

July 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.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Letter from the Director
- Chickens Visit Accelerated Schools to Teach Science Class
- Save the Dates! Upcoming Community Events involving Accelerated Schools
- Introducing BandLab
- The Power of Different Perspective
- Humanizing Education

IMPORTANT DATES

7/1/24 - 7/5/24 School Closed (no students or staff)

7/3/24 Alhassane's B-day

7/4/24 Independence Day

7/4/24 Michelle's B-Day

7/7/24 National Chocolate Day

7/11/24 7 Eleven Day (free slurpees!)

7/11/24 Activity- Paddle Boarding

7/14/24 Bastille Day (France)

7/18/24 Activity- Hiking

7/21/24 National Ice Cream Day

7/25/24 Activity- US Mint

7/25/24 Mr. Craig's Birthday

7/26/24 Summer Olympics Starts

7/28/24 Parents' Day and Grandparents and the Elderly Day

8/1/24 Activity- Capitol

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

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



Summertime in Colorado is so wonderful. Many families are in the middle of summer vacations, maybe 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 2024 - 2025 school year will be Monday, August 12, 2024. By now all families should have received the registration packets, which included an application, a registration form, a 2024 - 2025 school calendar, and information about immunizations. If you did not get one, please let the school know, and we will happily send 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 28, 2024. 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.

I would like to welcome Quinton Thai, who has joined our staff. Quinton will be teaching math and science. We are so happy to have you here.

Just a reminder that the Food Truck nights are back at the school. They will be here



Birthdays this month

7/3 Alhassane's Birthday
7/4 Michelle' Birthday
7/25 Craig's Birthday

Donor Spotlight July 2024

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**
- **April De Roin**

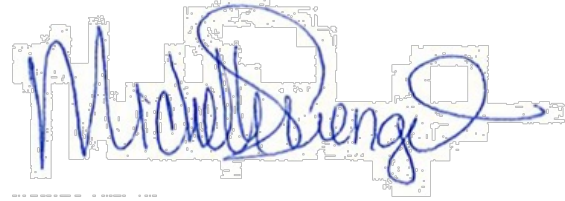
For information on becoming a donor, please visit acceleratedschools.org or contact us via [email here](#).

Donate Here

the 3rd Thursday of each month through August. For July, that will be Thursday, July 18, 2024, 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 1 through Friday, July 5, 2024, in observance of Independence Day. I hope each of you can spend time with friends and family celebrating this fantastic country over the long holiday weekend.

Happy Independence Day, Stay safe.

Best,

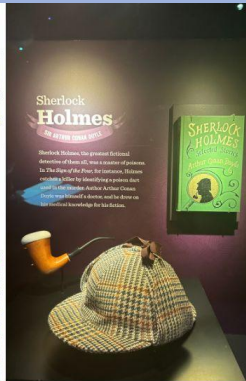


June Activities

6/6/24 Dinosaur Ridge



6/20/24 Nature and Science Museum



6/27/24 Denver Zoo



Chickens visit Accelerated Schools to teach science class

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

OK so I actually taught the class but the chickens helped. I have ten hens at my home and like clockwork, one of them goes broody every spring. Well, I don't have a rooster so those eggs are never going to hatch, but Julia sits on her imaginary eggs for several weeks nonetheless. So I went and got some new hatchlings from Wardle's and snuck them under her while she slept. She is now being a good mom and raising them as her own. Do you know what's cuter than baby chicks? Not much, and our students would agree! I'm going to go ahead and let Carlo, one of our middle-school summer students, tell you what he learned. This is his essay that he wrote for his homework that day.

"What I learned from Jessica was that chickens have cloacas. It's funny that the chickens' heads when you move their body are like gyroscopes! It was sad that one of the baby chicks died. I learned from the article that chickens can see different colors than humans can. Also, chickens have a gland that produces a water-proof oil for their feathers. I think it's cool that chickens are the closest living relatives to dinosaurs and were domesticated 8,000 years ago. Chickens are not completely flightless. They can fly up a little ways to get away from predators and perch on things. And the craziest thing of all is that their egg color does not depend on their feathers but their earlobes." John, another middle schooler, adds that he was surprised to learn that chickens like cheese. He also summed up his observations thusly: Chicks are fuzzballs.

After the chickens went back home at the end of the day, we continued to learn about dinosaurs and rocks at the Mineral Museum at the School of Mines, followed by a visit to Dinosaur Ridge. That's one of the things I love about teaching here is our ability to take our learning on the road. Activities for this summer will take us to the U.S. Mint, the state capitol building, paddle boarding, the Museum of Nature and Science, and hiking some of our beautiful trail heads. Some of our trips are just for fun but others will allow students to earn science and history credit as well. Be sure to follow us on social media to keep up with our adventures



Save the Dates! Community Events involving Accelerated Schools

Kyle Pepper, History Instructor and Enrollment Counselor

Accelerated Schools and Guiding Bright Minds co-hosted the 2nd Annual Neurodiversity Resource Fair on Saturday, June 22nd 2024 from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM on the Accelerated Schools grounds (2160 S. Cook Street, Denver CO). The Neurodiversity Resource Fair is an annual summer event that is open to any vendors specializing in ADHD, Executive Functioning, Autism, Mental Health, Sensory Processing, and related fields. Last year, we had a fantastic turnout at the event with a total of 86 vendors and around 600 attendees! This year, we had 85 vendors and around 800 attendees!

Accelerated Schools will also be participating in and sponsoring the annual Walk with Autism event hosted by the Autism Society of Colorado on Saturday, September 21st 2024 from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM at Berkeley Lake Park (4601 W. 46th Ave, Denver, CO). Walk with Autism is open to all Autism-friendly businesses and/or those who provide services to the Autism/Intellectual and Developmental Disability/Developmental Disability community. We encourage families, providers, educators, and members of the community to join us for an amazing day of community that will help to improve the lives of children and adults with autism.

We very much look forward to seeing all of your smiling faces at these annual community events happening around the Denver Metro area! If you and your family decide to attend either or both events, please do not hesitate to come check out our booth and say hi!

Introducing BandLab

Raechel Kimsey, Fine Arts Instructor

You may already know me as the Art Teacher here at Accelerated Schools, but starting this summer, I will also be taking on the role of Music Teacher as well. I am honored to embark on yet another of the many intriguing

paths available to me because I am a part of the AS community! Our previous teacher, Val, a beloved Music Teacher for over 20 years, spent time personally preparing me for this role. Rhythm practice, note reading, and music history will remain an integral part of our music program.



As my first unique contribution to our music program, I will be introducing BandLab. Bandlab is free music editing software that can be used on a PC or on a Smartphone. Students will learn about the traditional, formal elements of music while being empowered to create their own songs in whatever genre they choose.

The BandLab editor is capable of everything that traditional editing software is. Recording, sampling, looping, midi editing and sharing. However, with Bandlab, students can also collaborate with other students *or* with a selection of other music artists using Bandlab around the globe, interact with and follow other musical artists, and share tracks on Spotify.

I am excited to embark on this journey with our students. I hope they find it enriching, engaging and fun! BandLab is available for anyone with a capable device and internet access, so you don't have to be a student to create your own tracks. If any of this has piqued the interest of any parents, teachers, or alum, I encourage you to hop onto BandLab.com and give it a whirl.

The Power of Different Perspectives

Quinton Thai, Science and Mathematics Instructor

In the spirit of the neurodiversity resource fair Accelerated Schools hosted this month, I wanted to extend the thoughts and celebrations of our students and community by further discussing neurodiversity in all its glory.

Neurodiversity: A Unique Perspective

Neurodiversity refers to the variety of ways in which the human brain functions. It encompasses individuals with conditions such as autism, ADHD, dyslexia, and more. Rather than viewing these differences as deficits, many - including us at Accelerated Schools - are beginning to see them as strengths that contribute to a diverse and innovative society.

Individuals who fall under the neurodiversity umbrella often possess unique perspectives and ways of thinking. Their brains are wired differently, allowing them to approach problems in ways that neurotypical individuals may not have considered. This fresh perspective can lead to creative solutions and groundbreaking ideas that benefit not only the individual but the larger community as well - almost like an innovative superpower!

Harnessing Creativity and Innovation

Neurodiverse individuals are known for their creativity and innovative thinking. Their minds work in ways that are not bound by conventional norms, allowing them to think outside the box and come up with unconventional yet effective solutions. By embracing neurodiversity in the workplace, classroom, and in society as a whole, we can tap into this well of creativity and innovation to drive progress and growth.

The Importance of Inclusion and Acceptance

In order to fully realize the benefits of neurodiversity, it is crucial to create an inclusive and accepting environment. By fostering a culture that values and respects differences, we can empower neurodiverse individuals to thrive and contribute their

unique talents to the world. In doing so, we can create a more diverse and dynamic society that benefits from the strengths of all its members. This - as a new staff member - is something that I see Accelerated Schools accomplish with ease.

Conclusion

Neurodiversity should be celebrated and embraced for the advantages it brings to individuals and society as a whole. By recognizing the unique perspectives, creativity, and innovation that neurodiverse individuals offer, we can create a more inclusive and thriving community where everyone has the opportunity to shine. Let us embrace neurodiversity as an advantage and harness its power to drive positive change in the world/

Humanizing Education

Evan Simpson, Dean of Students

Humanizing education is a research-backed transformative approach that centers on the inherent dignity and potential of every individual involved in the educational process. This philosophy emphasizes the development of a holistic, inclusive, and empathetic learning environment that respects and nurtures the unique identities, backgrounds, and abilities of all students (Reyes III, 2016). By humanizing education, Accelerated Schools aims to create spaces where learners can thrive not just academically, but also emotionally, socially, and ethically.

At its core, humanizing education challenges traditional, rigid, and often dehumanizing pedagogical practices that prioritize standardized testing, rote memorization, and competitive achievement. Instead, it promotes a learner-centered approach that values the lived experiences and personal narratives of students. One fundamental aspect of humanizing education is recognizing and addressing the diverse needs of students. This involves creating inclusive curricula that reflect the cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic diversity of the student body. By integrating multiple perspectives and voices into the learning materials, teachers can foster a sense of belonging and validation among students from varied backgrounds. This inclusivity helps dismantle systemic biases and promotes equity within the educational system.

Humanizing education also emphasizes the importance of relationships in the learning process. Building strong, respectful, and caring connections between teachers and students is crucial. These relationships provide a supportive framework for students to express themselves, take risks, and engage deeply with the content. When students feel seen and valued by their teachers, they are more likely to develop intrinsic motivation and a love for learning (Reyes III, 2016).

Accelerated Schools has embraced this humanizing approach to education within its mission and practice for many years by creating an inclusive, empathetic, and engaging learning environment. By valuing the whole person, fostering strong relationships, promoting experiential learning, and integrating social and emotional learning, Accelerated Schools hopes to not just produce knowledgeable students, but well-rounded, compassionate, and socially responsible individuals.

References

Reyes III, R. (2016). In a World of Disposable Students: The Humanizing Elements of Border

Pedagogy in Teacher Education. *High School Journal*, 99(4), 337–350.

<https://doi.org/10.1353/hsj.2016.0013>



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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