



Las Américas ASPIRA Academy

Our Mission: "To educate and empower each Aspirante to realize their full potential and positively impact their communities"

July 15, 2024

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 text. 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's 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 2024-2025 Administration 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
 - Debbie Panchisin - Chief Academic Officer
 - Eli Oriol – Director of Operations
 - Karen Contreras – Director of Human Resources
 - Kellie Cruz – Director of Finance
 - Kim Whyte - Director of Education Enrichment
 - Lyn Henshaw - Director of Development and Community Engagement
 - De'Yanna Yancey-Harris – Chief Mission Officer
- **Contact Verification:** You will receive the contact verification form during the Welcome Back to School Events. This form **MUST** be completed and returned to your child's homeroom teacher on the same day or by the first day of school, August 26, 2024.
 - **Communication:** School-wide communications will be sent via SchoolMessenger. These messages are sent by email, text, and voicemail when necessary. To opt in to receive these important messages and/or download the app for easy access, click [HERE](#) for instructions.

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."

- **Transportation to/from school:** If you have not completed and submitted the transportation survey that was sent to you the first week of July, click [HERE](#) to complete it. **Please note, if you do not complete and submit the transportation survey by Monday, July 22, 2024, your child will be assigned as a car rider and no school bus option will be available to you.**
- **Breakfast procedure in place for school year 2024-2025:** Breakfast will be available to all students from 6:45am - 7:05am (grades 6-8) and 8:10am - 8:25am (grades K-5). Breakfast will not be available after 7:05 am (grades 6-8) or 8:25 am (grades K-5). The only exception to this procedure would be to accommodate late bus arrivals.
- **Middle School Class Start Time: NEW for the 2024-2025 School Year:** Middle School classes will start at **7:10am**.
- **Welcome Back to School Events:** Homeroom/Teacher assignments will be shared at these events.

Welcome Back to School	Date and Time
Kindergarten Play Date	Monday, August 19, 2024 at 8:30am
Grades 1-2	Tuesday, August 20, 2024 (2:00 - 3:00pm)*
Grades 3-4	Tuesday, August 20, 2024 (3:00 - 4:00pm)*
Grades 5-6	Wednesday, August 21, 2024 (2:00 - 3:00pm) *
Grades 7-8	Wednesday, August 21, 2024 (3:00 - 4:00pm) *
AVA Students (all grades)	Thursday, August 22, @ 6:00pm

* Evening time for all grades - 4:00 - 5:30 pm. Last entry at 5:00pm; school closes at 5:30pm

- **Changes to the Uniform Policy: NEW for the 2024-2025 School Year:**
 - Students in grades 5 through 8 will be allowed to carry a handbag, fanny pack, or small purse in school. The bag must be no larger than 9 inches (length) by 6 inches (height).

- For regular school wear, **no Crocs, sandals, slides, slippers, cleats, Heelys (shoes with wheels), UGGs, boots, etc.**, are permitted. In addition, **no rubber/foam shoes are allowed (ex. Yeezys)**.

As a reminder, 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). Click [HERE](#) to review the Uniform Policy.

- [Changes to K-5 Homework Policy:](#) **NEW for the 2024-2025 School Year:**

At Las Américas ASPIRA Academy, we believe that homework should complement and enhance classroom learning, promoting academic growth while fostering responsibility and independence in our students. By following the guidelines shared in the Updated K-5 Homework Policy, we aim to create a supportive homework environment that benefits all learners. This homework policy is effective **August 26, 2024**, and will be reviewed periodically to ensure its continued effectiveness and alignment with our school community's goals. Please click [HERE](#) to review the Homework Policy.

- [Dollar Dress Down Days:](#) We will have bi-weekly *Dollar Dress Down Days (DDD)* scheduled in our School Calendar throughout the 2024-2025 school year. Students will follow the DDD guidelines and expectations shared in the School Code of Conduct. DDD earnings are designated to enhance and support academic, extracurricular, and other student-related activities. There are two options to pay for Dress Down Days.
 - Option 1: Use the electronic payment option on our school website. **Selecting the electronic payment option will allow for annual payments only (a total of \$16.00). These payments must be received by August 29, 2024.** Click [HERE](#) to make the annual Dress Down Days payment of \$16.00 electronically:
 - Option 2: Families can send cash payments (\$1) with their student(s) on each Dress Down Day. Please send exact change only.
- [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 for \$27 dollars. This insurance will cover repairs for accidental damages. It does not cover loss, theft, or damage caused by abuse or neglect. **You will receive an email on Friday, July 26, 2024** to purchase it online, along with the technology agreements, through our processing site "Permission Click". 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 student's back to school events; however, students will not receive their device until after the first day of school for payments made after Friday, August 9th.

- **School Nutrition Program:** We will continue offering healthy meals to our students. LAAA students receive free breakfast and lunch all year long.
- **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 [HERE](#) to view the [East Campus 2024-2025 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 26). 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 2024-2025 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.
- **2024-2025 LAA Sports Program (for grades 6-8 only):**

All incoming 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade students interested in playing a sport must have a DIAA physical form completed, signed by a physician, and turned into the nurses' office for the 2024-2025 school year. This form must be turned in before the start of each sports season to ensure eligibility for try-outs. 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.aspiraaacademysports.com).

All Students Must Have A Sports Physical In Order to Try-Out (No Exceptions)

Fall and Winter Physical's due date - August 29th

Spring Physical's due date - February 21st

Sports Try-Outs Schedule:

Fall- September 9th, 11th, and 12th

Winter- November 4th, 6th, and 7th

Spring- March 3rd - 6th

DIAA Eligibility for Sports:

Passing Work: Students must pass five of their seven classes, with four of the passing courses in the areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, or World Language (Spanish or Spanish Humanities). Eligibility for each season will be contingent upon the previous trimester's grades. The final grades for the previous school year shall determine eligibility for the first trimester of the following school year.

Attendance: Students must be present during the school day to be eligible to participate in games or practice for that day. Three (3) or more unexcused absences from practice will result in removal from the team.

Discipline: Students who receive (3) or more disciplinary referrals shall meet with the review board to determine eligibility with a possibility of removal from the team.

Parent/Guardian Involvement:

Pick-Up: Parent pick-up at East Campus will be located at the Cafe Uno (Car-Rider Pick-Up) doors. Parents/Guardians must be prompt in picking their student-athletes up from the practice fields. There will be a charge of \$1 per minute late after (5) minutes. Payment must be made by the following morning, or additional charges will ensue.

Transportation Changes: Only authorized parent/guardian/emergency contact shall pick up a student-athlete from school/practice fields. Should any transportation changes need to be made, the parent/guardian on file must contact the Main Office before 1:30pm.

- **Car Arrival and Dismissal:** Arrival procedures will remain the same as in previous years. Returning families will display in their rearview mirror the same CarRider Pro Tag(s) used in previous years. New families will receive two CarRider Pro tags 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. Middle school students must be picked up by 2:30pm and Elementary students by 3:45pm. **Students not picked up at those times will be sent to aftercare, and a fee of \$15 will be due at pick up.**
- **Volunteer Hours:** As per our Code of Conduct, each family must complete a minimum of five (5) hours of volunteer time during each school year (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025). 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). Parents must download the MobileServe app to find volunteering opportunities and to record volunteer hours. Please click [HERE](#) to obtain more information.
- **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 join the ASPIRA PTO. Follow us on Facebook, on our website aspirapto.com 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. 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 Avilés
Head of School
East Campus (KN-8)

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