

Las Américas ASPIRA Academy

New Student & Family Orientation for 2023-2024



LAS AMÉRICAS ASPIRA ACADEMY



LAAA Mission

To educate and empower each student to realize their full potential and positively impact their communities.



LAAA Vision

A fellowship of learners
building
culturally-inclusive
communities.

Core Values

Accountability * Social & Emotional Intelligence * Positive Mindset
Inquiry * Resilience * Appreciation

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



Central Office

- Margie López Waite – Chief Executive Officer
- Greg Panchisin – Chief Operating Officer
- Kim Whyte – Director of Education Enrichment (*K-12*)
- Lilia Meredith – Director of School Support Services
- Karen Contreras – Director of Human Resources
- Kellie Cruz – Director of Finance
- Eli Oriol - Director of Operations
- De'Yanna Yancey Harris - Organizational Culture Director
- Lyn Henshaw – Director of Development & Community Engagement

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



East Newark Campus (K-8)

- José G. Avilés Rivera - Head of School
- Kathleen Chappel-Corea - Assistant Head of School
- Migdalia Rivera-Abadía / Yahaira Flores / Angel Flores - Main Office
(Aspira.MainOffice.K-8@laaa.k12.de.us)

West Newark Campus (9-12)

- Debbie Panchisin - Head of School
- Magda Soliwoda / Alicia Boyle - Main Office
(Aspira.MainOffice.9-12@laaa.k12.de.us)

LAS AMÉRICAS ASPIRA ACADEMY



LAAA Equity Statement

We commit to:

- Identify and dismantle systemic inequities within education that contribute to opportunity gaps for our students.
- Create a culture of caring that embraces all the identities of our school community members and provides a sense of belonging for all.

Core Values

**Accountability * Social & Emotional Intelligence * Positive Mindset
Inquiry * Resilience * Appreciation**

STUDENT-FAMILY COMPACT



Outlines how the families (parents/guardians), the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build a partnership that will help children achieve the State's high standards.

- School Responsibilities
- Parent/Guardian Responsibilities
- Student Responsibilities



SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES



- High-quality curriculum and instruction
- ASPIRANTE Success conferences
- Reasonable access to staff
- Volunteer opportunities for parents/guardians to participate and observe classroom activities



LAS AMÉRICAS ASPIRA ACADEMY



Our school culture & curriculum focuses on...

Communication

- ❖ Build proficiency in two languages
- ❖ Strengthen speaking, listening, reading and writing skills

Culture

- ❖ Acquire knowledge and understanding of different cultures
- ❖ Participate in cultural experiences within and outside of the U.S.



Compassion

- ❖ Demonstrate good character traits
- ❖ Support community at large

College Readiness

- ❖ Utilize AVID strategies and structures
- ❖ Develop academic skills, individual determination, and social adaptability

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION



Language Instruction Models

Dual Language/Biliteracy Model

- Grades K-5
- Four classes; approx. 100 students per grade
- 50/50 English-Spanish

Middle School Immersion Continuation Model

- Grades 6-8
- Five classes, grades 6-8; approx. 135 students per grade
- 75/25 English-Spanish

High School Biliteracy Model

- Grades 9-12
- Four classes; approx. 100 students per grade
- Spanish as target world language



CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION



- Language Instruction Models
- Project-Based Learning
- K-3: Ungrading Model
- 4-5: Mastery Learning and Standards-Based Grading
- 6-12: Traditional Grading Model
- One on One Technology (Blended Learning)

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION



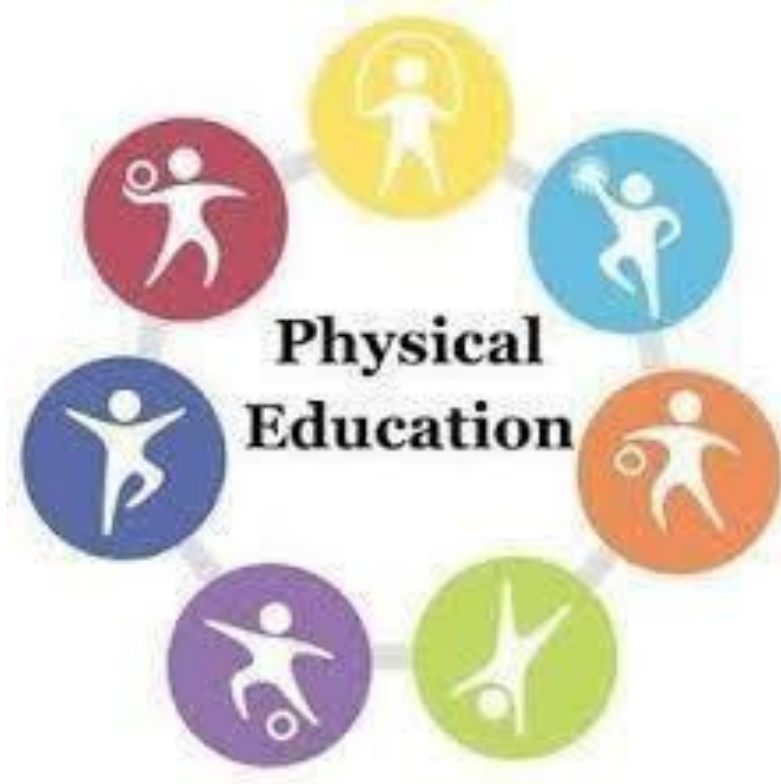
Core Subjects

- English Language Arts
- Spanish Language Arts
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- MS World Language – Spanish
- HS World Language – Spanish

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION



SPECIALS (K-3)



Physical Education
Once or twice a week



Music
Once or twice a week

Art
Once or twice a week



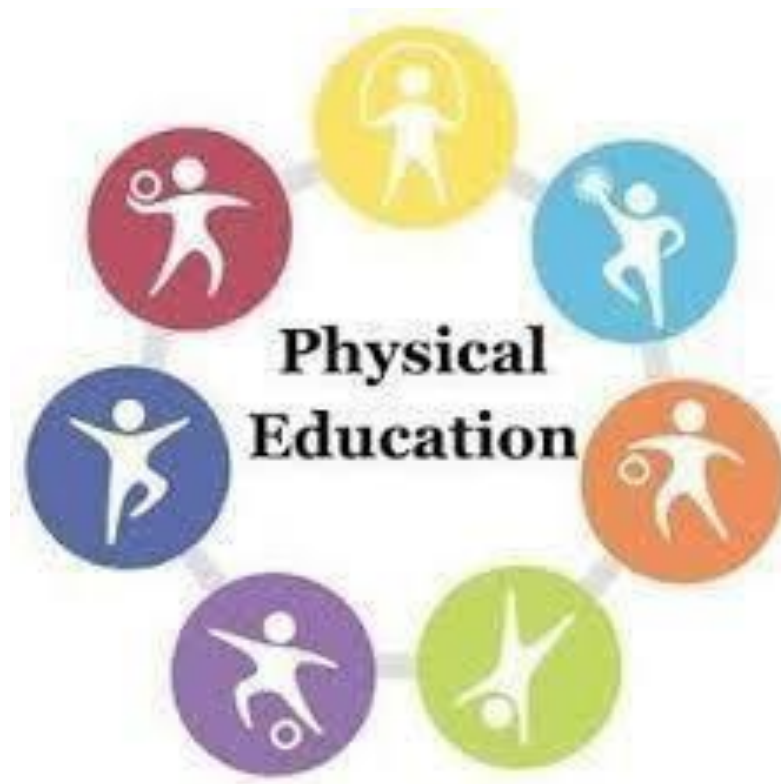
Health
Once or twice a week



CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION



SPECIALS (4-8)



CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION



New Student Assessments & Records

- New students entering kindergarten must complete an academic assessment (literacy & math) prior to the start of the school year.
 - Detailed information and due dates were given in the Invitation Letter and must be completed as scheduled.
 - Failure to complete this assessment by the due date will forfeit your child's enrollment.
- New students entering grades 1-8 must provide their end of year academic progress report by July 31, 2023.
- Students entering grades 1-8 must complete a Spanish Language Assessment to determine their language proficiency level.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION



Required Benchmark and State Assessments

- Language Skills
 - DIBELS
 - Spanish Language Proficiency Scales
 - WIDA (EL Students K-12)
- Reading Skills
 - DIBELS
 - SmarterBalanced (3-8)
 - WIDA (EL Students K-12)
- Math Skills
 - Internal Assessments
 - SmarterBalanced (3-8)
- Science (grades 5 & 7)
- Social Studies (grades 4, 6 & 8)

NOTES:

- New kindergarten students will complete assessments prior to the start of school.
- Benchmark assessments for grades 1-8 will be completed during the school year to measure student growth.
- As a choice school, assessments are required for all students regardless of program (in-person vs virtual). This is necessary for accountability purposes; therefore, students/families cannot opt-out of these assessments.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION



Education Enrichment

- All grades, Kindergarten through 12th grade:
 - English Learner Services
 - Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)
 - Special Education
 - ASPIRA Virtual Academy (AVA) Program (grades K-8)
- Grades 4-8: QUEST
 - Accelerated Learner Program (Academic Enhancement)
- Grades 9-12: Advanced Placement Courses
 - 9th grade: Human Geography
 - 10th-12th grade: AP course of choice

CULTURE & CLIMATE



Responsive Classroom is ASPIRA's approach to character education and discipline. Its primary goals are to:

- Establish a calm, orderly, and safe environment for learning.
- Help children develop self-control and self-discipline.
- Teach children to be responsible, contributing members of their community.
- Promote respectful, kind, and healthy teacher-student and student-student interactions.

CULTURE & CLIMATE



Restorative Practices

- Holds students accountable for their actions by involving them face-to-face with people they have harmed through mediation
- To be “restorative” means to believe that decisions are best made and conflicts are best resolved by those most directly involved in them.
- These practices seek to develop good relationships and restore a sense of community in the classroom and the school-setting.

ASPIRANTE SUCCESS CONFERENCES



- We encourage student involvement in these conferences
 - 1st Marking Period – November
 - Mandatory for every student
 - 2nd Marking Period – January (*9th grade*)/ March (*K-8*)
 - Optional based on student progress and/or family request
 - 3rd Marking Period – April (*9th grade*)/ June (*K-8*)
 - Optional based on student progress and/or family request
 - 4th Marking Period – June (*9th grade*)
 - Optional based on student progress and/or family request

REASONABLE ACCESS TO STAFF



- Staff directory available on school website
 - Names/Positions
 - Phone number
 - Email address
- Tools to monitor academic progress
 - Data Service Center (*grades 4-5*)
 - eSchool Home Access Center (*grades 6-8*)
- Administrators are available upon request

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



- Each family is required to complete 5 hours of volunteer time
- Family members can volunteer/contribute in the following ways:
 - Classroom aide
 - Field trip chaperone
 - Club advisor
 - Sports coach
 - Take-home tasks and school-wide events
 - Attendance at PTO meetings
 - Classroom donations
- Family members are also welcome to schedule classroom observations by calling the Main Office

FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES



- Support LAAA school mission and core values
- Ensure your child attends school regularly and punctually
- Ensure your child follows school uniform policy
- Know and support the Code of Conduct
- Maintain open line of communication with teachers and school staff
- Support your child's academic goals
 - Homework, projects, assignments, etc.
- Work with the school on disciplinary matters
- Follow all school procedures (*i.e., arrival/dismissal routines, parking lot traffic rules, school schedule, etc.*)

STUDENT SUCCESS



ADCO Board

- Support LAAA mission and vision
- Financial oversight
- Strategic plan



LAAA

- Support LAAA mission and vision
- Commitment to LAAA values and code of conduct
- Highly qualified personnel
- Standards-based curriculum
- Positive learning environment with necessary resources and support
- Open line of communication



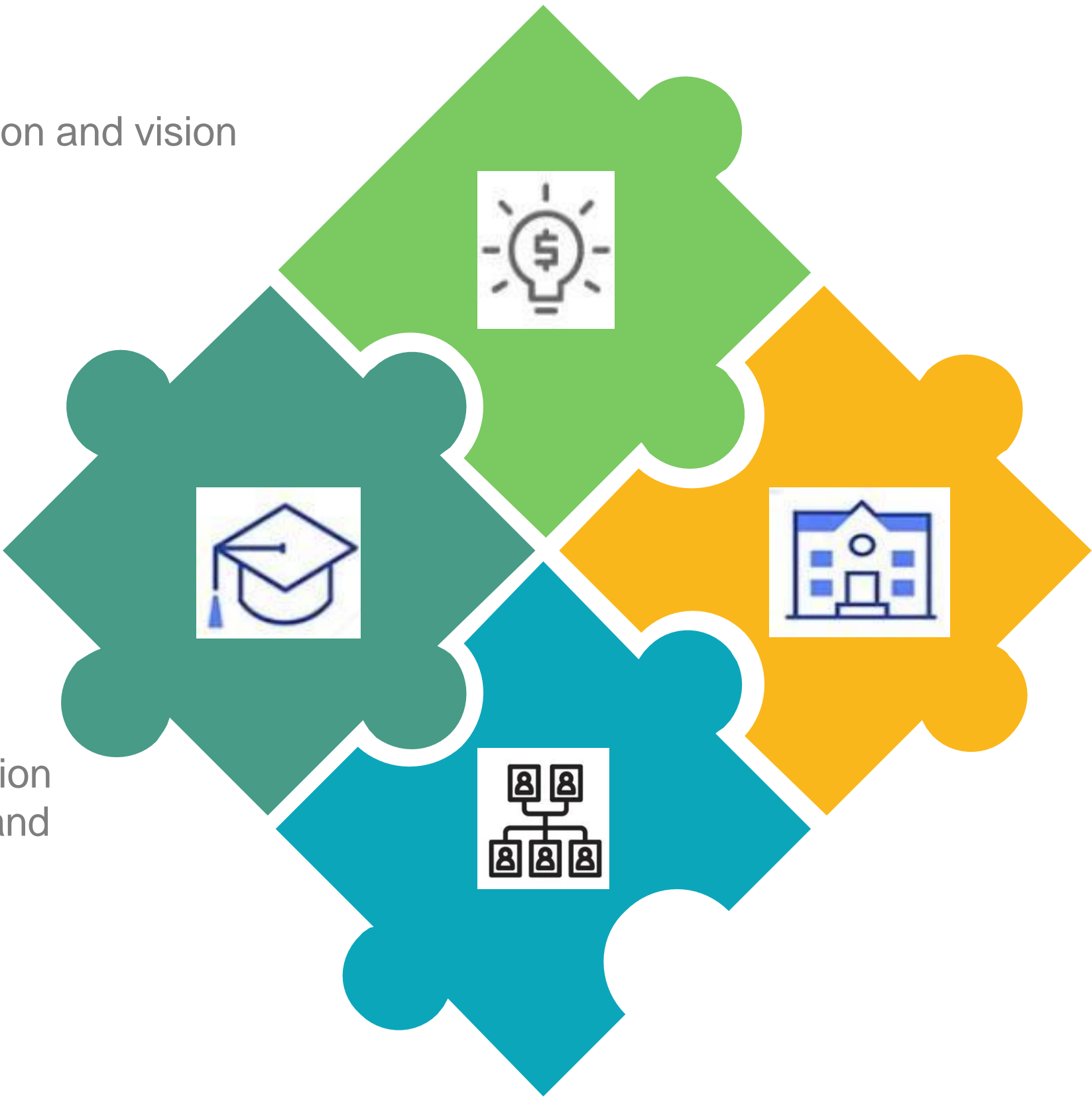
ASPIRANTE

- Support LAAA mission and vision
- Commitment to LAAA values and code of conduct
- Positive attitude
- Consistent effort
- Open line of communication



Family

- Support LAAA mission and vision
- Commitment to LAAA values and code of conduct
- Attendance & punctuality
- Open line of communication



FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES



- Enrollment Process
 - Accept the invitation
 - Schedule New Student Assessment (K students only)
 - Come to LAAA to complete the student registration packet

- School Year
 - Complete 5 hours of volunteer time (*July 1st-June 30th*)
 - Attend 1st trimester conference (*October/November*)
 - Pay all obligations to school (*i.e., school meals, lost/damaged materials, etc.*)

FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES



LAAA Chromebooks:

- LAAA would like to emphasize the use of Chromebooks is a privilege – not a right.
- Inappropriate use or vandalism by students may result in disciplinary action and limitation/cancellation of user privileges.
- All students and their parent/guardian must sign the Acceptable Use Policy and Chromebook Agreement.
- The insurance fee is \$25 per Chromebook for the school year.
 - This insurance will cover repairs for accidental damages.
 - This insurance **does not cover damage caused by abuse or neglect.**
- The insurance can be purchased online through our website <https://www.velocitypayment.com/client/delaware/aspiraacademy/payments/index.htm>.
 - Please select “Chromebook Fee” for the purpose of payment.



STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES



- Attend school regularly
- Come prepared and ready to work each day
- Work hard
- Maintain a high level of respect
- Abide by all school policies and Code of Conduct
- Participate in service to the school and community

SCHOOL SCHEDULE



Kindergarten – 5th Grade

- School day will be 8:30am to 3:30pm
- Students arriving in Homeroom after 8:30am will be marked late and must be signed-in by a parent/guardian in the Main Office
- Extended Care Program available on-site, before and after school (6:45am – 6pm). Registration required.

6th - 8th Grade

- School day will be 7:15am to 2:15pm
- Students arriving in Homeroom after 7:15am will be marked late and must be signed-in by a parent/guardian in the Main Office



SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR K-5



8:00am

Students permitted
into building for school
breakfast

8:10am

All students permitted
into building to report
to homeroom



8:30am

School day
begins

3:30pm

Dismissal begins for
Bus and Car Riders

SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR 6-8



6:50am

Students permitted
into building for
school breakfast

7:00am

All students permitted
into building to report
to homeroom



7:15am

School day
begins

2:15pm

Dismissal begins for
Bus and Car Riders

SCHOOL CALENDAR



The school calendar is available on the school website.

- ☐ East Newark Campus (K-8)
- ☐ West Newark Campus (9-12)



SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION



- We provide bus transportation at designated locations within New Castle County.
- Visit our school website to see current bus stop locations.
- Bus stop locations will remain the same, but times may change for the 2023-2024 school year due to route changes to accommodate increased enrollment.
 - **Please note that individual bus stop requests cannot be accommodated.**
- We also provide a Hub Stop(s) for car riders.

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION



WheresTheBus

WheresTheBus Education

Everyone

This app is available for your device

Add to Wishlist

WheresTheBus™ is a bus tracking system that allows bus-riding households to know precisely when your child's school bus will arrive at your bus stop. It provides the school and parents access to real-time location and arrival time information for all buses assigned to our school.

Students will use:

- **ID cards** - Do not lose the card. Please make sure to talk to your child(ren) about the importance of the card for their safety.
- **ID Number** - Students can also use their student ID number (lunch number).

EXTENDED CARE PROGRAM



East Newark Campus (K-8 students only)

- Before Care is available from 6:45am to 8:10am
- After Care is available from 2:30pm to 6:00pm
 - Includes dinner, homework help, and activities (school clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc.)
- Before and after care services are offered for an additional cost. Registration required
- Managed and operated by LAAA staff
- More information available in the Main Office or call Ms. Kellie Cruz during regular school hours

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM



We participate in:

- The National School Breakfast and Lunch Program
- The Child and Adult Care Food Program
- The Summer Food Service Program
- Breakfast and lunch is available to all students
- The free/reduced lunch application and monthly menus are available on our school website throughout the year
- Please apply online at www.myschoolapps.com/

CODE OF CONDUCT



What is the School Code of Conduct?

- Specifies the responsibilities and rights of students, parents and staff
- Defines attendance responsibilities
- Defines conduct that disrupts a positive learning environment
- Standardizes procedures for disciplinary action
- Defines grievance procedures
- Includes State and Federal laws and regulations

CODE OF CONDUCT



School Code of Conduct Section III – Attendance and Punctuality is available on the [school's website](#).

- **Students are required to attend 90% of the school year to be considered for promotion** unless otherwise stated by Special Education protocols.
- Please note that vacations and other outside activities scheduled during the school year will not be approved as an excused absence. **Vacations and other activities should be scheduled outside of the academic calendar.**

SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY



Students must comply with the school dress code

- 1st Offense – Parent/Guardian must bring the appropriate clothing item to school if a correction can not be made
- Repeated Offenses – Correction of uniform and Communication with the school Culture and Climate Team or School Administration
- **Continued non-compliance may affect re-enrollment**
- See our website for details (www.AspiraAcademy.org)

SCHOOL UNIFORM VENDORS



- **RUSH Uniform Company**

Address: 101 Harrison Ave. (Wilmington Manor), New Castle, DE

19720 Phone: 302.328.5444 Fax: 302.328.2911

Website: www.rushuniform.com

- **Tommy Hilfiger**

Website: <https://www.globalschoolwear.com/school-search/> School ID: LASA01

- **Next Generation Uniforms**

Phone: 302.525.1661

Email: nextgenerationuniforms@gmail.com

- **Initially Yours**

Address: 1412 Kirkwood Hwy., Wilmington, DE

19805 Phone: 302-999-0562

Website: www.iyinonline.com

- **Lands' End**

Website: www.landsend.com School ID: 900147810

TITLE I



Goal - To provide extra help to students who need it the most. Helps students work toward meeting the standards set by individual states.

- ☐ Schools **qualify** for Title I funding based on the number of low-income students enrolled in the school.
- ☐ Students who **receive services** are those who show an academic need.

Funding for 2022-2023 School Year = \$394,986

For more information, contact:

Margie López Waite, Chief Executive Officer

Phone: 302-292-1463

Email: margie.lopezwaite@laaa.k12.de.us

Summer Packet

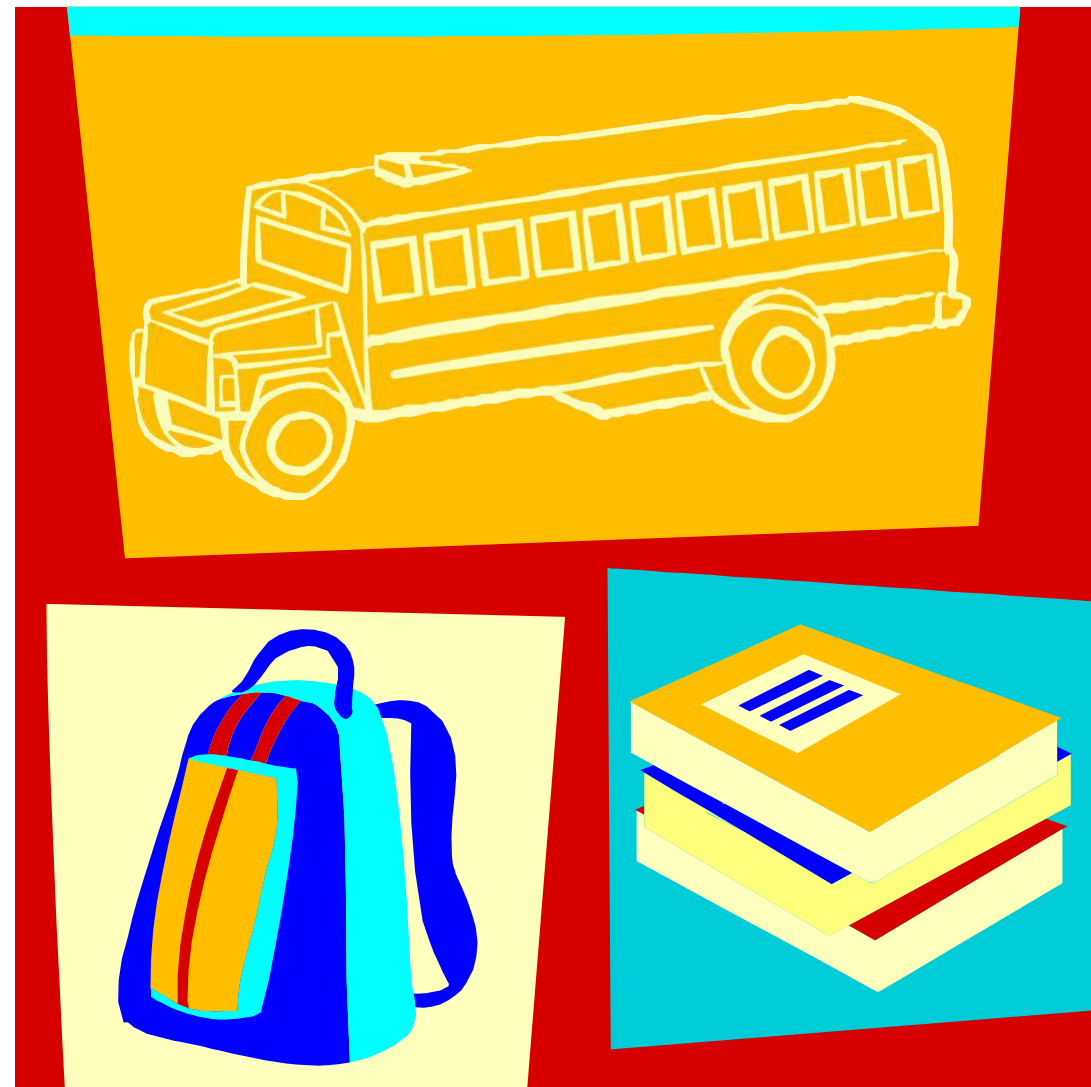


The Summer Packet will include the following information:

- Welcome to ASPIRA's Kindergarten!
- School Supply List
- Sports Program (6-8 grade only)
- Application for the School Meal Program
- School Bus Routes and Transportation Form (must be returned by due date)
- Application for Extended Care Program
- Welcome Back to School dates



Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) AMIGOS de ASPIRA



Call (302) 292-1463 ext. 400 or
email pto.aspira@gmail.com for more information



WELCOME TO THE LAAA WOLFPACK!

School Website: www.AspiraAcademy.org

Connect with us:

<https://www.facebook.com/aspiraacademy>

<https://www.instagram.com/aspiraacademy>

Main Office: 302-292-1463

