

October 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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Upcoming College Visits:

10/26/23 CSU SPUR

IMPORTANT DATES

- **10/4/23: testing**
- **10/13/23: NO SCHOOL- Teacher In-Service Day (report cards!)**
- **10/18/23: Science Trip to Ice Core Lab**
- **10/19/23: Activity- Pumpkin Patch**
- **10/23/23-10/27/23: Spirit Week!**
- **10/27/23: School BBQ**
- **10/31/23 Halloween!!**

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

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



Autumn has arrived. The leaves on the trees are getting a bit more yellow and red, and the mornings and evenings are just a bit cooler. Before you know it snowflakes will be

falling. We are so lucky to witness all four seasons of living in Colorado.

Our Back-to-School Night was held on Wednesday, September 13th. It was great to have everyone back in the school to connect and let parents see what their student's day is like. If you were not able to make it and have any questions please give me a call. We also had school photos taken on September 21st. Downloads will be available for families and a waiver will be given so you can print what you like.

I would like to welcome Taleya Zinnea, who is our new math teacher for middle and high school.

On Wednesday, October 25, all of the high school will take the PSAT. For any students not taking the PSAT, it will be a regular day of classes.

Thursday, October 12, 2023, is the last day of this quarter. There will be no school for students on Friday, October 13th so teachers can do report cards and start planning for the next quarter. Parent-teacher conferences will be scheduled starting at the end of the month and will go into



Birthdays this month

Lars
Luke
Quinn
Christian

Donor Spotlight October 2023

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

- **Madonna Nuce**

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

November. Conferences can be done in person or via Zoom.

Our school spirit week celebrating Red Ribbon Week of making healthy choices and No Bullying will be the week of October 23 - 27. Each day will be a fun dress-up day culminating in some Halloween fun and lunch provided by the school on Friday, October 27th. Families are welcome to join us for lunch. Details will be sent home when we get closer to the date.

I hope you are able to take some time this month to enjoy the beautiful change of the seasons.

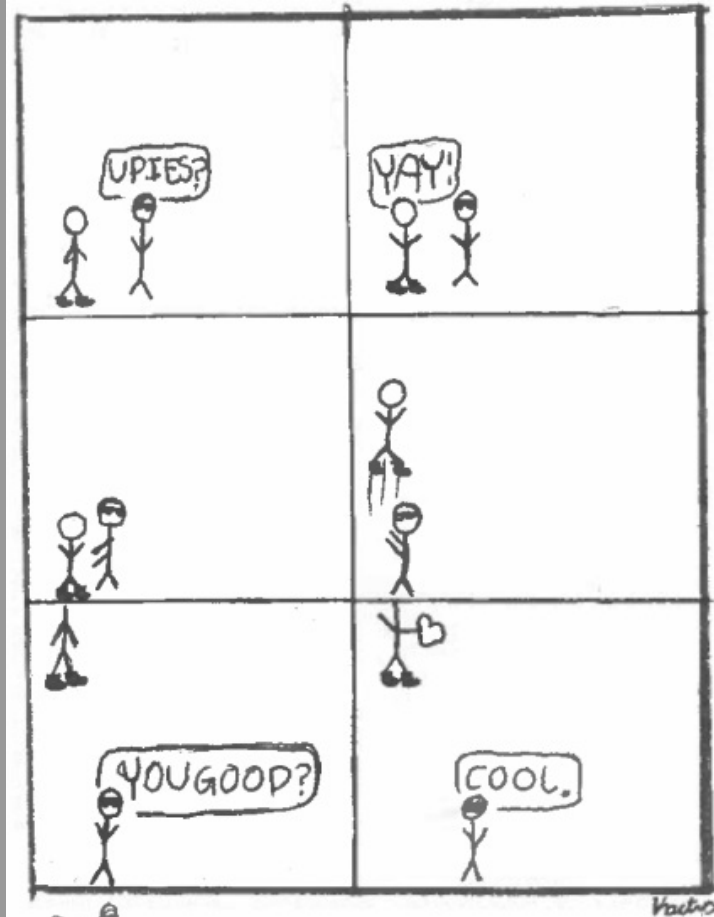
Best,

Michelle

Stick Figure Chronicles

Over the last couple of months, the students in Liam's comic class have been creating amazing stick figure comic strips, for the next few months, we will be spotlighting one comic our amazing students have made.

For the month of October: we are spotlighting a comic strip created by Katherine.



Among our offerings of electives this quarter is Liam Murphy's Graphic Novel and Comics Design course.

This comic strip, created by senior Katherine S., who often goes by "Kactus", illustrates her friendship with fellow student Skyler S., who would say to her "Upies?" Katherine, who is, ahem, small in stature, would say "YAY!" and hold up her arms like a child. Skyler would throw her up into the air (also like a child) and a couple times, she said, her head hit the ceiling. The final two frames are of Skyler asking if she's all good, to which her response was a thumbs up.

****Disclaimer: No students were actually thrown in the making of this comic strip****

The Power of the Press!

Jessica Machetta, ELA, Civics and American Literature Instructor

In Civics class, we have delved deep into the first amendment rights of freedom of speech and freedom of the press. We kicked off this learning adventure by watching "The Post", a movie starring Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep, who earned an Academy Award for her performance as Katherine Graham, the first female publisher of a major American newspaper – The Washington Post. The film brings to life the Pentagon's massive cover-up spanning three decades and four U.S. presidents about their knowledge of a war that could not be won: Vietnam.

I was both surprised and thrilled that my students were completely engrossed in this part of our American history. This interest hurled us headlong into another topic that the kids absolutely were obsessed with: Watergate.

Side projects included learning how to discern fake news from real news, which news sources are objective rather than spin, and how local news and current events affect us in our daily lives: "news you can use".

As a fun capstone project, we are currently creating our own little school newspaper. Among news stories about our graduating seniors' search for the right college and our school's culture of acceptance, we will have a feature story about our new math teacher, and, of course, a food section highlighting Kate's cooking class, and a comic strip from Liam's graphic novel and comics class. If Lars S. had things his way, I'm sure we would also have a business and economy section!

And if you're looking for a great movie to cozy up and watch during the quickly approaching winter months, add "The Post" to your list. It's a feel-good movie about the power of the press and empowering women that nearly brings this former boots-on-the-ground reporter to tears every time I watch.



Drawing People

Raechel Kimsey, Fine Arts Instructor

When asked what things students would like to learn to draw, students of all ages are likely to show interest in rendering the human form. However, the human form (especially the face) are very challenging to draw for the specific reason that humans are instinctively very sensitive to the exact proportions of the human body. Sensitivity to even the slightest contraction of the facial muscles gives us the ability to speculate what the emotions of another person may be, and having a sense of how the human body is typically proportioned and shaped gives us the ability

to sense if another person may be injured or sick. Put together, these traits gave our ancestors advantages that aided group survival before advanced medical technology was available to affirm our suspicions.

Research shows that the ability to understand these things occurs in the right hemisphere of the brain, which is also the non-verbal, creative center of the brain. While the left brain is responsible for logic and reasoning, the right brain functions intuitively, fueling decisions and ideas before we are able to articulate them. It is also the right brain that is active when we evaluate human faces and the human form. So while drawing people is a challenge, it is also a very effective tool for switching cognitive gears into creative mode.

For these reasons, and because I have dedicated a lot of energy to the artistic study of the human form, I have offered several lessons in art class that help students understand basic human proportions.

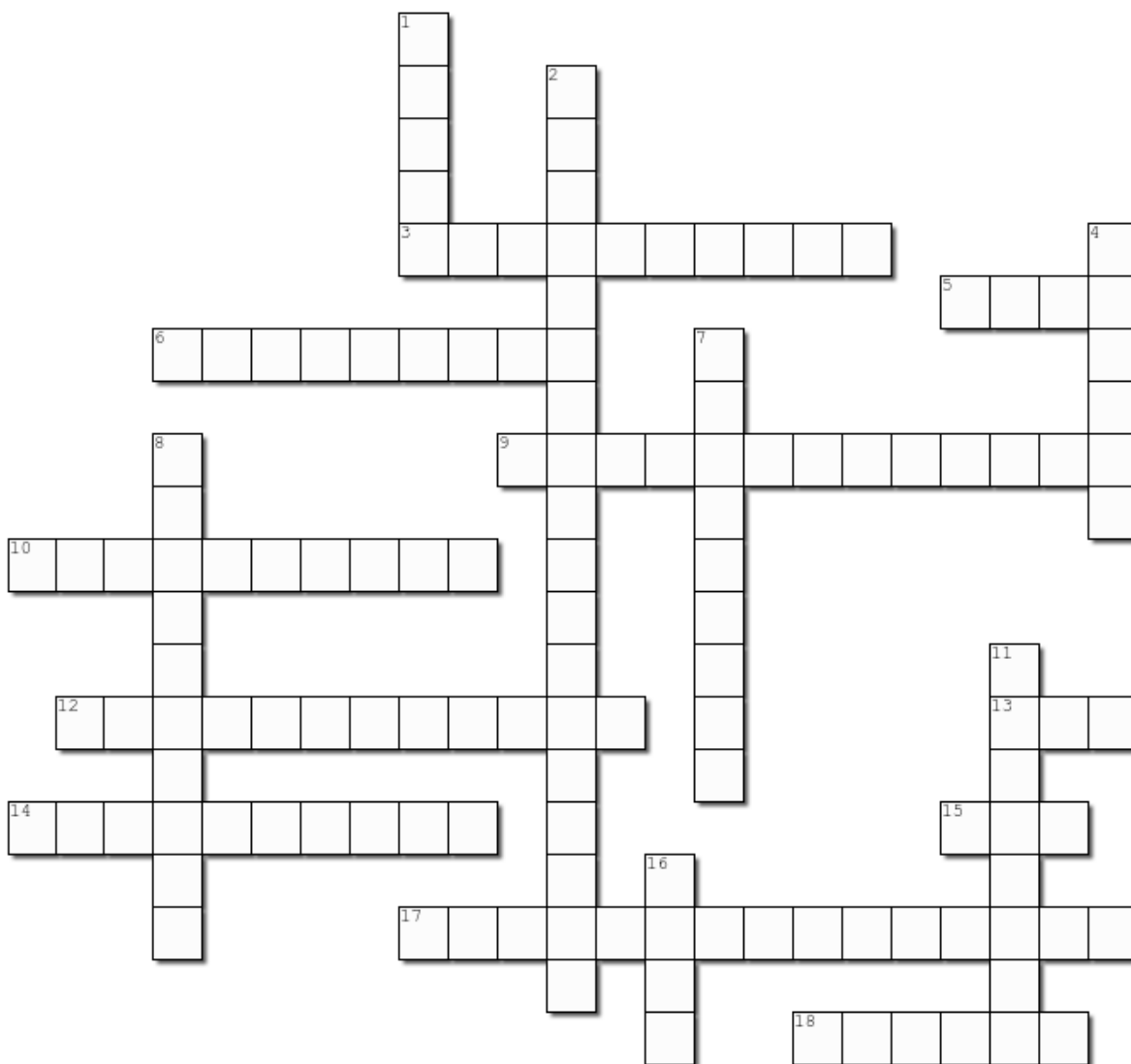
Accelerated Crossword!

Adrienne Chainey, Science and Creative Writing Instructor

PDF Version [HERE](#)

Answer Key [HERE](#)

Accelerated Schools



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

3. _____ windows
5. Started in the basement and caused considerable damage
6. Exterior Material
9. The Iliff Mansion, The Little House, The _____
10. Richardsonian _____ Style (exterior)
12. 19th century mansion, The _____
13. Double-leafed entryway doors (material)
14. Honesty, Integrity, TEamwork, Individualized Success Plans, Cathing Kids Doing the Right Things, etc.
15. info@acceleratedschools. _____
17. D.R.C.
18. Last member of the family Iliff who resded in the main building

Down

1. City in Italy where replacement 2nd Floor Chandeliere pieces are sourced
2. Formerly known as Randell-Moore Schools
4. 2160 S Cook St, _____ CO, 80210
7. Female haunting (name)
8. Original resident of 2nd Floor North classroom (occupation)
11. 71 _____
16. Smooth & Dressed stones make this shape at the building entryway

Introducing Taley!

Taley Zinna, Mathematics Instructor

Hello, everyone

I am Taleya, and I'm thrilled to be a part of the wonderful academic community here at Accelerated Schools. As your new math teacher, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and share a bit about my background.

In 2021, I earned my Bachelor's degree in Applied Mathematics from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. During my time there, I developed a passion for math and honed my skills in various programming languages, such as Python, MATLAB, and LaTeX. These tools have not only enhanced my mathematical abilities but also allowed me to explore innovative teaching methods.

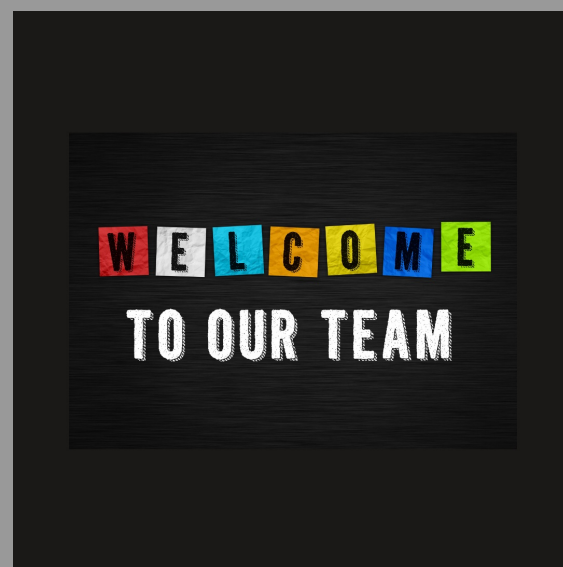
After graduation, I embarked on a journey that led me to beautiful Maryland, where I spent two enriching years teaching at a private school nestled along the picturesque Corsica River. During my tenure, I had the privilege of instructing a diverse range of high school classes, including Algebra II, College Algebra, and AP Statistics. It was a rewarding experience that deepened my love for teaching and nurturing young minds.

One of the things that makes me unique as an educator is my linguistic diversity. I am fluent in English and Urdu, with working proficiency in Spanish and Arabic. This multilingualism not only enables me to connect with a broader range of students but also fosters a more inclusive and culturally rich classroom environment.

Recently, I made the move to Colorado, and I couldn't be more thrilled about joining the Accelerated Schools community. I am eager to share my passion for mathematics, foster a love for learning, and support each of my students on their educational journey.

I look forward to getting to know all of you and working together to make this academic year a truly memorable one!

Warm regards,
Taleya



Meet Quinn L.!

Val Montano, Music Instructor

In August of 2023 I had the pleasure of interviewing Quinn, a ninth grader at Accelerated Schools. Quinn joined our school body in the fall of 2022. Quinn is a big fan of Franz Liszt's music, especially what was written for the piano. The music of Niccolò Paganini and Sergei Rachmaninoff are also big favorites. Quinn is also very interested in the music of Ludwig van Beethoven.

Quinn's earliest memory of music making comes from an afterschool program at the preschool level, where he was introduced to various musical instruments and rhythm. Then, when he started to learn the piano, he made instant connections to these early musical experiences. Quinn also started acting in theater in first grade, had vocal lessons in third grade from a private teacher and performed in recitals, and later played violin in his former school orchestra. Quinn especially enjoys the complexity of playing musical instruments. He is currently going three times a week for piano lessons before classes start in the morning. He feels fortunate to have the flexibility to do this because of our school's late-start schedule. He likes to make new arrangements of pieces, taking beginner pieces and making them more complicated, interesting, and spicing them up by adding arpeggios, octaves in the bass line, and changing tempos, while also preserving the same chords and the way that the melody moves. We're delighted to have Quinn with us at Accelerated Schools.

From Alaskan Waters to Culinary Delights

Kate Oh, Cooking Instructor

We're delighted to share some exciting news from our recent Cooking Class. Craig Havel, our dedicated maintenance manager, brought a taste of the Gulf of Alaska to our school with a generous donation of freshly caught fish. Craig's thoughtful packaging made it a breeze for our students to dive into the world of seafood cuisine.



A Seafood Adventure: Halibut, Cod, and Salmon

Our students were truly thrilled at the prospect of cooking these ocean treasures. Under the guidance of our talented saucier, Skyler, a delectable sauce was whipped up to complement the flavors of the fish. The stars of the show included Halibut, Cod, and Salmon, each prepared in distinct culinary styles, such as pan-frying and baking.

Exploring Different Cooking Techniques

While most students opted for the pan-frying method, we decided to reserve Halibut and Cod for future culinary experiments. A friendly debate arose over the best way to prepare Salmon – pan-frying versus baking. In the spirit of culinary exploration, we decided to try both methods.

I personally preferred the oven-baking, and I'm thrilled to report that I persuaded Quinn and Christian to join me in this delicious endeavor. It was a fantastic opportunity for all of us to experience the unique flavors and textures that each cooking method brought out in these incredible Alaskan catches.

A Taste of Alaska, A World of Learning

Craig Havel's generous donation brought a slice of the Alaskan wilderness to our Cooking Class, allowing our students to not only enjoy gourmet seafood but also explore different cooking techniques. We're grateful for Craig's contribution, which

enriched our culinary journey and expanded our horizons.

Stay tuned for more exciting culinary adventures at Accelerated Schools. Until then, happy cooking!



Last Month in Science Class

Dan McMahon, Science Instructor

High School Science

We have made the shift from physics to chemistry last month. The students are now working on the thermochemistry program from Open Science Ed organization which designs and disseminates an in-depth curriculum that aligns with the NGSS and Colorado State Standards. This unit investigates thermodynamics in Earth's systems focusing on the Greenland and Antarctic Ice sheets. The curriculum asked students to create a model for the energy flows responsible for the current melting of the ice sheets. Students then set up an investigation to see if carbon dioxide does in fact raise the temperature in a closed system. From there we spent a few days evaluating greenhouse gasses reviewing empirical and molecular formulas in order to find similarities and differences in the molecular structure of the most potent GHGs. The focus then became calculating the amount of sea level rise if each of the ice sheets melted, and establishing the relationship between sea level rise and sea ice and land based ice sheets. Mid September students were looking at various proposals for slowing the melting of the Greenland ice sheet.

Environmental Science

In environmental science last month we wrapped up the unit of "systems" which looks at environmental issues using the approach of open and closed systems. We used the

Harvard Gulch field site in our final evaluation of how to apply the systems method. The unit also investigates the relationship of cycles such as the hydrologic and carbon cycles in a system like Harvard Gulch. Our current unit is on sustainability. After defining the term and its application in environmental science we have been using the UN Sustainability Circle framework to look at the sustainability of Denver.



Benefits of Homework

Debby Sharp, Middle School Instructor

What is the definition of homework and why is it important? At Accelerated, homework is a big part of a student's daily score. If a student doesn't turn in homework, they can not earn their full pay. Also, turning in homework qualifies students to go on the off campus activities. So, why do we consider homework an important part of every students' academic routine?

I have provided 10 benefits of homework to convince you why homework is important.

1. Homework teaches students about time management.
2. Homework teaches students how to set priorities.
3. Homework helps teachers determine how well the lessons are being understood by their students.
4. Homework teaches students how to problem solve.

5. Homework gives students another opportunity to review class material.
6. Homework gives parents a chance to see what is being learned in school.
7. Homework teaches students how to take responsibility for their part in the educational process.
8. Homework teaches students that they may have to do things—even if they don't want to.
9. Homework teaches students to work independently.
10. Homework teaches students the importance of planning, staying organized, and taking action.

The last four reasons homework is beneficial, I think are so important. Each student should be spending 45 to 1 hour on homework each afternoon/evening. By checking in on your child's homework progress and completion, you are setting them up for success in their adult life.

References

Florida Department of Education. 10 Benefits of Homework. <https://www.fldoe>.

September Activities!

Putt Putt 09/07/23



Paddle Boarding 9/20/23



Hiking- Kenosha Pass 9/28/23





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)

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