



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. On behalf of the ASPIRA Charter High School team, I would like to thank you for your unwavering support during this past school year.

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 **"School Messenger"** to communicate with families. Most of you have already received communications through the School Messenger system. This system will allow us to send communications via voice message, 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. Opt in to receive these important messages and/or download the app for easy access, click [here](#) for instructions.

The following are some administrative changes on the LAAA team. The administrative team for the 2023-2024 school year is as follows:

- Margie López Waite – ASPIRA Chief Executive Officer
 - Debbie Panchisin – Head of School (West Campus 9th-12th 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 and School Forms:** This year, during the Welcome Back to School Night on August 23rd (6pm) you will receive information and forms. The forms **MUST** be completed and **RETURNED** to the main office by the first day of school. The first day of school for 9th and 12th graders is August 28, 2023. The first day of school for 10th and 11th graders is August 29, 2023.
 - **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.**
 - Students who plan to drive to school must apply for a parking pass. The application is available online click [HERE](#). The cost for a parking pass is \$30.00. Students who do not have a current parking pass will not be able to park in the school student parking lot.

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."

- **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 welcome back to school nights; however, they will not receive their device until the first day of school.

Students **will not** be permitted to use any personal devices while in the school. The Chromebooks that are provided to students have the necessary software for us to protect them while online, monitor their assessments, and provide students with the access to all online platforms used for instruction.

- **Technology Device Take Home Agreement:** Please click on this link [here](#) to complete the technology agreement in English 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 302-355-2300.
- **Student Schedules:** Schedules will be distributed at the Welcome Back to School Night on August 23rd beginning at 6:00pm. Students and families who are unable to attend will be able to view the student schedule on August 24th.
- **School Calendar:** For your convenience, we have included the link to the ASPIRA Charter High School 2023-2024 school calendar [CLICK HERE.](#)
- **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 Day payments electronically.
- **School Supply List:** Students will receive school supply lists from their teachers on the first day of school. Supply lists are specific to the courses students are taking each semester. All classes require basic supplies such as pencils, pens, highlighters, colored pencils, notebooks, and folders.

- **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). You can refer to the School Uniform Policy on the school website click [HERE](#). For more details, 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: Nextgenerationunofoms@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 9th Grade students must have a physical turned into the nurse's office for the 2023-2024 school year. Please make your child's appointment if they do not already have one scheduled for 9th Grade. 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 high school students):** We are happy to announce that we will be conducting the following high school sports this fall: girls volleyball, boys soccer, boys and girls cross country, and girls field hockey. If your child plans to try out for one of these teams, families are strongly encouraged to attend a fall sports meeting.
Date: Tuesday, August 8th beginning at 5:00pm at the West Campus - 750 Otts Chapel Road Newark, DE 19713.
- **Car Arrival and Dismissal:** We will have a new traffic pattern for car riders this year. We can no longer make a right directly off the main entrance. Please follow the signs and cones in the parking lot to assist us in a safe and smooth arrival and dismissal for our students.
- **Families of Seniors:** If you have not signed up for your senior (12th grade) pictures, please visit the [Barksdale web page](#) to schedule a time for your photos. We will also be sending out a communication to seniors and their families with information specific to seniors and the senior year.
- **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 at the East campus (FRC):** We are planning for English, Health, Nutrition and Finance classes. The FRC offers resources to support our families and strengthen our school community. We encourage you to visit the Family Resource Center section under the “Families” tab on the school website. For additional information, please contact Wanda.Lopez@laaa.k12.de.us.
- **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 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. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Main Office: West Campus (9-12 Grade) at 302.355.2300. We look forward to another great school year!

Sincerely,

Deborah Panchisin, Ed. D.
 Head of School
 ASPIRA Charter High School (Grades 9-12)