect in the Classroom

Accelerated Schools has clear behavior expectations for students outlined in the student handbook and reviewed with students and parents/guardians upon enrollment. Students’ daily tracker in each class also assesses them on behavior including polite and respectful treatment of teachers and other students. Students understand the contract they are a part of in order to participate in classes. The school has a diverse population of neurodivergent students, students coming out of therapy and rehab programs, exchange students, and students who needed a smaller and more attentive environment. As part of the culture students understand that they all have Individual Success Plans and that learning may look different for each of them in the classroom. The onboarding of understanding this culture of differences helps students understand their own learning needs as well as being respectful of the needs of others, provides a learning sanctuary for all types of learners and leads to better outcomes for all students (Bolourian et al., 2022)

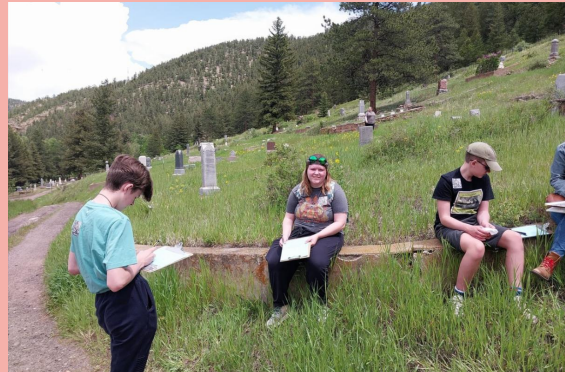
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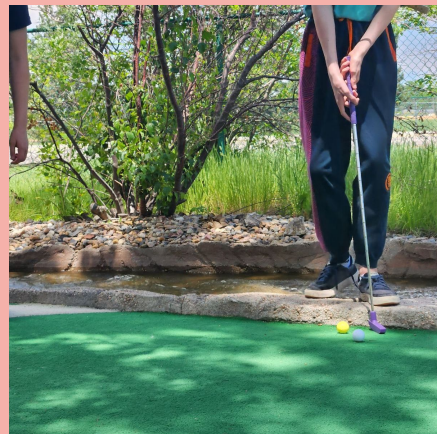
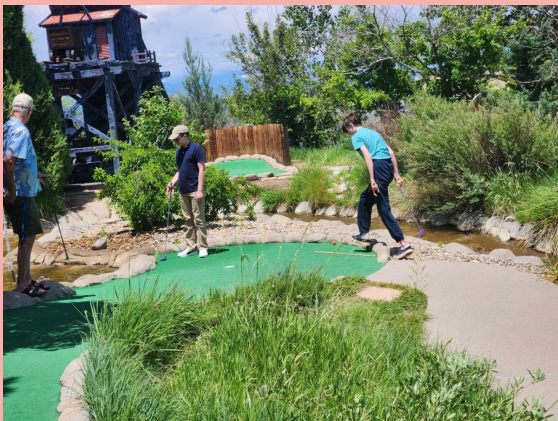
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June Activities!

Idaho Springs



Mini Golf- 6/22/23





Paddle boarding- 6/29/23



School Events

Guiding Bright Minds Neurodiversity Resource Fair- 6/24/23





Accelerated Schools

Accelerated Schools



For more than 40 years, concerned parents have turned to [Accelerated Schools](#) for individualized learning programs helping students overcome challenges, and excel academically. The fact is, a traditional school system is not designed to meet the needs of every child. When a student is not being successful, or is not thriving in a traditional environment, parents must often look elsewhere for a solution. This is where [Accelerated Schools](#) comes in.

[Accelerated Schools](#) begins by creating a learning program designed specifically for a student. Our work points are toward changing the ratio of failure to success and by cultivating an environment of accountability. Our students are given attainable goals and are rewarded by celebrating their accomplishments. Once a student starts experiencing success, their attitude, motivation and effort improve dramatically. This ends the negative cycle and leads to positive academic progress and positive self-esteem.

If you have comments and/or suggestions about our newsletter, email [Kayla Presnal](mailto:Kayla.Presnal)

Accelerated Schools
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