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
- Inquiry
- Resilience
- Positive Mindset
- Appreciation
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
<table>
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<th>ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM</th>
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**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
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
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
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 (4-8)

Physical Education

Art

Band

Health Education

Music

Choir
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.
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.
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
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.
- 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
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
The school calendar is available on the school website.

- East Newark Campus (K-8)
- West Newark Campus (9-12)
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.
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
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/
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
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.**
Students must comply with the school dress code

- **1\textsuperscript{st} 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](http://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](http://www.rushuniform.com)

- **Tommy Hilfiger**
  Website: [https://www.globalschoolwear.com/school-search/](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.iyinconline.com](http://www.iyinconline.com)

- **Lands' End**
  Website: [www.landsend.com](http://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
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