

THE *Eagle Eye*



September 21, 2017

Eagle Ridge Academy

Volume 14 | Issue 2



Executive Director News

JASON ULBRICH

Executive Director

Dear Eagle Ridge Academy Family,

We are about three weeks in to the school year now, and we are much further along this year as compared to last year. Last year we moved into our new location, and this year we are truly making it our home. My first Community Letter for this school year will focus on operations, communications, and test scores. Read by clicking below:

**VIEW
COMMUNITY LETTER**

Eagle Ridge Academy presents

ACADEMICAL
CLASSICAL EDUCATION PARENT NIGHT

**Why is
Classical Education
Needed in America?**

featuring **DR. CHRISTOPHER PERRIN**

Thursday, Oct. 19

5:30-6:00 p.m. | Light refreshments

6:00-7:00 p.m. | Presentation in
the ERA Auditorium



Logic & Rhetoric Update

ERICA POWELL

Principal, Schools of Logic & Rhetoric

"High expectations are the key to everything." - Sam Walton

Positive student culture is key to having a successful school and is something Eagle Ridge Academy staff take seriously. This past summer a group of Eagle Ridge Academy staff members gathered to discuss how we can make an impact on student culture in a positive way. Through discussions and research we came to the conclusion that having clear expectations that are consistent for students help embrace a positive student culture. Staff then developed a set of expectations that were clear and could be explained to students easily; they named it the **Gryphon Accord**. We reviewed the Gryphon Accord with students in advisory class on Wednesday, and your child will be bringing it home. We ask that you take a moment to review the Gryphon Accord with your child and then sign the bottom and have your child return it to their advisory teacher. This is our commitment to our children and students that we believe that high expectations will help develop virtue within them.

 **CollegeBoard**
PSAT

Eagle Ridge Academy will be offering juniors the opportunity to take the PSAT during the school day on Oct. 11. This is a free opportunity for juniors to prepare for college readiness. Students are automatically screened for the National Merit Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and scholarship. **This year we had two semi-finalists: Lauren P. and Sophia P.!** There is no need to sign up. Juniors will automatically take the assessment unless they opt out.



Board of Directors Update

APRIL GRABANSKI

Chair, Board of Directors

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we want to extend our greetings to all new and returning students, parents, faculty, and staff of Eagle Ridge Academy. As the school's Board of Directors, our goal is to preserve and advance the mission and vision of Eagle Ridge Academy. Our eleven member Board is presently comprised of six faculty, four parents, one community representative, and the Executive Director as an ex-officio. We are here to serve the school and welcome feedback from all constituents.

As a charter school, we depend on parent and community involvement. One way to get involved is through Board Working Groups or Task Forces. Working Groups and Task Forces are established by the Board and Administration to address key aspects of strategy and operations. Their purpose is to be advisory groups that research, develop, and recommend best practices and present options to the Board for consideration. The time commitment for volunteer members of these working groups typically ranges from two to four hours per month.

Working Groups currently looking for individuals with skills, interest, and ability to commit time to serve are:

- **Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement (CISA):** Liaison – Jane Wegener Venema
- **Governance:** Liaison – John Schwirtz
- **Policy:** Liaison – Ann Watanabe

To learn more, please visit the [Board of Directors Working Groups](#) section of the website. You will find previous years' mandates for each Working Group. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to the Board Liaison as identified on the website by **Oct. 10**. Each Working Group has a schedule of meetings or will be establishing meetings in the next month.

Board agendas, meeting minutes, and materials are freely available through the Academy's eGovernance Solution, BoardDocs. To review materials from past meetings and view upcoming agendas, please visit the [Board section of the school's website](#).

We are also eager to hear directly from you. Informal Board Listening Sessions will be held 30 minutes prior to our monthly board workshops. Attendees will include three board members and an administrative representative. Our hope is that you will take advantage of these opportunities to speak with us about your feedback in a more relaxed setting than a regular board meeting. The next Board Listening Session will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 5:30 p.m.

Community Updates



School of Grammar Update

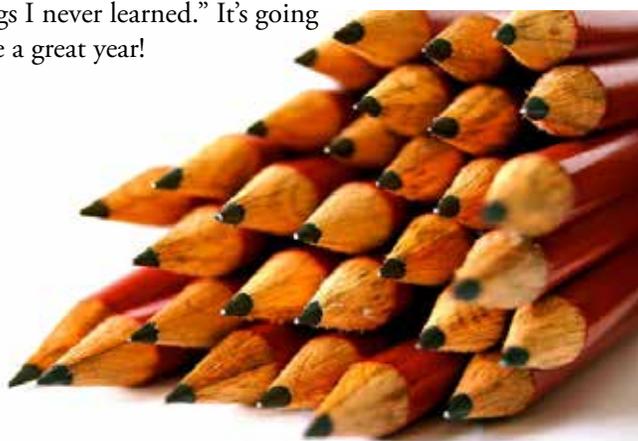
JANELLE MELLGREN

Principal, School of Grammar

This is the time of year I enjoy walking the hallways and reading the goals, hopes, and dreams many students have for themselves and their learning. It's also a good reminder to me of how much I love learning. I hope you enjoy reading a sampling of what our students hope to achieve this year as much as I did!

- *I want to learn about the human body.*
- *I want to be kind and happy.*
- *My hope and dream is to learn multiplication.*
- *My hope and dream is to learn more new words and write them.*
- *My dream is to complete 100 subtraction and addition problems.*
- *My dream is to get stupendous grades and also get lots of pillar stickers.*
- *I really hope I get a CIPHER party for my class.*
- *My goal is to read cursive.*
- *I want to learn to be a better hand writer.*
- *My goal is to be nice to everyone in my class.*
- *I want to bring homework on time.*
- *My hope and dream is to get better at art.*
- *My hope and dream is to be a better student by helping other students.*

There is a lot of truth, beauty, and goodness reflected in these goals, and I know I appreciate being on this learning journey with each of our students. I'd like to end my note to you with a student goal I think we all share: "This year I want to learn things I never learned." It's going to be a great year!



Community Updates



Join the Flag Detail Team

JACK ORR

Student, Grade 12

Three years ago, Eagle Ridge Academy started a Flag Detail Team comprised of students of all ages. By honoring the American Flag, we represent Eagle Ridge Academy to the United States of America in a way that would make our Founding Fathers proud. This year, the Flag Detail Team will be led by senior Jack Orr. We are accepting volunteers of all ages to join the Flag Detail Team for 2017-2018.

The responsibilities of the Flag Detail Team are to post the American Flag the first day of every week and safely recover and fold the flag at the end of the week. A ceremonial team will be formed to present the colors at special events like Veterans' Day and graduation.

We will have at least two Flag Detail Teams. One team will meet at 8:00 a.m. of the first day of the week to post the colors and another team will meet at 2:45 p.m. to recover the colors. We are looking for individuals who are trustworthy and who uphold the pillars in their daily and scholastic lives. Please respond to Jack Orr at jack.orr@me.com if you are interested in undertaking this patriotic endeavor by answering the following questions by Thursday, Sept. 28. Feel free to ask any clarifying questions you may have.

In your e-mail, please include and answer the following:

1. Name, Grade and Homeroom or Advisory Teacher. (All ages are welcome!)
2. What does the American Flag mean to you, and how does it relate to Eagle Ridge Academy and the United States of America?
3. What team would you prefer to join? Posting the colors on the first day of the week at 8:00 a.m. or recovering the colors the last day of the week at 2:45 p.m.?



Senior Yearbook Photos

Due Oct. 31

EMMA CONNER

Art Teacher

Email your digital senior photo to Ms. Emma Conner as an attachment anytime: econner@eagleridgeacademy.org. Your photographer may send your photo on your behalf. Photos must be in portrait orientation (taller than it is wide), and your file must be a high resolution JPEG between 500 MB and 5KB. Strike a pose!



Photo Retakes: Sept. 29 and Oct. 13

KAREN CONNER

Operations Manager

School portrait retakes will take place on **Friday, Sept. 29 for the Schools of Logic & Rhetoric (Gr. 6-12)** and on **Friday, Oct. 13 for the School of Grammar (Gr. K-5)**.

To have their photo taken, students must be wearing formal uniform attire. For details regarding the formal uniform, visit the [School Portrait Info](#) page of our website.

Lifetouch encourages students who are getting retakes to bring their original picture package with them to the camera, therefore ensuring the correct order is printed for their retake picture.

To order online through Lifetouch, [click here](#).

Developing Connections

For more information on how you may participate in helping develop Eagle Ridge Academy, please contact Kelly Schiffman at 952-746-7760, ext. 1107 or by email.



Ways to Get Involved & Give Back

KELLY SCHIFFMAN
Director of Development

Save the Date to attend the Annual Gala for the Gryphons on Nov. 10

- Watch for your invitation at the end of September and purchase your tickets. New this year to Gala Attendees: Childcare provided by NHS!
- Put together a themed basket for the Silent Auction or volunteer in your child's classroom to do a class project or themed basket.
- Ask your employer to donate to the Silent Auction or sponsor a table for their employees.
- Share the event on your social media pages.

Pledge Your Support

Pledge your annual support to Eagle Ridge Academy with an affordable monthly gift broken down into smaller amounts, which make giving easier and allow a predictable revenue source for Eagle Ridge Academy.

Be sure to check with your employer on Matching Gift opportunities! [Check here to see if your employer matches.](#)

Eagle Ridge Academy is celebrating Give to the Max Day on Nov. 16!

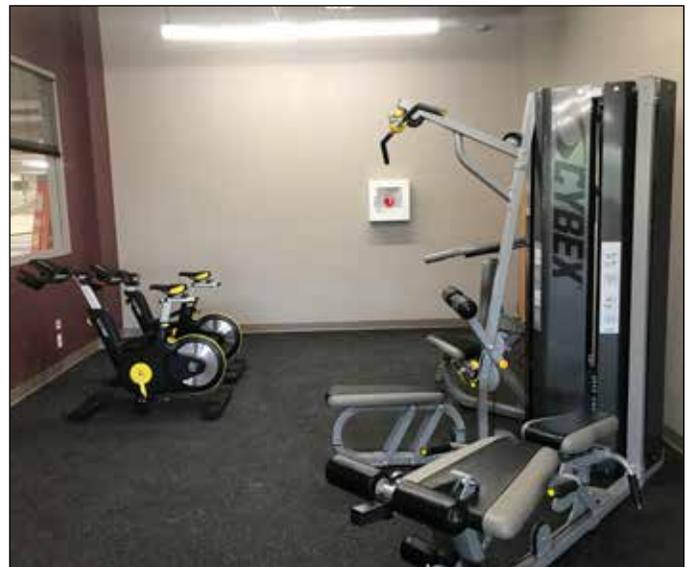
- What if you could help our school receive \$1,000 just by giving \$10 or more? On Nov. 16, you'll have that chance.
- Join us for Give to the Max Day on Nov. 16, and you could help us receive a \$1,000 Golden Ticket. Just make an online donation on [GiveMN.org](#), and your donation will be entered into an hourly drawing for a \$1,000 GiveMN Golden Ticket – which could go to Eagle Ridge Academy. Here's the really exciting part: One donation made on [www.GiveMN.org](#) during the Give to the Max Day campaign will be randomly selected to receive a \$10,000 Super-Sized GiveMN Golden Ticket!
- Help us increase our odds and make the most of your gift by making a donation on November 16 on [GiveMN.org](#). Search for Friends of Eagle Ridge Academy then make your donation. Together, we hope to raise more than \$5,000 on Give to the Max Day, and you can help us reach our goal!

Shop With Scrip

Shop with Scrip is an online gift card shopping site that allows people to purchase gift cards from more than 300 retailers at face value and the retailers give a percentage back to Eagle Ridge Academy. Use the Enrollment Code 961LF2D642179 and register with PrestoPay. It's not too soon to start your holiday shopping, gas up, buy your groceries, or purchase fall clothing!

Volunteer to Help Plan

Volunteer now to serve on a planning committee for our annual Donut Dash 5K or Golf Tournament. Be part of a team of enthusiastic individuals coming together for a great cause!



Exciting Grant Updates

Eagle Ridge Academy was the recipient of a Hennepin Youth Sports Grant this past spring to help fund equipment for the Academy's new fitness center. Funds granted supported the purchase of a Cybex MG-525 Multi-Gym and two Life Fitness/ICG4 Spin Bikes. More equipment is forthcoming in the coming weeks and months including free weights and additional equipment.

During 2015 and 2016, ERA raised important funds for library resources for our first-ever library. Thanks to the generosity of families, local businesses, and a Library Services and Technology Act Grant, we were fortunate to fill our shelves with books and other reading materials, provide digital learning programs, and increase important services for students. Library donations continue to help fund additional resources as our library services grows.



Free Dress Day Friday, Oct. 6

2017-18 FREE DRESS DAY DATES:
Oct. 6, Dec. 19, March 22, May 25

What is Free Dress Day?

Free Dress Day is a school fundraiser for various departments at Eagle Ridge Academy. Students pay \$5 to be able to wear non-uniforms to school on specific "Free Dress Days."

One Week Before:

Oct. 2-5: K-12 students may bring \$5 to their homeroom or first hour teacher to participate in Free Dress Day.

The Day of:

Oct. 6: The cost is \$6 if students pay on the actual Free Dress Day.

Guidelines for Free Dress Day from the ERA handbook are:

All shoes must have backs, boots are permitted. Long and short sleeve shirts are permitted. No strapless, spaghetti straps, or sleeveless tops are permitted. Jeans are permitted; however, jeans with immodest rips in them are not. Sweat pants are permitted. Any logos on clothing must be school appropriate. Shirts are not to be tied back with elastic bands, but may be untucked. Heels should be no more than 1". Skirt and shorts length should be modest, and no more than 2" above the knee. Costumes and masks should not be worn. No hats are permitted. Leggings and yoga pants may only be worn with modest shirts, tunics, shorts, and skirts.

Oct. 6 Free Dress Day funds are going to support:

- 6th and 1st grade field trips
- A music accompanist throughout the school year for informances and performances
- Club Terra for an edible garden field trip
- A Raz kids subscription for 2nd grade

Questions? Contact *Lower School or Upper School Principals.*



Save the Date: Nov. 10

GALA FOR THE GRYPHONS *a night to soar*

Join us at the beautiful Bearpath Golf & Country Club in Eden Prairie. Watch for your invitation and more information at the end of September for this enjoyable evening of spirit-lifting festivity with friends of the Eagle Ridge Academy community, **supporting school enrichment to help students soar.**

Dinner, entertainment, silent and live auction, signature drinks, games and fun activities.

We are seeking donations for our **Silent Auction and Live Auction.** If you own a business, work for an organization that would like to donate, frequent places of businesses you love, or would like to make a personal donation of a product, timeshare, or other gift, we would welcome your generosity. If you have specific questions or wish to donate to the Gala, email kschiffman@eagleridgeacademy.org or call 952-746-7760, ext. 1107.



Parent-Teacher Organization

Rockin' the Ridge, our highly anticipated annual school carnival event, is on for Friday, Oct. 6, 6-9:30pm at ERA!

We pull out all the stops to create a fun and memorable evening for the whole family. We're excited to share many new events and the return of some classic favorites. You'll find Laser Tag, iDance Revolution, Inflatable Slide and Obstacle Course, Game Truck, Carnival Games, Face Painting, and so much more! We've expanded our food options this year to include food trucks from R Taco and Chef Shack Mini Donuts, in addition to Culver's Custard and Popped Corn popcorn. Don't miss the debut of our all-new ERA collector water bottle with bottomless lemonade for \$6! See our links below for important information, including Unlimited Fun Wristband ordering.

RTR Info Sheet

RTR FAQs and Wristband Order Form

Buy Wristbands online at our PTO Square Store



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Did you know that RTR is staffed almost exclusively by wonderful parent and Upper School student volunteers? Over 400 to be exact! It's a great place to meet other ERA parents, log some volunteer hours, and have fun while doing it. We have many opportunities that only require 1-2 hours of your time and suit a wide variety of skills and interests. Parent help in the 2nd half of the evening is especially appreciated to ensure our activities are open to the end of the event. ***Sign up today!***

PTO Spirit Wear

PTO Spirit Wear order closed Wednesday, Sept 20. All short sleeve t-shirts ordered prior to the start of school were delivered to classrooms. All joggers, youth pants, long sleeve t-shirts, and \$5 short sleeve t-shirts will be delivered the week of Oct. 9, prior to the Oct. 13 spirit wear date. Please direct all questions to sellingteam3000@gmail.com.

Carpool Matching

Interested in finding a potential carpool match? Your PTO keeps a database of interested parents and provides match information to those individuals in the database. Please fill out information [at this link](#).

PTO Family Directory

Register your family for the K-12 ERA PTO Sponsored Family Directory. This directory will be available online in October for use by ERA families with a password sent out via email. [Fill in the data here](#). All information is not required, but information will not be edited so please double check for accuracy.

Annual Family Contribution

We are continuing to accept an Annual Family Contribution for benefit of our community events. Please find information [at this link](#) on how your contribution goes back into our community and how to easily make your contribution!

PTO Redemption Program

Do you have a yearning to support our fabulous school from the comfort of your home? Have we got a deal for you! Collect items, caps, codes, and UPC labels that will turn this "garbage" into cash for our school! We receive substantial dollars from these corporate programs, but we need and greatly appreciate your help.

We are beginning this school year with an early and rewarding contest. Our first contest will end on Thursday, Sept. 28 at 9:00 a.m. To submit items:

- For upper school students, send them with your child and he/she or you can drop them off in the collection cart just inside Door 2, in the vestibule across from Mrs. Strand's desk.
- For lower school child, please send them with your student and he/she can give them to their teacher. Each teacher in the lower school has a collection bin in their classroom.

If you'd like to do more than just send these items in (which, in itself, is amazing!), we'd love for you to volunteer with us when we count and organize these items. This month we will be volunteering on Thursdays, Sept. 21 and 28 from 8:00-10:00 a.m. Please bring a pen, some paper, and a pair of scissors, if you think of it.