

The background of the entire image is a repeating pattern of watermelon slices. Each slice is a vibrant pink color with several black seeds, and it is surrounded by a thick green rind. The slices are arranged in a way that they overlap, creating a dense, summery pattern.

EKA FIELD DAY

K-12TH GRADE - MAY 15TH
DONATIONS NEEDED

- **Kinder, 1st & 3rd grades:** Single Serving bags of Store bought, nut-free cookies
- **3rd, 4th & 5th grades:** Individual bags of chips
- **6th - 12th grades:** Bottled Water
- **Monetary donations will also accepted**

ALL DONATIONS MUST BE DROPPED OFF TO
THE FRONT OFFICES OF BLDG A & BLDG B
NO LATER THAN MAY 10, 2024

*A lunch of will be provided to all
students or if you prefer, you may
send your student with a lunch.*

End of Year Movie & Pizza Party



The Mighty Movie

Grades K-1

May 16, 2024





"Personalizing Education – Challenging Minds."

DRESS CODE POLICY

It is the intent of Explore Knowledge Academy to foster an atmosphere of student empowerment based on individual choice. Part of this empowerment is found in how a student chooses to dress during their time in school, which can make their time in school more relaxing and productive. EKA encourages students to dress appropriately for school activities. The dress code puts focus on academics, not fashion and allows students to express themselves through personality and individual achievement. Dressing appropriately creates a sense of school pride and belonging as well as reducing discipline issues and distractions. Students and parents will abide by staff requests to alter clothing when it has a negative impact on the educational environment as determined by the staff. The school has the right to designate which type of dress fashions, fads, or appearance(s) disrupt or detract from the educational program and may be a potential safety hazard. Students are expected to use good hygiene and wear clean clothes that fit.

SECONDARY GUIDELINES (grades 6-12):

- A: **SHOES:** All students will wear shoes with hard soles. Slippers are not acceptable footwear. Students should wear tennis shoes for physical education.
- : **SHIRTS/TOPS:** Shirts/tops are to be appropriately buttoned or worn in accord with the design of that shirt or blouse. Shirts cannot have necklines that are lower than the straight line from the top of the underarm across to the opposite underarm. Tops may not be transparent or expose the midriff. No tank, tube, halter, spaghetti strap, strapless or backless shirts may be worn. Sleeveless shirts, tops or dresses are permitted under the following criteria: shoulder seams must be at least 2" wide and the arm openings must be no longer than 2" below the underarm. Undergarments cannot be showing. If a jacket is to be worn to cover these types of garments, the jacket may NOT be removed during the school day, regardless of ambient temperature. Shoulder straps must be at least two inches in width. Shirts must be long enough in length to cover the stomach and back completely. Blouses made of sheer fabric may be worn only as an over blouse to tops that meet shirt guidelines.
- A: **PANTS:** All pants, including leggings, jeggings, yoga, exercise pants, should be worn on the waist without undergarment showing and of the appropriate size for the individual (not too baggy or tight). Shorts/skorts must be at least 3" above the knee or longer and hemmed appropriately, without frays and/or slits. If pants with holes are worn, holes exposing skin must not be any higher than five (5) inches above the top of the kneecap.
- B: **SKIRTS AND DRESSES:** The length must be at least 3" above the knee or longer and hemmed appropriately, without frays and without slits. Slits or openings cannot extend beyond three (3) inches above the top of the kneecaps. The tops of the dresses should follow the guidelines for SHIRTS/TOPS above.



"Personalizing Education – Challenging Minds."

C: HEADGEAR: Hats, hoods, caps, bandanas, etc. and unapproved headgear are prohibited inside the school buildings except on designated days.

D: GENERAL: If movement in the garments worn exposes the student's torso or undergarments, it is not acceptable. This includes pants worn below the hips, shirts with over-exaggerated arm-holes, or short shirts that do not meet the top of the student's belt line. Obscene, profane, gang affiliated, spiked, studded clothing or accessories, controversial slogans, or advertisements are prohibited, and we request that any shirts, jackets, or headgear with lettering or images be minimized. (If in doubt, ask an advisor or administrator, as they will be responsible for the final decisions on what is appropriate.) Appropriate undergarments must be worn at all times and must not be seen.

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS (grades K-5):

Elementary students will follow the same guidelines as the Secondary students with the following exception: All students will wear shoes that cover the entire foot, tennis shoes, high tops, etc. Shorts or leggings must be worn under skirts and dresses.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

The administrative staff retains the authority to grant exceptions to the above guidelines for special occasions or conditions.

ATTENDANCE

in the early grades

Many of our youngest students miss 10 percent of the school year—about 18 days a year or just two days every month. Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten, and even preK, can predict lower test scores, poor attendance and retention in later grades, especially if the problem persists for more than a year. Do you know how many young children are chronically absent in your school or community?

Who Is Affected

Kindergarten and 1st grade classes often have absenteeism rates as high as those in high school. Many of these absences are excused, but they still add up to lost time in the classroom.

1 in 10 kids

in kindergarten and 1st grade are chronically absent. In some schools, it's as high as 1 in 4.¹



2 in 10
low-income kids

miss too much school. They're also more likely to suffer academically.¹



2.5 in 10
homeless kids

are chronically absent.²



4 in 10
transient kids

miss too much school when families move.²



Why It Matters

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?³



64%

of kids with good attendance in K and 1st (missed 9 or fewer days both years)



43%

of kids with at-risk attendance (missed more than 9 days both years)



41%

of kids chronically absent in K or 1st (missed 18 or more days one year)



17%

of kids chronically absent in K and 1st (missed 18 or more days both years)

What We Can Do

Engage Families



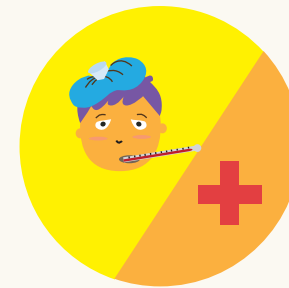
Many parents and students don't realize how quickly early absences can add up to academic trouble. Community members and teachers can educate families and build a culture of attendance through early outreach, incentives and attention to data.

Fix Transportation



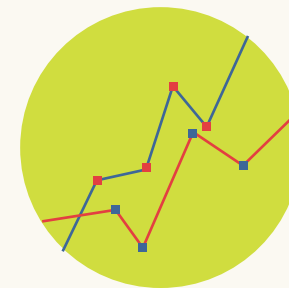
The lack of a reliable car, or simply missing the school bus, can mean some students don't make it to class. Schools, transit agencies and community partners can organize car pools, supply bus passes or find other ways to get kids to school.

Address Health Needs



Health concerns, particularly asthma and dental problems, are among the leading reasons students miss school in the early grades. Schools and medical professionals can work together to give children and families health care and advice.

Track the Right Data



Schools too often overlook chronic absence because they track average attendance or unexcused absences, not how many kids miss too many days for any reason. Attendance Works has free data-tracking tools.

These are a few steps that communities and schools can take. How do you think you can help?

¹ Chang, Hedy; Romero, Mariajose, *Present, Engaged and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades*, National Center for Children in Poverty: NY: NY, September 2008.

² *Chronic Absence in Utah*, Utah Education Policy Center at the University of Utah, 2012.

³ *Attendance in Early Elementary Grades: Association with Student Characteristics, School Readiness and Third Grade Outcomes*, Applied Survey Research. May 2011.



Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just one or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

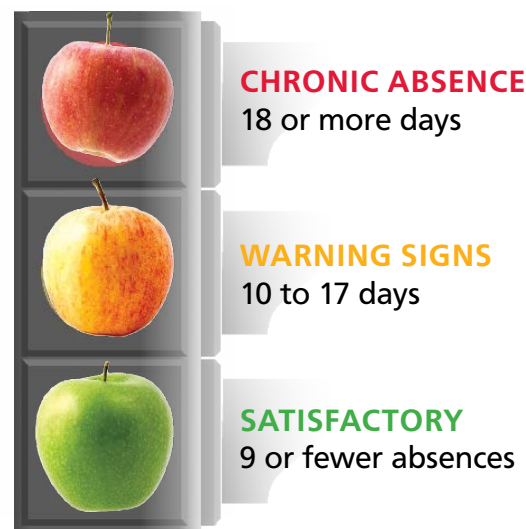
Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Eventually good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed in high school and college.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Keep your child healthy and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your children to their teachers and classmates before school starts.
- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor or another parent.
- Try to schedule non-urgent related medical appointments and extended trips when school isn't in session.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- If you are concerned that your child may have Covid-19, call your school for advice.
- If your child must stay home due to illness, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue learning at home.

Revised September 2023

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.



Keep Your Child On Track in Middle and High School: Pay Attention to Attendance

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Frequent absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10%, or 2 days a month, over the course of the school year, can affect a student's academic success.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Make school attendance a priority

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day.
- Help your children maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and non-urgent related medical appointments during the school day.
- Keep your student healthy, and if you are concerned about Covid-19, call your school for advice.
- If your children must stay home because they are sick, make sure they have asked teachers for resources and materials to make up for the missed learning time in the classroom.

Help your teen stay engaged

- Find out if your children feel engaged by their classes, and feel safe from bullies and other threats.
- Make sure your teens are not missing class because of challenges with behavioral issues or school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, contact the school and work with them to find a solution.
- Monitor your teen's academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors when necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage your child to join meaningful after-school activities, including sports and clubs.
- Notice and support your students if they are showing signs of anxiety.

Communicate with the school

- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not adding up.
- Seek help from school staff, other parents, or community agencies if you need support.



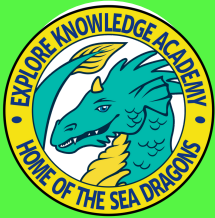
Revised September 2023

Visit Attendance Works at www.attendanceworks.org for free downloadable resources and tools!

ELEMENTARY PLACARDS

\$2
each

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ADDITIONAL OR
REPLACEMENT
PLACARDS NOW!



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BE READY FOR PICK UP AT THE
CONCLUSION OF THAT SCHOOL DAY.

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PLUS get a FREE gift
& enter to win
Vegas Golden Knights tickets!*

Check Out Your FREE Personal WiFi Card*

← Sign up at the Library today!*

Qualified library customers can visit a participating Library District branch to check out a FREE Personal WiFi Card, which will provide FREE internet access until June 30, 2024. For cardholders in areas where Cox WiFi service is limited, please visit your nearby branch to check out a Library District hotspot device.

Service
available
now through
June 30, 2024!

- In order to qualify for this FREE service, you must:
- Be age 18 years or older.
- Have a FREE Las Vegas-Clark County Library card.
- Not currently have internet access to meet your educational and/or employment needs.



Sign up at these locations: Centennial Hills Library, Clark County Library, East Las Vegas Library, Enterprise Library, Meadows Library, Rainbow Library, Sahara West Library, Spring Valley Library, Summerlin Library, Sunrise Library, West Charleston Library, West Las Vegas Library, Whitney Library, and Windmill Library.

For library cardholders in areas where Cox WiFi service is limited, please visit your nearby branch to check out a Library District hotspot device.

* While supplies last; giveaways may vary by branch.



For full details, visit
TheLibraryDistrict.org/FREEWiFi

¡ADEMÁS recibe un regalo GRATIS
& participe para ganar entradas
Vegas Golden Knights!*

Adquiere la Tarjeta de Acceso WiFi GRATIS*

← ¡Inscríbanse hoy mismo en la Biblioteca!

Los clientes de la biblioteca que califican pueden visitar una sucursal participante del Distrito Bibliotecario para solicitar una tarjeta personal WiFi GRATUITA, la cual proporciona acceso GRATIS al internet hasta el 30 de junio de 2024. Los tarjetahabientes en las áreas en donde el servicio de Cox WiFi está limitado pueden visitar su sucursal más cercana para solicitar prestado un punto de acceso al internet del Distrito Bibliotecario.

¡Servicio
disponible ahora
hasta
el 30 de junio
de 2024!

- Tener 18 años o ser mayores de 18.
- Tener una tarjeta GRATUITA de la Biblioteca de Las Vegas-Condado de Clark.
- No tener actualmente acceso a internet para cubrir sus necesidades educativas y/o de empleo.



Regístrese en estas sucursales: Biblioteca Centennial Hills, Biblioteca Clark County, Biblioteca East Las Vegas, Biblioteca Enterprise, Biblioteca Meadows, Biblioteca Rainbow, Biblioteca Sahara West, Biblioteca Spring Valley, Biblioteca Summerlin, Biblioteca Sunrise, Biblioteca West Charleston, Biblioteca West Las Vegas, Biblioteca Whitney, y Biblioteca Windmill.

Para los titulares de tarjetas en áreas donde el servicio WiFi de Cox es limitado, visite su sucursal más cercana para retirar un dispositivo de punto de acceso del Distrito Bibliotecario.

* Mientras duren las reservas; Los obsequios pueden variar según la sucursal.



Para más detalles, visite
TheLibraryDistrict.org/FREEWiFi

WHITNEY LIBRARY YOUTH SERVICES CALENDAR

5175 E Tropicana Ave.

MAY 2024

702-507-4015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Participate in the Summer Challenge! <i>Earn prizes for reading and completing activities in our Summer Challenge. Pick up a brochure at our desk, give us a call, or visit us for more information! Early registration from May 1st - May 14th!</i>			1 10:30 a.m. 5 and Under Storytime 11:15 a.m. Baby Time 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. After School Fun	2 10:30 a.m. Music & Movement Storytime 11:00 a.m. Stay and Play 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. After School Fun	3 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. After School Fun	4 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. LEGO League
Teen Zone Hours* Monday - Saturday 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Grades 6 - 12 <i>*Subject to change based on staff availability</i>			Free After School Snacks Monday - Friday 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Kids and Teens ages 6 - 18		LAST DAY OF TUTORING	
5 	6 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. After School Fun	7 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Fun to Play for Preschoolers <i>Registration Required</i> 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. After School Fun	8 10:30 a.m. 5 and Under Storytime 11:15 a.m. Baby Time 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. After School Fun	9 10:30 a.m. Music & Movement Storytime 11:00 a.m. Stay and Play 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. After School Fun	10 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. After School Fun	11 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. Robot Lab
12 	13 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. After School Fun	14 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Fun to Play for Preschoolers <i>Registration Required</i> 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. After School Fun	15 10:30 a.m. 5 and Under Storytime 11:15 a.m. Baby Time 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. After School Fun	16 10:30 a.m. Music & Movement Storytime 11:00 a.m. Stay and Play 2:30 p.m. Color Your Thoughts 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. After School Fun	17 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. After School Fun	18 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. Family Game Party
19 Weekly Storytimes will Resume in June	20	21 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Fun to Play for Preschoolers <i>Registration Required</i> 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Teen Zone Oculus	22 10:30 a.m. Movie Morning & Craft 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Teen Zone Oculus	23 10:30 a.m. Movie Morning & Craft 3:00 p.m. Bookmark-a-thon 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Teen Zone Oculus	24	25 Summer Challenge Kickoff Day! Uncle Ty-Rone: The Kid's Comedian & Ventriloquist Showtimes: 2:15 p.m. & 4 p.m.
26 	27 Library Closed for Memorial Day	28 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Teen Zone Oculus	29 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Teen Zone Oculus	30 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Teen Zone Oculus	31	

Program Descriptions and Ages

For questions about any of our free programs, please call 702-507-4015 or stop by.

Storytimes & Play Groups for Ages 0-5

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. for ages 0-5: 5 & Under Storytime except May 22nd and May 29th - This story program is for all children ages five and under and their caregivers. Families will enjoy books, songs, rhymes, and a craft while building language and literacy skills!

Wednesdays at 11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. for ages 0-18 months: Baby Time except May 22nd and May 29th - Babies from birth to 18 months and their caregivers will enjoy songs, nursery rhymes, and fingerplays together. This brain-building program includes book sharing time and language enrichment activities followed by play time!

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. for ages 0-5: Music & Movement Storytime except May 23rd and May 30th - Children ages 0-5 and their caregivers will enjoy an action-packed, movement-focused interactive story time featuring music, books, and more!

Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. for ages 0-5: Stay and Play except May 23rd and May 30th - Enjoy this play-based program for ages 0-5 and caregivers. Drop in, play with a variety of toys, and meet other families with young children in a relaxed environment.



Weekly & Special Events

Monday - Friday from 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. for ages 6 - 18: Kids Cafe - Free Meals - Free meals are provided in the Youth Services Department for kids and teens ages 6 - 18 every weekday while supplies last. Meals at this location are shelf stable and must be eaten in the library. Children must be present to receive meals. Food is provided by Three Square.

Monday - Saturday from 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. for teens (grades 6 - 12): Teen Zone Open Hours* - Teens in grades 6 - 12 are invited to hang out in the Teen Zone! Check out a chromebook, play video games, make crafts, or just enjoy your own space to chill with friends or relax and read. **Dates and times may change based on staff availability.*

Monday - Friday from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. for all ages: After School Fun - Join us after school between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. for a variety of fun and engaging activities for all ages. Choose from board games, STEM activities, art projects, and more at the tables in our Youth Services Department!

Saturday, May 4th from 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. for ages 6-12: LEGO League - Kids ages 6 - 12 are invited to create their own LEGO masterpiece to be displayed all month long in the library.

Tuesdays from May 7th - June 18th from 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. for families with children ages 3 - 5: Fun to Play for Preschoolers - Designed for families with preschoolers, this six-week program focuses on encouraging positive parent-child interaction and learning through creative play. For families with children ages 3-5. **Registration is required.** Please visit the Youth Services Desk or call us at (702) 507-4015 to reserve your spot.

Saturday, May 11th from 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. for ages 6-12: Robot Lab - Drop in and learn some coding basics by tinkering with a variety of technology and creating and coding robots! Featured tech may include Ozobots, Code and Go Mouse, LEGO WeDo, Dash, and more.

Thursday, May 16th at 2:30 p.m. for ages 12-18 in the Teen Zone: Color Your Thoughts - May is Mental Health Awareness Month and what better way to relieve your stress than by a day of art and teen coloring.

Saturday, May 18th from 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. for all ages: Family Game Party - Get your game on! Kids and families are invited to play a variety of card games, board games, and video games.

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from May 21st - May 30th in the Teen Zone: Teen Zone Oculus - Join us in the teen zone to play with our virtual reality headsets.

Wednesday, May 22nd and Thursday, May 23rd at 10:30 a.m. for children and families: Movie Morning & Craft - Join us in the Youth Services Department for a kid-friendly movie and age-appropriate craft.

Thursday, May 23rd at 3 p.m. for all ages: Get ready to read! Make a variety of bookmarks just in time for the Summer Reading Challenge!

Saturday, May 25th with Showtimes at 2:15 pm. and 4 p.m. for grades K - 5: Uncle Ty-Rone: The Kid's Comedian and Ventriloquist - Hip-Pop comedian and ventriloquist Uncle Ty-Rone is geared to today's youth and their families. The Kids Comedian is a masterful entertainer who arrives with a warm smile, a sincere drive to entertain and motivate audiences to succeed, and a BOX FULL OF FUN! Free and open to the public. Intended for children in grades K-5. Attendance counts as a Summer Challenge learning activity. Seating is limited and tickets may be required. For more information, please call the library branch at 702.507.4015.





Explore Knowledge Academy
Student Attendance Calendar
August 2024 - May 2025

2024

August 13	Classes Begin (Tuesday)
September 2	Labor Day - Business Office Closed
October 11	End of 1st Quarter
October 25	Nevada Day - No School - Business Office Closed
November 11	Veteran's Day - No School - Business Office Closed
November 25 - 29	Thanksgiving Break - No School - Business Office Closed
December 3	Classes Resume (Tuesday)
December 19	Student Early Release
December 20	Staff Development Day - No School - Business Office Closed End of 2nd Quarter - End of 1st Semester
December 24 - Jan 3	Winter Break - No School - Business Office Closed

2025

January 7	Classes Resume (Tuesday)
January 20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Business Office Closed
February 17 - 21	February Break - No School - Business Office Closed
February 28	End of 3rd Quarter
March 4	Classes Resume (Tuesday)
March 18 - 21	Spring Break - No School - Business Office Closed
April 18	No School - Business Office Closed
May 21	Student Early Release End of 4th Quarter - End of 2nd Semester End of the 2024 - 2025 School Year
May 22	Graduation 2025

EXPLORE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY PRE-ARRANGED ABSENCE REQUEST

THIS APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE FRONT OFFICE AT LEAST 1 WEEK PRIOR TO THE REQUESTED ABSENCE

NOTE: Prearranged absences WILL NOT be approved immediately preceding or following any scheduled EKA break. Prearranged exceeding the limitation on total absences WILL NOT be approved.

The Parent/Legal Guardian or student is responsible for checking Google Classroom for make-up work from all teachers and submitting the work as specified.

PLEASE NOTE: Nevada State Law allows a parent or legal guardian to arrange absences in advance. EKA allows up to **4** pre-arranged absences during a school year. All absences whether approved or unapproved count towards the total of absences for the year. Any arranged absence, for which the makeup work is not completed and submitted as required, is considered unapproved.

1 EKA School Day = 1.3 Days

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Date(s) Requested: _____

Reason for pre-arranged absence(s): _____

Parent/Guardian Print: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

OFFICE PERSONNEL ONLY

Name of Student: _____

Administrative Signature: _____ Date Received: _____

Dates Approved: _____

Parent Notified Date: _____

Office Personnel Initials: _____

Teacher(s) Notified Date: _____

Office Personnel Initials: _____

Absence Note

5871 Mountain Vista Street

Las Vegas NV 89120

Phone: (702) 870-5032

Fax: (702) 871-5032

www.ekacademy.org



*** Three (3) or more consecutive absences will require a note from a medical provider.

1 EKA School Day = 1.3 Days

Please use this form when your child misses school. Additional forms may be downloaded from the website and are available at the office.

Date(s) of Absence	
Period(s) Missed	
Student Name	
Student's Advisor	Grade

Reason for Absence(s)	
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
Home Phone	Work/Cell Phone
Parent Email	

Students who have been absent must provide written notice from the parent/guardian to the school explaining the reason for the absence within 3 school days after their return from the absence AND turn in **any missing work**.

Failure to provide an excused absence note within 3 days AND turn in missed school work will result in an

unexcused absence. In accordance with NRS, an unexcused absence is deemed truant.

It is the parent/guardian responsibility to request homework from the advisor.

Please Note: EKA must report habitual truancy to Child Protective Services for educational neglect.

For Office Use Only: ☐ Excused ☐ Unexcused ☐ Unexcused Due To Incomplete Work

EKA Administration and Office Staff Email Addresses

Position	Name	Email
Superintendent	Abbe Mattson	amattson@ekacademy.org
Principal	Dawn Gustafson	dgustafson@ekacademy.org
Assistant Principal	Donna Childers	dstewardchilders@ekacademy.org
Dean of Students	Butch Heiss	bheiss@ekacademy.org
Special Ed Facilitator	Maureen Turnbull	mturnbull@ekacademy.org
Operations Manager	Hope Vivas	hvivas@ekacademy.org
Finance Manager	Lori Rogers	lrogers@ekacademy.org
Technology Manager	Wil Jones	wjones@ekacademy.org
School Nurse	Kaitlyn Nichols	knichols@ekacademy.org
Counselor	Imelda Keyer	ikeyer@ekacademy.org
Social Worker	Addison Moses	amoses@ekacademy.org
Literacy Specialist	Stephanie Estores	sestores@ekacademy.org
Registrar	Rita Walls	rwalls@ekacademy.org
Office Specialist	Darlene Acosta	dacosta@ekacademy.org
Office Specialist	Bobbie Gonzalez	bgonzalez@ekacademy.org
FASA (First Aid Safety Assistant)	Michelle Hay	mhay@ekacademy.org
FASA (First Aid Safety Assistant)	Jazmen Locquiao	jlocquiao@ekacademy.org
General Communication / Attendance	Office Staff	parentportal@ekacademy.org

EKA Teacher Email Addresses

Grade Level	Teacher Name	Email
Elementary	Ryan Arguelles	rarguelles@ekacademy.org
Elementary	Jen Cook	jcook@ekacademy.org
Elementary	Sandon Edmonds	sedmonds@ekacademy.org
Elementary	Meggan Fowler	mfowler@ekacademy.org
Elementary	Sonia Guevara Zarate	sguevarazarate@ekacademy.org
Elementary	Mary Harper	mharper@ekacademy.org
Elementary	Annie Jacobites	ajacobites@ekacademy.org
Elementary	Kailene Krukowski	kkrukowski@ekacademy.org
Elementary	Dawn Maahs	dmaahs@ekacademy.org
Elementary	Brenda McNulty	bmcnulty@ekacademy.org
Elementary	Heather Mills-Jaramillo	hmills-jaramillo@ekacademy.org
Elementary	Tania Ordinola	tordinola@ekacademy.org
Elementary	Kelly Perea	kperea@ekacademy.org
Elementary	Judith Rodriguez	jrodriguez@ekacademy.org
Elementary	Nataly Rodriguez	nrodriguez@ekacademy.org
Elementary/Secondary	Joanne Sanders	jsanders@ekacademy.org
Elementary	Amanda Snyder	asnyder@ekacademy.org
Elementary	Randy Soddors	rsoddors@ekacademy.org
Elementary	Samantha Steel	ssteel@ekacademy.org
Elementary	Frank Sullivan	fsullivan@ekacademy.org
Elementary	Jeter Tavares	jtavares@ekacademy.org
Elementary	Jason Wright	jwright@ekacademy.org
Secondary	Samantha Barnett	sbarnett@ekacademy.org
Secondary	Renee Berto	rberto@ekacademy.org
Secondary	Donna Childers	dchilders@ekacademy.org
Secondary	Kyle Dammeir	kdammeir@ekacademy.org
Secondary	Kara Donnelly	kdonnelly@ekacademy.org
Secondary	Daniel Fuller	dfuller@ekacademy.org
Secondary	Butch Heiss	bheiss@ekacademy.org
Secondary	Deni LaBree	dlabree@ekacademy.org
Secondary	David Lujan	dlujan@ekacademy.org
Secondary	Samantha Malcolm	smalcolm@ekacademy.org
Secondary	Abbe Mattson	amattson@ekacademy.org
Secondary	Brittany Mattson	bmattson@ekacademy.org
Secondary	Kimberly McArthur	kmcarthur@ekacademy.org
Secondary	Erin Mc Iver	emciver@ekacademy.org
Secondary	Tonna Purtle	tpurtle@ekacademy.org
Secondary	Anthony Quan-Williams	aquanwilliams@ekacademy.org
Secondary	Patrick Quinn	pquinn@ekacademy.org
Secondary	Kate Smith	ksmith@ekacademy.org
Secondary	Cynthia Winterringer	cwinterringer@ekacademy.org



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Dear Explore Knowledge Academy Families, Guardians, and Caregivers:

All students and members of our school communities deserve to feel safe, welcomed, and included. It is on all of us to work together to prevent firearm violence and to avoid the harm and tragedy that shootings of any kind can cause in the spaces in which we live, learn, work, and play.

Safe firearm storage is one of many preventative actions that you can take in keeping our school community and school buildings and grounds safe. When firearms are stored safely, it can help prevent them from getting into the hands of children and teens, who may use them to, intentionally or unintentionally, harm themselves or others. Safe storage can go a long way in preventing lives from being lost or permanently altered. If you have firearms in your home or if your child spends time in a space where firearms are present, there are important steps that can be taken to keep firearms secured and out of reach of unintended users.

Firearm-Related Injuries and Deaths: A Problem We Must Solve Together

Firearm-related injuries and deaths are a public health crisis that communities across the nation face every day:

- Since 2018, there have been more than 100 school shooting incidents per year in our country and those numbers have steadily increased.¹
- Approximately three-quarters of perpetrators in school-based active shooter situations acquired their firearm from the home of a parent or close relative.² This illustrates the close connection between your role as families, caregivers, and guardians and the role of Explore Knowledge Academy in keeping students safe while on school grounds.
- However, this issue goes beyond school-based active shooter situations and includes a variety of firearm injury types, including interpersonal violence, suicide, and unintentional fatal and nonfatal firearm injuries.³
- More than 4 million children live in a household with at least one unlocked and loaded firearm.⁴ Studies have found that households with both locked firearms and locked ammunition have significantly lower risks of self-inflicted firearm injuries and even lower risks of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens compared to households that did not safely store firearms.⁵

Safe Firearm Storage: Actions to Take to Keep Our Communities Safe

Safe firearm storage can help prevent and minimize the risk of firearm-related deaths and injuries. Everyone, both firearm owners and non-owners, has a role to play in building awareness of safe, responsible firearm storage. Below are simple, highly effective practices that can help to reduce firearm-related incidents in our community and help protect our kids. In addition to these practices, it is important to also engage children and adolescents in conversations about the dangers associated with using firearms and what to do and not do in the event they access a firearm, to prevent fatal or non-fatal injuries.



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- **Safely Store Firearms:** Store firearms—always unloaded—in a tamper proof locked cabinet, box, safe, firearm vault, or storage case that children or other unauthorized adults cannot access.
- **Safely Store Ammunition:** Store ammunition in a separate, tamper-proof locked cabinet, safe, firearm vault, or storage case that children or other unauthorized adults cannot access.
- **Secure Firearms:** Use trigger locks or cable locks to prevent a firearm from firing. (More information can be found on the [Safe Firearm Storage Fact Sheet](#), developed by the U.S. Department of Justice.)
 - Trigger locks use a mechanism that clamps down around the trigger or trigger housing to prevent it from being pressed (*Note: trigger locks should not be installed on loaded firearms*).
 - In a cable lock, a cable is threaded through the barrel or action of a firearm to prevent it from firing.

Explore Knowledge Academy remains committed to helping ensure the safety of our students and school community. We can all work together to promote awareness about how we can protect our children and our whole school communities by safely storing firearms and prevent tragedies from ever occurring. Thank you for being a partner in these efforts, and for helping reduce firearm-related injury and deaths in our community.

Sincerely,

Abbe Mattson

Superintendent

¹ Riedman, D. (2023). K-12 School Shooting Database. <https://k12ssdb.org/all-shootings>

² National Threat Assessment Center. (2019). Protecting America's Schools: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School Violence. U.S. Secret Service, Department of Homeland Security. <http://bit.ly/3SfmSgw>

³ National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention. (September 19, 2023). Fast Facts: Firearm Violence and Injury Prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/firearms/fastfact.html>

⁴ Miller, M., & Azrael, D. (2022). Firearm Storage in U.S. Households With Children: Findings From the 2021 National Firearm Survey. JAMA Network Open, 5(2): e2148823.

⁵ Grossman, D.C., Mueller, B.A., Riedy, C., Dowd, M.D., Villaveces, A., Prodzinski, J., Nakagawara, J., Howard, J., Thiersch, N., & Harruff, R. (2005). Gun Storage Practices and Risk of Youth Suicide and Unintentional Firearm Injuries. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/200330>.



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Helpful Resources

More information about safe firearm storage and practices can be found below. Please feel free to read and share with family, friends, and neighbors.

This list below is included for the reader's convenience and contains examples of potentially useful products and resources. Inclusion of such information does not constitute an endorsement by the Department or the Federal government, nor a preference/support for these examples over others. The Department does not control or guarantee the accuracy, relevance, timeliness, or completeness of any outside information. Customize this entire form field to only include the resources that you would like to feature in the final letter disseminated.

- [Safe Firearm Storage Fact Sheet](#), U.S. Department of Justice
- [Preventing Mass Attacks in Our Communities Webinar](#), U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center
- [Securing Your Firearm](#) and [Explaining Gun Safety to Kids](#), Project Childsafe
- [Be SMART, Guide to Secure Gun Storage Devices, Which States Have Child-Access and/or Secure Storage Laws?, Solutions: Secure Gun Storage](#), Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund
- [Secure Storage of Lethal Means: Keeping Children and Families Safe](#), Sandy Hook Promise
- [Understanding Firearm-Related Injury and School Violence Podcast Series](#), Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention

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