



Welcome to the 2023-2024 School Year

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

It seems like we just said our goodbyes and here we are already getting ready for another school year. To begin in a few short weeks. As the principal, I am thrilled and excited about the new opportunities for ASPIRA Charter High School. I look forward to working with you and your children on one of the most important tasks ever – educating our future leaders.

The 2023-2024 school year will be one of many opportunities and celebrations. ASPIRA Charter High School (ACHS) will be celebrating the completion of 3 years of construction on our school building. We have all 9-12 grade students attending classes and we will be graduating our first ever class of seniors. We are excited to have our students, their families and our community join us during this time of celebration. This is going to be a great year. Please know, I strongly believe we cannot succeed unless we work together and keep the focus on our students.

Our student handbook will be available online in early August. I encourage you to read through the Student Handbook when it becomes available. The school team and I are here to assist with any questions or concerns that may arise. Please do not hesitate to call or email me. Together, we can provide an environment that is safe, positive, cooperative, and emphasizes our students' successes.

Please review the information below concerning a few items regarding the start of the school year:

Daily Bell Schedule

7:10am	Announcements
7:15am	Period 1
8:43am	Period 2
10:11am	Period 3
12:12pm	Period 4
1:40pm	Period 5 (extra help and club period)
10:11am – 12:08pm	Lunch (We have 3 lunch periods)

Cell Phone Policy/Usage

To ensure instructional time is maximized, phones (and earbuds) will not be permitted to be used or out during class time. Phones are permitted before and after school and during a student's 30 minute lunch period. Please review the bell schedule above to identify times when students are and are not permitted to use their cell phones.

Back to School Night

Wednesday, August 23 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. Students will receive their Chromebook (if insurance has been paid and the acceptable use agreement has been completed online), get their class schedule, pick up parking passes, and get a tour the building.

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."

Student Schedules

Student schedules will be available through Home Access Center (HAC) on August 24th - anything prior to this date is subject to change and may not be accurate. Students may access HAC directly using their student account. Parents who have created a Home Access account will be able to view schedules as well. Parents who have yet to set up an account for Home Access Center are encouraged to do so by completing the online registration for an account found [HERE](#).

Upon receiving your schedule, changes will only be made if space is available in the requested course and one of the following apply: **sequence of courses; and/or previous failures.** All schedules are made based upon transcript information, test scores, course availability, and student requests. Parents and students should understand that **schedules are TENTATIVE until the first day of school.** Teachers and course periods may change. Please note that summer school grades are still being processed. Schedules for students enrolled in summer school will be adjusted appropriately after these grades are received. If there are any conflicts, the guidance counselor and administration will be available to assist.

If students need a schedule change based on the conditions stated above, they **must** complete a “Request to Change Schedule” form which will be available outside Mrs. Torres’ office. The forms will be date stamped and she will process requests based only on the order in which forms are received. **Schedule change requests must be submitted by the end of the 3rd day of school to allow for processing time. No schedule change requests will be accepted after the 3rd day of school.**

Student Chromebooks

Chromebooks insurance must be paid for students to receive a Chromebook. Payments can be made online [using this link](#). Chromebooks will not be distributed at the Back to school Night event to students who have not made the insurance payment by August 4, 2023. Student’s whose families pay the Chromebook insurance after this date will receive their Chromebook on the first student school day. No Chromebooks will be distributed without a signed online technology agreement. Personal devices **are not permitted** and will not be able to access the school’s WiFi.

Student Technology Agreement:

- [English](#)
- [Spanish](#)

Parking Passes

Students who are 16, and have completed their 6 months of supervised driving are permitted to drive to and from school. There are approximately 30 spots available for student drivers, and registration is first come first served. Parking passes cost \$30. Students who do not receive a parking pass are not permitted to drive to school. Please note that by accepting a parking pass you will waive your student’s bus privileges. Students interested in a parking pass should complete the [online application](#). Passes can be picked up during Back to School Night.

2023-2024 Exam Dates (dates are subject to change and tentative)

- Fall PSAT (grades 9-11)
 - October 24, 2023
- First Semester Final Exams
 - January 10-11, 2024
 - Make-up Exams - January 12, 2024
- End of Course State Assessments for Biology and US History
 - Beginning April 8, 2024 – May 24, 2024
- PSAT/SAT (Grades 9-11)
 - March 5, 2024
 - Make-up PSAT/SAT – March 7, 2024
- AP Exams
 - May 6, 2024 – May 16, 2024
- Second Semester Final Exams
 - Senior Exams – May 20-21, 2024
 - Grades 9-11 Exams – May 29, 30, 2024
 - **Final schedule will be finalized by the end of January for the Spring/Second Semester**
- Students taking AP exams will need to have the \$25 exam fee paid no later than January 30, 2024 to have the exam ordered for them.
- Please use the tentative schedule for planning purposes and know that dates are subject to change. Please do not schedule vacations or appointments during exam times.

Exam Policy Reminders

- Make-up exam opportunities will be granted only with a valid medical note or pre-approval by the administration. (Do not schedule vacations on exam days)
- Daily attendance is required for all students in all classes until the last day of each semester. (Remember – students must be in attendance at least 90% of the course time to earn credit)

Open House

ASPIRA Charter High School (ACHS) will host our Fall Open House on September 19, 2023. We will have a brief whole group meeting in the gym at 6:30 pm followed by an opportunity to visit with your child's teachers. You will be provided valuable information about your child's classes, your student's teachers and your student's progress thus far. A detailed schedule will be provided closer to the event.

Senior Parent Night

Seniors are reminded of Senior/Parent night in conjunction with Open House on Tuesday, September 19 beginning at 5:45pm. This meeting will cover items including Senior expectations, graduation, and helping students prepare for their next steps after becoming ACHS graduates.

Senior Sunrise

The first of our planned activities to celebrate and honor our seniors will be on August 28th at 6:00am. We will hold our first senior sunrise. Seniors are invited to gather at the school for breakfast, activities, music and to watch the sunrise to celebrate the start of their final year in high school together. Seniors are asked to register their attendance for the Senior Sunrise event so we plan accordingly for breakfast. Please register using [this link](#) no later than Monday, August 21, 2023

Dual Enrollment and AP Courses

Students taking dual enrollment or AP courses in their schedule have a \$25 fee for the course/exam. Students taking these courses can earn college credits while in high school.

Sincerely,
Deborah L Panchisin, Ed.D.
Principal

Important First Semester Dates and Information

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, August 14	Fall sports try-outs begin
Wednesday, August 23	Back to School Night @ 6:30pm
Monday, August 28	First day of school for 9th and 12th grade
	Senior Sunrise @ 6:00am
	Senior Pictures
Tuesday, August 29	First day of school for 10th and 11th grade
Thursday, August 30	Senior Pictures
Friday, September 1	School/Offices Closed
Monday, September 4	School/Offices Closed
Sunday, September 10	Hispanic Heritage Parade @ 12:00pm
Friday, September 15	Senior Lock-In @ 8:00pm
Monday, October 9	Spirit week begins
Friday, October 13	Homecoming Hangout @ 2:30pm
Saturday, October 14	Homecoming dance @ 7:00pm
Tuesday, September 19	Senior/Parent Meeting @ 5:45pm
	Open House @ 6:30pm
Friday, September 22	No school for students
Friday, September 29	High School Hangout – Movie Night @ 7:00pm
Friday, October 6	No school for students
Monday, October 9	School pictures
Tuesday, October 24	PSAT/SAT testing Grades 9-11
	Senior activity
Friday, October 17	High School Hangout – Bonfire @ 6:00pm
Monday, November 6	Winter sports tryouts begin after school
Thursday, November 9	Reports cards available in Home Access Center
Friday, November 10	School/Offices Closed
November 13-15	Family Conferences
Friday, November 17	Asynchronous school day
November 20-24	School/Offices Closed
Tuesday, December 12	Winter Concert @ 7:00pm
Wednesday, January 3	School reopens
Wednesday, January 10	First semester final exams
Thursday, January 11	First semester final exams
Friday, January 12	Make-up exams; No school for students
Monday, January 15	School/Offices Closed
Tuesday, January 16	Day of Service
Wednesday, January 17	Second semester begins
Monday, January 22	Report cards available on Home Access Center