

EKAPS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

2/24 - 2/28/25

UPCOMING EVENTS!

2/25 - ACT TESTING - 11 TH GRADE ONLY

Students who are not participating in the ACT (K-10 AND 12th grade) will complete their school work from home.

2/28 - Western Day

3/10 - Parent Teacher Conferences

Elementary Breakfast with Books March 4th, 5th, and 6th

Join us for a fun time of enjoying snacks and reading books! This is a free event for all K-5 students. Parents/Guardians are welcome to attend. We are asking for donations of snacks for this event. Your help is greatly appreciated!

See the attached flyer for more information.

What's In This Week's Issue?

- Explore More Mondays Information
- Satisfaction Survey Information
- After School Activities
- Spring Parent Conferences Information
- Enrollment Information
- Fun Fact of The Week

Order
HERE



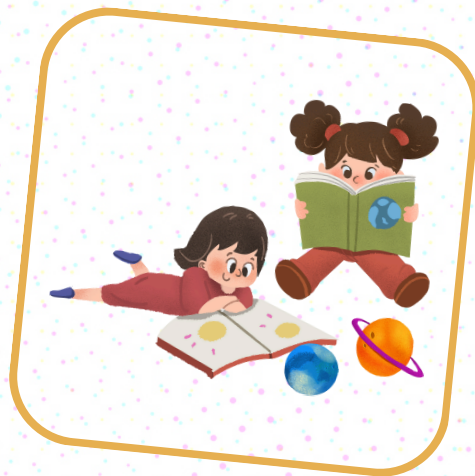
FUN FOOD WEDESDBAYS

2/26 - Little Caesars
Last day to order 2/21

3/12 - Chicken Shack
Last day to order 3/7

EXPLORE MORE MONDAYS

Not sure what to do with your elementary EKAPS student on a Monday? Could your child use some extra help working on their math facts or reading fluency? Give Explore More Mondays a try. The first time attending is free for all EKAPS students. At Explore More Mondays, students spend their Mondays (available from 8:00 am - 6 pm) with EKAPS staff who help reinforce learning concepts, give students a creative outlet through art, and lots of fun and activities to make and do. It is always a great day at EKAPS, especially on Mondays!



After School Activities

Tuesdays

Elementary Karate
Secondary Board Games

Wednesdays

2nd Grade Cheer
Elementary Drone Club

Thursdays

3rd - 5th Grade Cheer
Secondary Dance Team
Secondary Dungeon and Dragons Club

Fridays

Elementary Chess Club

SPRING PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Families,

EKAPS is having its spring Parent Teacher Virtual Conferences on **Monday, March 10, 2025, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.** You have until the end of the day, **Thursday the 6th of March, at 3 p.m.**, to schedule a conference with our teaching staff. All conferences will be held virtually using Google Meet. The Google Meet link will be sent to you from one of your student's teachers. You will have the option to meet with one teacher, or you can choose to meet with up to four teachers simultaneously for each student.

Conferences will be scheduled in 15-minute blocks. If you are unable to meet with our teachers on this day or within these times, please reach out individually to the teachers you want to meet with to set up your own conference date/time. Please use the link below to schedule your conference.

Complete all information in this link to ensure that your request can be fulfilled

https://exploreknowledgeacademy.formstack.com/forms/parent_teacher_conferences_2425

If you need assistance scheduling your conference, please contact us at parentportal@ekacademy.org.



EXPLORE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY'S K-5

BREAKFAST WITH BOOKS

**YELLOW &
PINK ZONE**

MARCH 5

BLUE ZONE MARCH 6

**MP ROOM
BUILDING C**

8:15AM-9:15AM

**JOIN US FOR A FUN TIME OF EATING SNACKS AND
READING BOOKS! THIS IS A FREE EVENT FOR ALL K-5.
ALL K-5 PARENTS/GUARDIANS ARE WELCOME. MP ROOM
DOORS WILL NOT OPEN TO PARENTS UNTIL 8:15 AM.
CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU DO NOT KNOW YOUR
COLOR DISMISSAL ZONE.**





**WE ARE EXCITED TO HOLD BREAKFAST WITH BOOKS
WITH OUR FAMILIES AT THE BEGINNING OF MARCH.
TO HELP THIS EVENT BE A SUCCESS WE ARE
LOOKING FOR DONATIONS OF INDIVIDUALLY
WRAPPED SNACKS AND JUICE BOXES. TREATS MUST
BE NUT-FREE. PLEASE BRING DONATIONS TO THE
FRONT OFFICE OF BUILDING A OR B.
DONATIONS ARE NEEDED BY FEBRUARY 27TH.**



BREAKING NEWS

OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR THE
2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR IS
AVAILABLE ONLINE THROUGH
OUR WEBSITE.

EKAPS 2025- 2026 ENROLLMENT APPLICATION

*All current EKAPS students must complete the application (re-enroll) to secure their space for the upcoming school year.

Once the charter school reaches capacity, students seeking admission will be placed on a waiting list with vacancies filled through a lottery.

New incoming siblings may be enrolled at the same time by choosing First-Time Enrollment. Once the online enrollment form is complete for new students, our Registrar will contact you with the required documents you will need to submit to complete the enrollment process.

A once-a-year school fee of \$120 per student, is expected to be paid per student at the time of enrollment acceptance. The fee for each additional student in the same family is \$100. All fees are Non-Refundable. *No additional fee for use of Credit/Debit Card for payments. You can pay the 2025-2026 school fee online by visiting our website.

School Fees 2025-2026_Sy
In order to assist our families, we are offering a Financial Payment Plan. If you wish to set up a financial agreement please visit the link provided and make your first payment (a minimum of \$25).
https://exploreknowledgeacademy.formstack.com/forms/school_fee_payment_plan

For questions about enrollment or if your student does not plan on returning to EKAPS in the fall (August) of 2025, please contact our Registrar at rwalls@ekacademy.org.

*Please note: CCSD Online Registration must also be completed in April of 2025. EKAPS will let you know once this process is available to complete. In an effort to receive the most updated information, additional enrollment paperwork will be required to be completed in the summer months of 2025.

Thank you for your cooperation. We look forward to a great 2025-2026 school year!



SATISFACTION SURVEYS



It is almost time for our annual Family Satisfaction Survey. At EKAPS we are committed to an ongoing improvement process. We would appreciate your feedback on topics that we continually strive to improve. All submissions are anonymous. Links to the survey will be found in the weekly newsletter, direct emails, on our website starting on March 1st. All responses need to be received by March 28, 2025.



HELPFUL LINKS

[EKAPS School Calendar](#)

[Family Handbook of EKAPS Policies](#)

[Pre-Arranged Absence](#)

[EKAPS ATTENDANCE POLICY](#)

[Absence Note](#)

[EKAPS Traffic & Valet Policy](#)

[Better Lunch](#)

[Wednesday fun food calendar](#)

[EKAPS Events Calendar](#)

[EKAPS Swag](#)

[Smiths Inspiring Donations](#)

SEARCH FOR - [Explore Knowledge Foundation - FF743](#)

EKAPS Contact Information

5871 Mountain Vista St. Las Vegas, NV 89120

Telephone: (702) 870-5032

Email: PARENTPORTAL@ekacademy.org

[Contact Us](#)

[EKAPS Teacher & Staff Emails](#)

click here!

UPCOMING FIELDTRIPS

2/27/25

HOOVER DAM

5th GRADE STUDENTS

DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 21ST

3/06/2025

STEP AFRIKA!

GRADES 6TH, 7TH &

SECONDARY DANCE TEAM

DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 28TH

Scan me



PLEASE NOTE

TRIPS MAY FILL PRIOR TO
THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE
AS SEATS ARE LIMITED.

PAYMENT AND PERMISSION
SLIP MUST BE COMPLETED IN
ORDER FOR STUDENT(S) TO
ATTEND THE FIELD TRIP.

EKAPS Fun Fact of the week!

Did you know?

The average backpack
weighs 20% of the
student's body weight!
It's recommended to
keep that percentage
below 10%.

HOOVER DAM 5TH GRADE FIELD TRIP

FEBRUARY 27, 2025

8:30 AM - 1:00 PM

\$35 PER STUDENT

SPACES ARE LIMITED!

DEADLINE IS NOON ON FEB. 21, 2025
NO EXCEPTIONS

*Click
Here*

CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP

STEP AFRiKA!

Smith Center Field Trip
Thursday, March 6, 2025

9:30 am to 11:30 am

Grades 6 & 7 &

Secondary Dance Team are invited
to attend

**\$25
PER
STUDENT**

[CLICK HERE TO FILL OUT FORM](#)

PERMISSION SLIPS AND PAYMENT DUE BY NOON ON FEB 28, 2025

Explore More Mondays

at EKAPS

LIMITED SPOTS ENROLL TODAY

Beginning January 13, 2025

7:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Explore More Mondays Program provides a safe environment with academic enrichment, social skills and **FUN** to K-5 students!

FEES PER STUDENT / PER MONDAY

THE 1ST MONDAY ATTENDANCE WILL BE FREE OF CHARGE

AFTER 1ST ATTENDANCE - \$40 - PER STUDENT

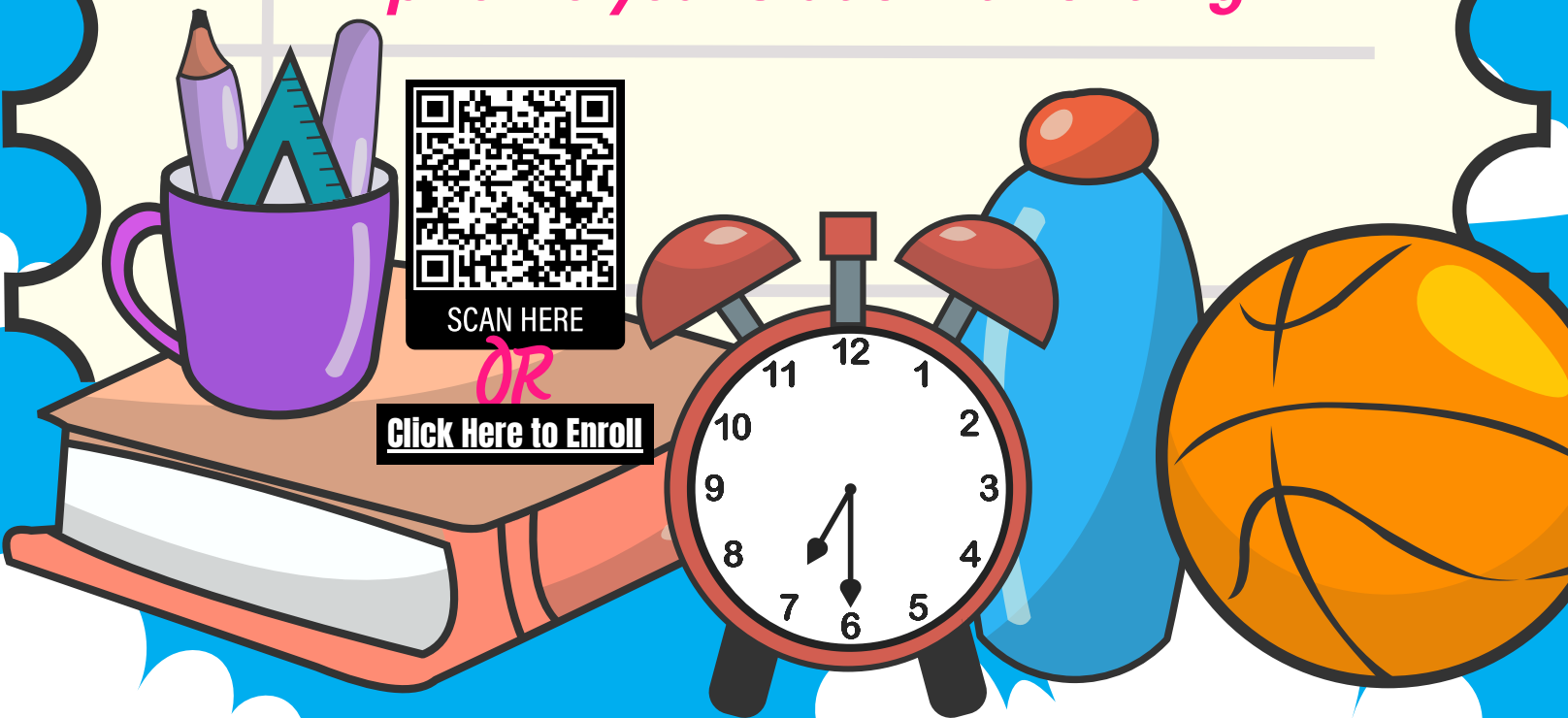
***ALL Fees MUST be paid the Friday
prior to your student attending***



SCAN HERE

OR

Click Here to Enroll



IMPORTANT AFTER-SCHOOL INFORMATION

EKAPS understands that at times circumstances may prevent the timely pickup of a student. Therefore, it is critical that alternate arrangements be made for after-school care. In case of an emergency and a student is not picked up at the end of the school day, school staff will make an effort to reach parents/guardians and emergency contacts to arrange for student pickup. In the event that a parent/guardian or emergency contact is unreachable, or communication hasn't been received from the parent/guardian the Left Over student will be taken to Safekey per the EKAPS After-School Care agreement. Parents/Guardians will be required to pay EKAPS for Safekey at the rate of \$30 per student, per day, unless their student(s) is registered and the registration fee paid for Safekey through Clark County.

VALET REMINDERS

**Please be mindful
of our students
and staff during
AM drop off and
PM pick-up.**



TO KEEP OUR STUDENTS SAFE DURING THE HECTIC DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP TIMES, WE ASK FOR YOUR COOPERATION. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU AND ANYONE DESIGNATED TO DRIVE YOUR STUDENT(S) AGREE TO OUR TRAFFIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR SUPPORTING OUR EFFORTS TO PROTECT ALL OF OUR STUDENTS.

PLEASE FOLLOW THESE PROCEDURES AT ALL TIMES:

- VALET PLACARDS MUST BE VISABLE UPON ARRIVAL TO OUR CAMPUS FOR AFTER SCHOOL PICK UP.
- SPEED LIMIT IS 5 MPH IS REQUIRED FOR STAFF TO INPUT VALET NUMBERS INTO VALET SYSTEM.
- ALWAYS WATCH FOR STUDENTS CROSSING OR WALKING THROUGH TRAVEL LANES ON CAMPUS.
- TO PREVENT UNNECESSARY TRAFFIC BACK-UPS OR DELAYS, STUDENTS SHOULD DISEMBARK OR EMBARK IN AN EXPEDITIOUS AND SAFE MANNER.
- DRIVERS MUST REMAIN IN THEIR CARS UNLESS PARKED IN A MARKED PARKING SPOT.
- TRAFFIC FLOWS COUNTERCLOCKWISE AROUND THE SCHOOL DURING PEAK PICK UP AND DROP OFF TIMES. (7:30 - 8:15 AND 2:40 - 4:00)

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED:

- DROPPING OFF STUDENTS ON CAMPUS PRIOR TO 7:30 AM.
- EXITING A VEHICLE ON MOUNTAIN VISTA ON THE NON-CURBSIDE LANE.
- DROPPING STUDENTS OFF IN THE TRAFFIC LANES ON MOUNTAIN VISTA.
- DOUBLE-PARKING ON MOUNTAIN VISTA.
- STOPPING TRAFFIC ON MOUNTAIN VISTA TO "WAIT" FOR A PARKING SPOT.
- PARKING/STOPPING/STANDING IN THE CONED OFF AREA ON MOUNTAIN VISTA.
- PARKING/STOPPING/STANDING IN EKAPS' DRIVEWAY.
- PARKING/STOPPING/STANDING ON MOUNTAIN VISTA BETWEEN EKAPS' DRIVEWAY AND CAROL CIRCLE.
- LEAVING VEHICLES UNATTENDED IN THE NO PARKING ZONE ON MOUNTAIN VISTA.

Elementary SBAC Calendar

3RD GRADE

Thursday, April 17th	ELA
Tuesday, April 22nd	ELA
Friday, April 25th	Math
Tuesday, April 29	Math

4TH GRADE

Tuesday, April 15th	ELA
Wednesday, April 16th	ELA
Wednesday, April 23rd	Math
Thursday, April 24th	Math

5TH GRADE

Tuesday, April 1st	Science
Wednesday, April 2nd	Science
Thursday, April 17th	ELA

Tuesday, April 22nd	ELA
Friday, April 25th	Math
Tuesday, April 29th	Math



Secondary SBAC Calendar

6TH GRADE

Tuesday, April 8th	ELA
Wednesday, April 9th	ELA
Thursday, April 10th	Math

7TH GRADE

Tuesday, April 8th	ELA
Wednesday, April 9th	ELA
Thursday, April 10th	Math

8TH GRADE

Thursday, April 3rd	Science
Tuesday, April 8th	ELA
Wednesday, April 9th	ELA
Thursday, April 10th	Math

9TH GRADE

Thursday, April 3rd	Science
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Leap 4 Fun

Let your child shine in the Spotlight ...
Recitals and Exhibitions are almost here!!!



Classes taught here at your child's school!

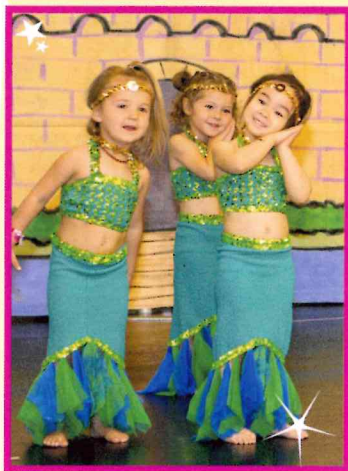
Explore Knowledge Academy of Public Speaking

Cheer/Gymnastics

Wed. at 3:30-4:15 (K-2nd) or Thurs. at 3:30-4:15 (3-5)

Karate/Gymnastics - Tues. at 3:30-4:15 (K-3rd)

\$65 monthly (plus a 1 time \$10 belt fee for karate)



REGISTER ONLINE AT LEAP4FUN.COM
702-433-5404





**CALLING ALL
EKAPS
FAMILIES!**

WHAT IS WATCH D.O.G.S.?

WatchDOGS are fathers, mothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts and other parental-figures who volunteer for at least one day each year at an official WATCH D.O.G.S. ® school. During the day, WatchDOGS may read and work on flash cards with students, play at recess, eat lunch with students, watch the school entrances and hallways, assist with traffic flow and any other assigned activities where they actively engage with not only their own students, but other students as well. Many school principals have reported that the mere presence of a WatchDOG dramatically reduces reports of bullying.

SCAN ME!

SCAN HERE TO SIGN UP



SCAN ME!

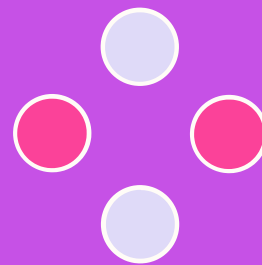
PURCHASE YOUR WATCHDOG UNIFORM



Explore Knowledge Academy of Public Speaking

2024-2025 YEARBOOK

Order Early for Lower Prices!



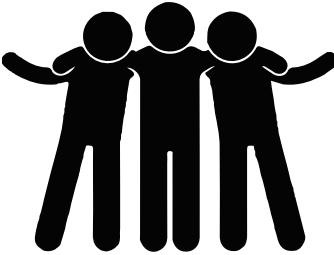
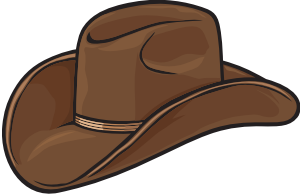
Order on or before	Price	Purchase from
January 31st	\$25	Buytheyearbook.com
February 28th	\$30	Buytheyearbook.com
March 31st	\$40	Buytheyearbook.com
Once delivered in May	\$45	ekacademy.org/shop_eka/
Add a personalization on the cover before January 31st	Additional \$10	Buytheyearbook.com
Add PROM supplement pages before March 31st	Additional \$5	Buytheyearbook.com



School Code: 722359



FEBRUARY 2025

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
4 Love Grams for Sale Yearbooks For Sale \$30  	5 Love Grams for Sale Class and Spring Photos  	6 Love Grams for Sale  	7 NFL Super Bowl Dress Up Day Secondary Spring Dance @5 Love Grams for Sale  
11	12 Dress for Success Dress Up Day Chicken Shack Lunch  	13	14 Friendship Day Friends Matching Dress Up  
18 NO SCHOOL!	19 NO SCHOOL!	20 NO SCHOOL!	21 NO SCHOOL!
25  ACT Testing  Work from Home Day - Google Classroom Assignments 11th GRADE STUDENTS ON CAMPUS ONLY 	26 Little Caesars Lunch 	27 Secondary Speech Competition 	28 End of 3rd Quarter Western Dress Up Day Yearbook Prices go up to \$40 tomorrow  



Want to advertise to families at the school ?



***For a small donation, your business can be displayed
on the fence between Building B and C each semester***

**Contact:
foundation@ekacademy.org
for details**



*The banners displayed are in no way an
endorsement by Explore Knowledge Academy of
Public Speaking or Explore Knowledge Foundation of
any services, activities and/or products.*



Whitney Library Youth Services Calendar

5175 E. Tropicana Ave.

FEBRUARY 2025

702-507-4015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FREE AFTER SCHOOL SNACKS Provided by Three Square Monday - Friday 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Kids and Teens Ages 6 - 18		HOMEWORK HELP & SKILL BUILDING Monday - Thursday 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Grades K - 12 <i>Except February 10 & 17</i>				1 LEGO League 3 p.m. 
2 5 & Under Storytime 10:30 a.m. 	3	4 Baby Time 10:30 a.m. 	5 5 & Under Storytime 10:30 a.m. 	6 Music & Movement 10:30 a.m. Stay & Play 11 a.m. Bridge Building Challenge 3 p.m.	7	8 STEAM Storytime: Sound 10:30 a.m. Video Game Day 3 p.m.
9 5 & Under Storytime 10:30 a.m. Fiber Arts Club 12 p.m. 	10 DIY Felt Rose Bouquets 3 p.m. 	11 Baby Time 10:30 a.m. 	12 5 & Under Storytime 10:30 a.m. Valentine's Day Crafternoon 3:30 p.m. 	13 Music & Movement 10:30 a.m. Stay & Play 11 a.m. 	14 	15 Drawing Chalk Art Day 3 p.m. 
16 5 & Under Storytime 10:30 a.m. Teen Lit Book Club 1 p.m. 	CLOSED Presidents Day	18 Baby Time 10:30 a.m. 	19 5 & Under Storytime 10:30 a.m. 	20 Music & Movement 10:30 a.m. Stay & Play 11 a.m. Friendship Necklaces 3 p.m.	21	22 Robot Lab 3 p.m. 
23 5 & Under Storytime 10:30 a.m. Fiber Arts Club 12 p.m. Slumber Storytime 4:30 p.m.	24	25 Baby Time 10:30 a.m. Mini Frame Magnets 3 p.m. 	26 5 & Under Storytime 10:30 a.m. 	27 Music & Movement 10:30 a.m. Stay & Play 11 a.m. Pokémon Day 3 p.m. 	28	 Program Details on Back 

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Storytimes & Playgroups

Five and Under Storytime | Sundays & Wednesdays | 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. | Ages 0 - 5

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!

Baby Time | Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. | Ages 0 - 18 Months

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!

Music & Movement | Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. | Ages 0 - 5

Children ages 0-5 and their caregivers will enjoy an action-packed, movement-focused interactive story time featuring music, books, and more!

Stay & Play | Thursdays, 11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | Ages 0 - 5

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.

Saturday, 2/8 | STEAM Storytime: Sound | 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. | Ages 3 - 5

Enjoy this hands-on storytime that mixes science with stories! This month's theme is sound, and it will introduce your toddlers and preschoolers to acoustics and sound waves.

Sunday, 2/23 | Slumber Storytime | 4:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. | Ages 0 - 11

Wind down and relax at Slumber Storytime, where we will share bedtime rhymes, sing lullabies, and read some calming stories perfect for winding down your little one.

Regular Programs

Free Meals | Monday - Friday, 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Ages 6 - 18

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.

Homework Help and Skill Building | Monday - Thursday (Except February 10 & 17) | 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. | Grades K - 12

Students in grades K-12 are welcome to drop in any time Monday through Thursday between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. for tutoring and homework help from CCSD teachers and teacher aides through Andson. Students must bring work with them, and tutoring is provided in small group settings.

Special Programs

Saturday, 2/1 | LEGO League | 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. | Ages 6 - 12

Kids ages 6-12 are invited to create their own LEGO masterpiece to be displayed all month long in the library.

Thursday, 2/6 | Bridge Building Challenge | 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. | Ages 10 - 17

Are you up for the challenge? Build a bridge using household items and see how much weight it can hold!

Sunday, 2/9 & 2/23 | Fiber Arts Club | 12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Ages 13 - 17

Join us for an afternoon of crochet, knitting, and other fiber arts! In this easygoing environment, you will be able to learn or work on your current project. All skill levels are welcome!

Monday, 2/10 | DIY Felt Rose Bouquets | 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Ages 13 - 17

Express your love this Valentine's Day with a beautiful felt rose bouquet that you made yourself - petal by petal! You get to take your creations home to use as decoration or as a gift to your loved ones.

Wednesday, 2/12 | Valentine's Day Crafternoon | 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Ages 5 - 17

Enjoy an afternoon of Valentine's Day crafts, including heart window clings and candy-jar shaped valentines!

Saturday, 2/15 | Drawing Chalk Art Day | 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. | Ages 4 & Up

Join us in the Young People's Library to use drawing chalk to create your own one-of-a-kind art on paper. Take your creation home or leave it with us to display in the library!

Sunday, 2/16 | Teen Lit Book Club | 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Ages 13 - 17

Join our new monthly YA book club for the opportunity to discuss your thoughts on the month's pick with your peers! This month, we are reading "Divine Rivals" by Rebecca Ross, an epic enemies-to-lovers fantasy novel filled with hope and heartbreak, and the unparalleled power of love.

Thursday, 2/20 | Friendship Necklaces | 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. | Ages 13 - 17

What's the best gift you could give to a friend? A wish, of course! Join us as we create one-of-a-kind necklaces made of potion bottles. Decorate them with glitter, dried flowers, and a wish! Make one for yourself, or a friend and trade! Please note: supplies are limited and will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis.

Saturday, 2/22 | Robot Lab | 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. | Ages 6 - 12

Drop in and learn some coding basics by tinkering with a variety of technology and creating and coding robots! Featured tech may include Codey Rocky, Cubelets, Dash, LEGO WeDo, Ozobots, and more.

Tuesday, 2/25 | Mini Frame Magnets | 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. | Ages 8 - 17

Get crafty and come design your own mini picture frame magnet to decorate your fridge or locker. It's the perfect way to preserve memories with a personalized touch!

Thursday, 2/27 | Pokémon Day | 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. | Ages 3 - 17

Get ready to catch 'em all—crafts and games that is! Join us for an afternoon of fun, games, and more to celebrate Pokémon Day!



"Personalizing Education – Challenging Minds."

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.



"Personalizing Education – Challenging Minds."

- **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>.



"Personalizing Education – Challenging Minds."

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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