

June 2024 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

6/6 D-Day
6/6 Activity- Mineral Museum and Dino Ridge (full day)
6/7 John's Birthday
6/9 Clara's Birthday
6/13 Activity- Paddle Boarding (full day)
6/14 Flag Day
6/16 Father's Day
6/19 Juneteenth
6/20 Activity- Nature and Science Museum (half day)
6/22 Neurodiversity Resource Fair at Accelerated Schools (11-2pm)- Free to Attend Event!
6/27 Activity- ZOO (half day)

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



Birthdays this month

6/7 John's Birthday
6/9 Clara's Birthday

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



We celebrated our six graduates on Friday, May 24, 2024. I absolutely love how we as a school celebrate graduation for our seniors; it is so personal with family tributes, photos of the students over the years, and time to

socialize with the families after the ceremony. I want to thank all of the parents, families, and friends who came out to celebrate these amazing 6 students as they wrap up their high school careers and move into the next chapter of their lives.

It has been an honor working with these kids over the past few months and, in some cases, years.

I want to share one of my favorite graduation quotes from Dr. Suess: "You have brains in your head, you have feet in your shoes, and you can steer yourself in any direction you choose." Congratulations to all of our graduates; you will be missed.

I would also like to wish Valerie Montano the best of luck with her retirement. Valerie has been teaching for over 45 years and spent the last 12 of those years with us at Accelerated Schools. You will be missed Val, but we are very excited for this next adventure for you.

The end of the 4th quarter was Thursday, May 23. Report cards will be mailed out the second week in June, and the Summer session starts on Tuesday, May 28, 2024

Father's Day is Sunday, June 16th. Happy Father's Day to all the dads, stepdads, grandfathers, uncles, and father figures who go out of their way to make a difference each day. I hope each of you has a relaxing and memorable Father's Day. Wednesday, June 21, 2023, is also the first day of summer.

Donor Spotlight June 2024

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

- **Madonna Nuce**
- **April De Roin**

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

Donate
Here

May Activities

Capitol Trip 5/9/24



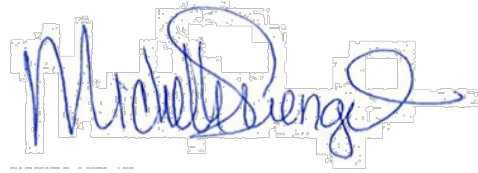
Field Day (Wash Park)
5/15/24



Boondocks - 5/22/24

Just a reminder that the food truck nights have started up again. Accelerated Schools is happy to host the fun Food Truck nights for the University Park neighborhood. All are invited to attend. They are held from 5:30 - 8:00 on the third Thursday of each month, starting in June and running through August. Feel free to bring a blanket or a chair and join the neighborhood for summer evening fun.

Happy Summer



Last Month Around the School

Brewability (Family Night)
5/16/24



Graduation 5/24/24





2nd Annual Neurodiversity Resource Fair June 22, 2024 11am-2:00pm

Join us for our upcoming Neurodiversity Resource Fair! This is a great opportunity to connect with resources to help you, your children, and your family thrive. Best of all, the event is free to attend!!

There will be a variety of vendors focused on mental health, ADHD, Dyslexia, Autism, Sensory processing, and much more. Services range from therapeutic to school and education, parent support groups, and non-profits.

There will be food trucks, activities, and fun for the entire family!

CONNECT with passionate providers, non-profits, and educators dedicated to serving the neurodiverse community.

DISCOVER new opportunities, events, and resources to support your family's needs.

EMPOWER yourself and your family with the tools needed to embrace the journey.

UNITE with the other families and a community who share similar experiences.

You are not alone! You will leave feeling informed and ready to take the next step in your journey.

Reserve Tickets
Now!

NEURODIVERSITY RESOURCE FAIR



RESOURCES FOR ALL AGES:
ADHD, DYSLEXIA, AUTISM,
EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING,
MENTAL HEALTH, & MORE!



**11:00 - 2:00
JUNE 22ND, 2024**

PLATINUM SPONSORS:

WOLFF
CHILD PSYCHOLOGY

Knippenberg, Patterson,
Langley, & Associates
Group, Family and Individual Counseling
Member of Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services


WRAP AROUND
COLLECTIVE


LANDMARK
COLLEGE


Miracles in Parenting
HOPE FOR THE AUTISM JOURNEY


EMERGING
EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING



Accelerated Schools
2160 S. Cook Street
Denver, CO 80210

Reserve Tickets
Now!

Congratulations Class of 2024!!!



Happy Retirement Ms. Val!
We will miss you so much!
Thank you an amazing 11.5 years!!!!



Tips for Helping Kids Who Struggle with Executive Functions During the Summer Months

Executive functions, the essential self-regulating skills that we all use every day to help us plan, organize, make decisions, shift between situations or thoughts, control our emotions and impulsivity, and learn from past mistakes, are required and necessary for everything from taking a shower to packing a backpack and picking priorities. Children who lack executive functioning skills and/or those with learning disorders are often more disorganized than their peers and may struggle with completing schoolwork or simple household chores and tasks. For instance, kids who lack executive functioning may often forget to bring their homework to school and/or take a very long time getting dressed and ready for school in the morning.

With summer break and the end of the academic year quickly approaching, I wanted to share some suggestions from educational therapists and specialists at the Child Mind Institute for parents and families to help strengthen their child's organizational skills and promote executive functions. These recommendations can be used as tools for addressing executive dysfunction in children and teens during time at home over the summer. Executive functioning and organizational skills are essential to our success in school and later as adults.

Checklists

Creating checklists (morning routine, etc.) will help to minimize emotional strain while making decisions so kids can focus on the task at hand. Checklists can assist children and teens with planning and organization at home or before extracurricular activities and summer programs they may be participating in.

Set time limits

Setting time limits for children with executive dysfunction is particularly important when they are attempting to tackle larger, longer-term projects, homework assignments, and book reports.

Use that planner

Students who struggle with working memory and executive functioning often have a hard time with organization and planning. These working memory issues start to snowball over time. Using a planner or digital planner can help alleviate frustration surrounding disorganization during the summer months.

Spell out the rationale

When learning new skills or a new way of doing something, children, especially older kids and those with poor organizational skills, will be much less resistant and more willing to commit to doing something if parents explain the rationale behind a particular strategy.

Explore different ways of learning

During the summer months, students may learn outside of school when they travel, journal, work summer or after school jobs, cook, and/or volunteer. Understanding and remembering important concepts can be very difficult for kids with learning issues so it is important that students work on one new skill at a time so they do not become overwhelmed. Breaking tasks into clear steps will help kids out if they need to refer back to them at a later time

Establish a routine

Older kids, especially those participating in sports, activities, or camps over the summer, will benefit from a consistent routine where they achieve tasks at the same time every day. If students do not have an established routine, they will end up waiting for inspiration and will learn a bad work mode of procrastination

Use rewards

While older kids with executive functioning deficiencies benefit from establishing routines, it is equally important that younger children have a reward system in place to show them the connection between practicing a skill and working toward a reward or goal.

For more tips, strategies, and suggestions for parents and families, please visit the Child Mind Institute website at <https://childmind.org/>.



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INSTITUTE

Farewell to the Accelerated Schools Community

Taleya Zinnea, Mathematics Instructor

As June draws near, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey I've had here at Accelerated Schools. It's with a bittersweet heart that I say goodbye to my students, coworkers, and everyone in the community.



My time here has been filled with countless unforgettable moments, whether it's been laughing during class discussions or bonding over activities. As a math teacher, I've had the privilege of guiding bright young minds through the intricacies of numbers and equations. But beyond the curriculum, it's been the connections forged with my students that have truly made my time here special. Whether it was playing pickleball with my gym class, answering Quinn's quirky math questions, or enjoying delicious meals prepared by Ms. Kate's cooking class, each experience has been memorable. I'm incredibly grateful for the unwavering support of my colleagues, particularly Evan, whose guidance and assistance have been invaluable as I navigated my role as the new math teacher.

I want to thank all my colleagues and everyone in the Accelerated Schools community for their support. I'll miss our daily interactions, but I'm also looking forward to what lies ahead. Our time together has been filled with learning and laughter, and I'll always carry those memories with me.

Contemplating the Oculus

Raechel Kimsey, Fine Arts Instructor

You may already be aware that Accelerated Schools offers abundant opportunities for experiential learning. Sometimes those opportunities come in the form of hands-on classes like Gardening, Music, Podcasting, or Art. However, our frequent activities and field trips give our school a competitive edge. The World is the greatest teacher, and we know it! Such trips foster positive relationships within our Accelerated Community while creating unique learning opportunities that are immersive and fun. An example of such learning occurred on our school trip to the Denver Capitol.

During the final semester of the year, Art History students have learned about classical architecture through our units on Ancient Greece and Rome. Students have discovered that many of our public buildings intentionally borrow architectural elements

from Greek and Roman buildings as a way of honoring the roots of Democracy. Our trip to The Capitol at the beginning of May immersed students in an environment where our class discussions were paired with real-world learning. As the old saying goes, talk is cheap!

Pictured here: Jayde stares upward through the extravagantly constructed levels of the Capitol building in Downtown Denver, and contemplates the *oculus* (the top of the dome) from the ground floor. At the time this photo was taken, Jayde had learned about the oculus at The Pantheon in Rome only a few days prior.



Graduates Farewell Wishes

Kate Oh, High School ELA, Korean and Cooking Instructor/Enrollment Counselor

As we step into the last month of school, I find myself filled with a mix of emotions. This time of year is always particularly challenging as we prepare to say goodbye to our graduates. While it's an exciting time for them as they embark on new journeys, it's also a poignant moment for us, knowing that we won't see them at school every day.

This year marks my third year at Accelerated Schools, and I must say, the bond I've formed with this graduating class feels like it has spanned a lifetime. Their energy, resilience, and spirit have been a constant source of inspiration. Watching them grow and achieve their goals has been a privilege, and it's hard to imagine our school without their presence.

As they step into the next chapter of their lives, my heartfelt wishes go with them. I wish them health, happiness, and fulfilling relationships. I am confident that they will continue to thrive and make us proud in all their future endeavors.

To our graduates: Katherine, Amelia, Elliot, Skyler, Jacovey, and Ryan. We are going to miss you and we wish you all the best. We love you. Though it's difficult to say goodbye, please know that you will be missed terribly. You have left an indelible mark on our hearts and our school community. We are excited to see all the amazing things you will accomplish and the positive impact you will have on the world.



Last Month in Science, Podcasting, and P.E.

Dan McMahon, Science Instructor

Environmental Science

As we looked in more detail at the dynamics of the human population, students in

environmental science spent several days investigating the equations that are used to calculate the projected future population. After exploring the main variables that are responsible for exponential growth they looked at the logistic model and how populations go through stages best described by this model. With most humans now migrating to urban centers we have explored "Megacities" by researching and comparing megacities in Asia, Africa and South America. To end the quarter we will be looking at women's role in population dynamics and the data behind the factors that determine TFR (Total Fertility Rate).

Chemistry

The chemistry students have nearly completed their investigation into the effects of pH on oyster shells, by submerging a sample of shells in saltwater with a high concentration of carbonic acid. While carrying out this lab students have delved into the life cycle of oysters to identify the importance of shell development in the first 48 hours after larvae are fertilized. Demonstrations have illustrated that carbonic acid causes the formation of bicarbonate preventing the formation of calcium that the organisms need.

While the investigation is progressing students have tested methods for creating calcium carbonate that could be added during oyster propagation to supplement for the loss due to ocean acidification. As the unit wraps up we are also practicing some of the more classical techniques used in acid-base chemistry such as finding the molarity of an unknown using a titration.

Podcasting

Ever wondered what happens at a competitive chess tournament? Did you know that chess is considered a sport? At least by those who know the rigors of the game. Ever thought of writing a podcast?

When the elective started in August the goal was to enter a podcast into a national contest for students, sponsored by NPR. The path was littered with a number of technical issues as well as numerous topic changes. Surviving grinding editing and several rewrites, Quinn Leduc submitted his podcast the last week of April. The topic grew out of the experience from his first chess tournament this past fall. If you are interested in chess or just want to hear an original podcast, it can be found on SoundCloud under the title "Chess Tournaments."

PE

Besides the heated games of hide-and-seek the Middle School PE class has made more trips to Observatory Park to work on their tennis skills this past month. Besides racket skills students have been learning how the court is set up, scoring, and how to rotate when serving and receiving. They have reached the level where we are starting to play matches. Last week they were treated to a mini tennis camp taught by Avery McCamley, one of our high school students who plays tennis competitively.





'If you've done everything that needs to be done, jump up and down'

Jessica Machetta, English/Language Arts, Civics, Life/Study skills, and Activities Coordinator

Growing up on a farm, there was always something that needed to be done. But it didn't end there; my parents also ran a small Sears & Roebuck catalog store in town. Starting in middle school, my parents would pay my brother and me to do chores around the store after school and on Saturday mornings: dusting, vacuuming, wiping down floor-display microwaves and kitchen appliances, filing, wrapping returns, etc.

When we were done, we could "clock out" (write our time worked on a calendar on the wall in the office) and watch TV on one of the floor models.

One time, my dad busted me just standing around and asked what I was doing. I told him I'd finished everything. "Everything?" he asked. "Yep," and I nodded my head to the laundry list he rattled off. "Then you can jump up and down," he said. I was nonplussed. "Jump up and down?" "Yes," he said, "if I'm paying you then I'm not paying you to do nothing. If you can't find a single thing that needs to be done, you can jump up and down so that at least I'm paying you to do *something*."

Needless to say, I found something that could be cleaned, tidied, etc., to earn my \$2 an hour. Just like a lot of our students here who earn money for getting good grades and behavior points, that money went straight to Hunky's candy store.

That said, when high school days arrived, I wanted more than a pocket full of candy and told my dad I was quitting his store and going to work somewhere else. He said, "Once I'm convinced you're a good employee, you can do that with my blessing." I worked *hard* that summer to earn what I wanted, which of course, was a car and enough money in my pocket for gas.

Kids here at Accelerated looking for summer jobs take me back to those high-school years of lifeguarding, teaching swimming lessons, and yes, doing all the jobs no one wants to do at my dad's store and on the farm.

I know that the lessons these kids learn schlepping golf clubs or rounding up carts at the grocery store will be integral in shaping them to be responsible young adults. The value of a hard day in the hot sun to earn a paycheck. The art of getting along with bosses and coworkers who might not necessarily be their cup of tea. Please join me in congratulations and well wishes for success to these students who are building a work ethic and taking a stab at "the real world" this summer. It can be brutal out there and I'm proud to be part of the village that gives them the tools they need in their tool box to be successful.

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.

Accelerated Schools



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

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Accelerated Schools | 2160 S. Cook Street | Denver, CO 80210 US

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