



Las Américas ASPIRA Academy

Our Mission:

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

July 18, 2023

We hope you are enjoying the summer break. In preparation for another great school year, we want to take this opportunity to provide you with some important information and updates.

This school year, we will continue using **SchoolMessenger** for all school wide communications. Most of you have already received communications through the SchoolMessenger system. This system allows us to send communications via voicemail, email and phone texts. To ensure that you receive school wide and classroom notifications, it is crucial that any changes to your primary phone number and email are communicated promptly to the school main office. Please opt in to receive these important messages or download the SchoolMessenger app (see the Communication section below for instructions). Some grade level teachers will use REMIND, ClassDojo or other communication platforms for specific grade level messages.

This is the ASPIRA 2023-2024 Administrator Team:

- Margie López Waite – ASPIRA Chief Executive Officer
 - José Avilés – Head of School (East Campus KN-8th grade)
 - Amina Baaith – Assistant Head of School (East Campus KN-8th grade)
 - Kathleen Chappel-Corea – Director of Culture and Climate (East Campus KN-8th grade)
 - Greg Panchisin - Chief Operating Officer
 - Eli Oriol – Director of Operations
 - Karen Contreras – Director of Human Resources
 - Kellie Cruz – Director of Finance
 - Lilia Meredith - Director of School Support Services
 - Mike Reitemeyer - Math and Social Studies Supervisor
 - Kim Whyte - Director of Education Enrichment
 - Lyn Henshaw - Director of Development and Community Engagement
 - De'Yanna Yancey-Harris - Director of Organizational Culture
- **Contact Verification:** During the *Welcome Back to School Events* you will receive the contact verification form. This form **MUST** be completed and returned to your child's homeroom teacher the same day or by the first day of school, August 28, 2023.
 - **Communication:** School wide communications will be sent via SchoolMessenger. These messages are sent by email, text, and voicemail when necessary. Opt in to receive these important messages and/or download the app for easy access, click [here](#) for instructions.
 - **Transportation to/from school:** Please complete the transportation survey, click [HERE](#). **Please note, if you do not complete and submit the transportation survey by Tuesday, August 1, 2023, your child will be assigned as a car rider and no school bus option will be available to you.**
 - **New breakfast procedure in place for school year 2023-2024:** Breakfast will be available to all students from 6:45am - 7:10am (grades 6-8) and 8:10am - 8:25am (grades K-5). Breakfast will not be available after 7:10 am (grades 6-8) or 8:25 am (grades K-5). The only exception to this procedure would be to accommodate late bus arrivals.

Las Américas ASPIRA Academy

East Campus (K-8): 326 Ruthar Dr. Newark, DE 19711, 302-292-1463
West Campus (9-12): 750 Otts Chapel Rd. Newark, DE 19713, 302-355-2300

"A fellowship of learners building culturally-inclusive communities."

- **Welcome Back to School Events:** Homeroom/Teacher assignments will be shared at these events.

Welcome Back to School	Date and Time
Kindergarten Play Date	Wednesday, August 23 (more information to follow) Backpacks donated by LifePath Church will be available for Kindergarten students
Grades 1-2	Monday, August 21 (1:30 - 3:00 pm)*
Grades 3-4	Monday, August 21 (3:00 - 4:30 pm)*
Grades 5-6	Tuesday, August 22 (1:30 - 3:00 pm) *
Grades 7-8	Tuesday, August 22 (3:00 - 4:30 pm) *
AVA Students (all grades)	Thursday, August 24 @ 6:00pm

* Evening time for all grades - 4:30 - 6:00 pm. Last entry at 6pm; school closes at 6:30pm

- **Changes to the Uniform Policy:** **NEW for the 2023-2024 School Year:**
 - Students can wear only sneakers/athletic shoes that are any color and must be non-marking. Footwear should be secured on the foot (ex. laces tied, Velcro fastened).
 - No Crocs, sandals, slides, slippers, cleats, Heelys (shoes with wheels), etc. are permitted for regular school wear.
- **Dollar Dress Down Days:** We will have bi-weekly *Dollar Dress Down Days (DDD)* scheduled in our School Calendar throughout the 2023-2024 school year. Students will follow the DDD guidelines and expectations shared in the School Code of Conduct. Families can send cash payments with their students or use the electronic payment option on our school website. Selecting the electronic payment option will allow for daily, monthly, or annual payments based on your preference and convenience. DDD earnings are designated to enhance and support academic, extracurricular, and other student-related activities. Click [here](#) to make Dress Down Days payments electronically.
- **Before and After Care Program:** If you are interested in having your child participate in the extended care program (Before Care, After Care and/or Clubs) registration is required. Click [here](#) for more information
- **Chromebook Insurance:** In order to receive a Chromebook, parents/guardians must first purchase insurance. The insurance fee is \$25 per Chromebook for the school year. This insurance will cover repairs for accidental damages but does not cover loss, theft or damage caused by abuse or neglect. We are strongly advising all families to purchase their insurance online through our website. Click [here](#) to make the payment and select "Chromebook Fee" for the purpose of payment. If purchasing insurance online is not possible, please stop by the main office (East or West Campus) during normal business hours to purchase the insurance in person. Payments and technology agreements will also be accepted at your students back to school events; however, they will not receive their device until the first day of school.
- **Technology Device Take Home Agreement:** Please click on this link to complete the technology agreement in English click [here](#) or this link [here](#) to complete the Technology Agreement in Spanish. Please note that your students' school ID number is required to complete the agreement.

- **School Nutrition Program:** We will continue offering healthy meals to our students. Prices for the meals are as follows:

Meal	Regular Price	Reduced Price (*)	Free (*)
Breakfast	\$2.30	\$0.30	\$0.00
Lunch	\$3.50	\$0.40	\$0.00

(*) **A meal eligibility form must be submitted to apply for free/reduced price school meals every year.** This is the link to the meal eligibility form application: <https://www.myschoolapps.com/>. Note: On the top right corner of the main page, there is a language selection; select the language of choice before proceeding to complete the application.

- **Media Consent Form:** If you want to change your media permission status, please contact the Main Office at 302-292-1463.
- **School Calendar:** For your convenience, click to view the [East campus 2023-2024 school calendar](#)
- **School Supply List:** The school supply list is located on the school website under the “Families” section [Click Here](#)
- **School Uniform Reminders:** Your child must be in compliance with the Uniform Policy at all times; therefore, be sure to secure the required items in time for the start of the school year (August 28). Click on the link to refer to the [School Uniform Policy](#).

We encourage you to take a close look at the Uniform Policy since some of the requirements and expectations have been modified. The school logo items must be purchased through one of the following 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/> (Our school ID is LASA01)

Next Generations Uniforms:

Phone: 302.525.1661 Email: Nextgenerationunoforms@gmail.com

Initially Yours:

1412 Kirkwood Hwy., Wilmington, DE 19805 Phone: 302.999-0562 Website: www.iyinonline.com

Lands End:

Website www.landsend.com. School ID#900147810

- **Physicals:** All 4th and 7th Grade students must have a physical turned into the nurse’s office for the 2023-2024 school year. Please make their appointments if they do not already have one scheduled for 4th and 7th Grades. The nurse’s office needs to be updated anytime your child has a change in health conditions or new vaccinations. Please continue to take your child for yearly check-ups with their pediatrician so the doctor may evaluate your child's growth and changing health needs.
- **Health Conditions:** If your child has a chronic health condition (asthma, anaphylaxis, seizure, cardiac, etc.), please turn in a required Emergency Action Plan signed by your pediatrician by the first day of school. Take this time before school starts to obtain new inhalers, EpiPens etc. so your child will have their medication in the nurse’s office on the first day of school.

- **2023-2024 LAAA Sports Program (for grades 6-8 only):** If your child is planning to participate in our school sports program, he/she must provide a physical to the school by August 1, 2023. This deadline applies to **ALL** student-athletes. The physical must be documented on an **official DIAA Physical Form (DIAA PPE Form)**, which can be retrieved from the school's athletics website (www.aspiraacademysports.com).
- **Car Arrival and Dismissal:** Arrival procedures will remain the same as in previous years. Returning families will display in their rear view mirror the same CarRider Pro Tag(s) used in previous years. New families will receive two CarRider Pro tags by regular mail during Welcome Back to school events. There will be a charge of \$25 per replacement tag (returning families). The CarRider Pro Tags are read as your vehicle enters the school, which allows us to expedite the student car dismissal process. We will not be able to dismiss students in the order their vehicle came into the back parking lot if the parent/guardian does not have a CarRider Pro Tag. These students will be dismissed last.
- **Volunteer Hours:** As per our Code of Conduct, it is required that each family must complete a minimum of five (5) hours of volunteer time during each school year (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024). **Parents/Guardians and other community members who will be volunteering on school premises during school hours must present an official identification (ex. driver's license, state ID, passport, etc).**
- **The Family Resource Center (FRC):** The Family Resource Center provides information about programs and services to support our families and strengthen our school community. In partnership with community-based organizations, planning is underway to continue providing Adult English Language Learner Classes and free Financial Coaching services onsite. Visit the [Family Resource Center webpage](#) for more information on programs and services, or contact Wanda.Lopez@laaa.k12.de.us with any questions. Stay tuned for information about the **ASPIRA ParentCamp** meetings in October!
- **Message from the PTO:** Welcome! The PTO board has been very busy this summer getting ready for another successful year at ASPIRA and we need your support. Click [here](#) to print, complete and return to the main office the PTO membership form. Follow us on Facebook, on the school website under the Families tab and on Remind (@aspirapto) for updates on school and PTO events and activities. We look forward to working with you and your children in the coming year! *From: Amigos de ASPIRA de PTO, Inc. Board of Directors.*
- **School Bus Drivers Needed:** Student safety is a priority at ASPIRA Academy. For this reason, we are looking for the most skilled and caring drivers for our school buses. We are happy to be partnering with the Sutton Bus Company to provide our students with the best bus transportation possible. Our bus driver positions offer many benefits. As employees of Sutton Bus Company, you will receive competitive wages. If your child(ren) attends ASPIRA Academy, we are also offering before and after school care at no cost. You also have the opportunity to work part-time at the school as a School Aide to further supplement your income. Additionally, we are offering a \$1,500 sign-on bonus for all new bus drivers. For more information about ASPIRA, contact Mr. Eli Oriol, Director of Operations at Eli.Oriol@laaa.k12.de.us. **To apply for a bus driver position or for more information, contact: Dave Sutton at Sutton Bus Company, 5609 Old Capitol Trail, Wilmington, DE 19808, Phone: 302-995-7444 Fax: 302-995-8996.**

Please note that all of this information is also available on the school website for your convenience, click here for [registration forms](#) . If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Main Office: East Campus (KN-8th grade) at 302-292-1463. We look forward to another great school year!

Sincerely,

José Aviles
Head of School
East Campus (KN-8)

Amina Baaiith
Assistant Head of School
East Campus (KN-8)