

EKAPS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

3/11 - 3/14/25

UPCOMING EVENTS!

3/3 - 3/17 - Online Book Fair

3/13 - McTeacher Night

3/14 - Hat Day

Yearbook Art Collection
pictures are due **Friday, 3/14**

3/18 - 3/21 - Spring Break
NO School - Business Office
Closed

3/28 - MLB Dress Up Day

Kinder Round-up Monday, April 14, 2025

Do you or maybe know of a new family
that may have a child ready to start
kindergarten next school year? Have
them join us at our Kinder Round-Up to
learn about our educational program at
EKAPS.

What's In This Week's Issue?

- Explore More Mondays Information
- Satisfaction Survey Information
- After School Activities
- Enrollment Information
- Kinder Roundup Information
- Fun Fact of The Week

Order
HERE



FUN FOOD WEDESDBAYS

3/26 - Olive Garden
Last day to order 3/26

4/9 - Chicken Shack
Last day to order 4/4

SATISFACTION SURVEYS

It is 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.

The link to the survey can be found below, on our website, and on our Facebook page as well. The password for EKAPS Families is **ekaps2025**. Please do not share this password with anyone that does not currently have an enrolled student(s) at the school. Contact the front office by emailing parentportal@ekacademy.org if you have any difficulty accessing the link. All surveys need to be completed by March 28th.

LINK TO SURVEY

<https://forms.gle/fka9XTtsDXciV8cC8>

Student: _____

Teacher: _____

**Join us at McDonald's
Sunset & Stephanie**

McTeacher's Night®

THURSDAY!

March 13th

5-7 pm

**15% of all Food Sales
Inside, Drive-Thru,
And McDelivery
Go Directly to
E K A !**

\$1 Raffle for School!

**You could win
Happy Meals
For a Year !
(2 per month)**



Color this flyer and bring it with you! We'll display your artwork in the restaurant!

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



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

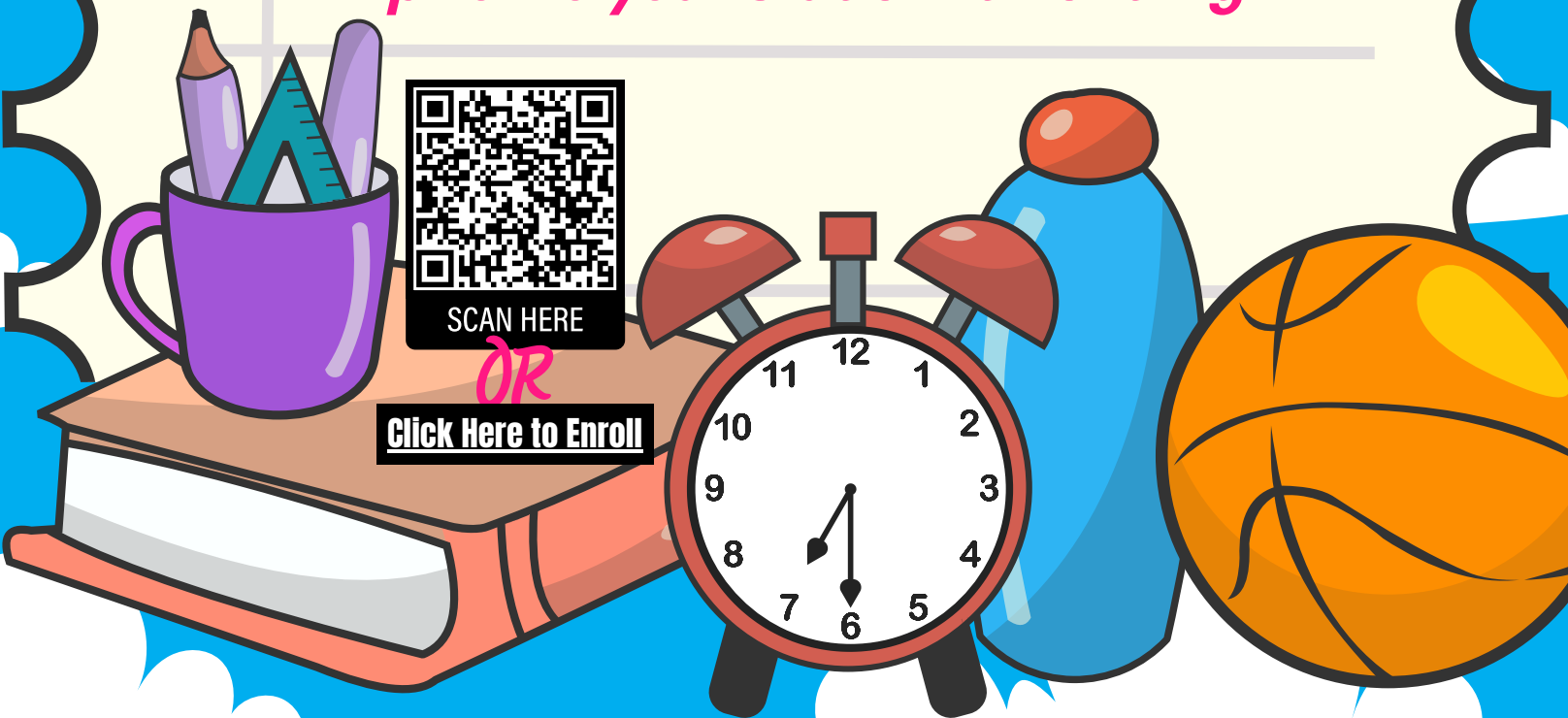
***ALL Fees MUST be paid the Friday
prior to your student attending***



SCAN HERE

OR

Click Here to Enroll



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!

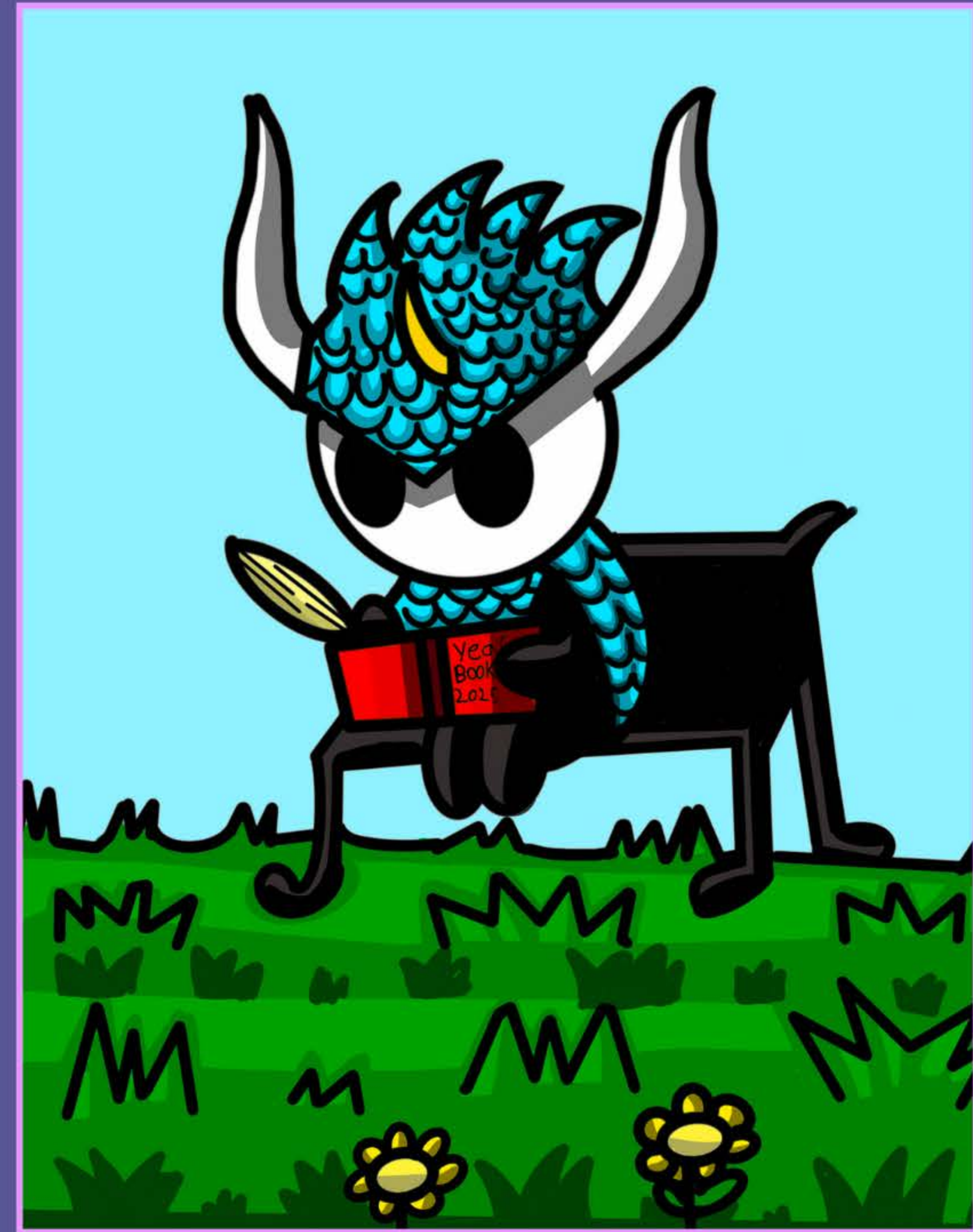
BE PART OF THE 2024-2025 YEARBOOK K-12 ART COLLECTION

THEME:

**DRAW THE SEA DRAGON IN
YOUR FAVORITE VIDEO GAME.
GO BACK INTO THE 80/90S OR
GO INTO THE FUTURE!**

***ALL TRADITIONAL AND DIGITAL
ART ARE WELCOMED!***

**Important: Put your first and last
name and grade level on back of
the drawing or on a sticky note.**



Example

Top 10 entrees will be showcased in the yearbook!

Due by MARCH 14th

*Turn physical art into the front offices.
Send digital art to bmattson@ekacademy.org*

Create Today!

Email bmattson@ekacademy.org for any questions



NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE AVIATION INNOVATION FIELD TRIP



APRIL 3, 2025
8:30 AM - 1:45 PM
GRADES 10-12TH

SPACES ARE LIMITED!

DEADLINE IS NOON ON MAR. 23, 2025
NO EXCEPTIONS

\$25 PER STUDENT

CLICK HERE
TO SIGN UP

OR

SCAN HERE



UPCOMING FIELD TRIP

NELLIS AIRFORCE BASE
AVIATION INNOVATION
for 10th, 11th and 12th
Grade students

SPACE IS LIMITED!

**DEADLINE TO SIGN UP IS
NOON ON MAR. 23rd**

Scan me



EKAPS Fun Fact
of the week!

Did you know?

The average pencil
can be sharpened 17
times and write about
45,000 words or draw
a line 35 miles long
before it's out of
service.

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 School Calendar

Family Handbook of EKAPS Policies

Pre-Arranged Absence

EKAPS ATTENDANCE POLICY



HELPFUL LINKS

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

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 VISIBLE 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.

EXPLORE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY
OF PUBLIC SPEAKING



ONLINE

BOOK



FAIR

SCAN THE QR CODE OR FOLLOW THE LINK TO ACCESS OUR BOOK FAIR!

**MARCH
3RD -
MARCH
17TH**

[HTTPS://WWW.BOOKFAIR.ORG/
WELCOME/REF=417RUOI](https://www.bookfair.org/welcome/ref=417RUOI)

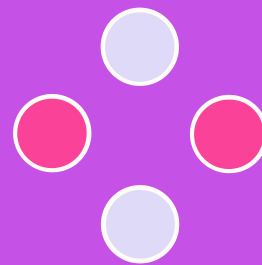
BookFair
.org



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



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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Leap4Fun

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



Classes taught here at your child's school!

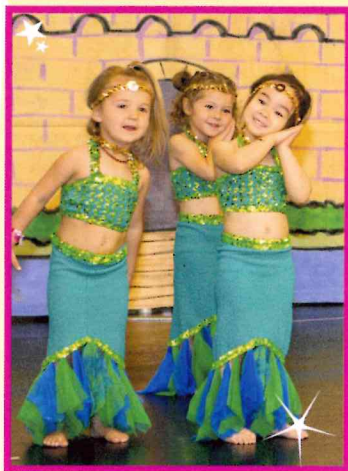
Explore Knowledge Academy of Public Speaking

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





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.*

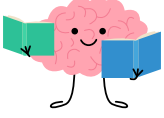
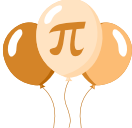


Whitney Library Youth Services Calendar

5175 E. Tropicana Ave.

MARCH 2025

702-507-4015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FREE AFTER SCHOOL SNACKS Provided by Three Square Now 7 Days a Week! 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Kids and Teens Ages 6 - 18 <i>**Children must be present to receive meal. Meals must be eaten in the library.</i>		HOMEWORK HELP & SKILL BUILDING Monday - Thursday 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Grades K - 12 <i>Except March 17 - 20</i> <i>**Students must bring work with them, and tutoring is provided in small group settings.</i>			 Program Details on Back 	
2 5 & Under Storytime 10:30 a.m. 	3 	4 Youth Resource Fair 2 p.m. 	5 	6 	7 	8 STEAM Storytime: Wind 10:30 a.m. 
9 5 & Under Storytime 10:30 a.m. Fiber Arts Club 12 p.m. 	10 What's in the Cards 4 p.m. 	11 DIY Phone Charms 3 p.m. 	12 Bilingual Baby 10:30 a.m. 	13 Music & Movement 10:30 a.m.  Stay & Play 11 a.m.	14 Pi Day Crafternoon 3:30 p.m. 	15 Video Game Day 3 p.m. 
16 5 & Under Storytime 10:30 a.m. Teen Lit Book Club 1 p.m. 	17 Big Game Time! 3:30 p.m. 	18 Out of this World: Women's History Storytime 11 a.m. 	19 Bilingual Baby 10:30 a.m. Emoji Coaster 3 p.m. 	20 Music & Movement 10:30 a.m. Stay & Play 11 a.m. Wind Chimes 3:30 p.m. Ticketed Event	21 HELLO SPRING 	22 Robot Lab 3 p.m. 
23 5 & Under Fiber Arts Club "Drive-In" Movie	24 Bead Bash 4:15 p.m. 	25 	26  Bilingual Baby (English & Italian) 10:30 a.m. 	27  Tales in the Spotlight 10:30 a.m.	28 	29 Glow-in-the-Dark Wooden Ornament Art 3:30 p.m. 
30 5 & Under Slumber Storytime	31 					



PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Storytimes & Playgroups



Five and Under Storytime | Sundays, 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!

Bilingual Baby | Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. | Ages 0 - 18 Months

Babies and their caretakers are invited to enjoy stories, songs, and rhymes in English and Spanish. This brain-building program includes book sharing time and language enrichment activities followed by play time!

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

A hands-on storytime that mixes science and stories! This month's theme is all about the wind.

Tuesday, 3/18 | Out of This World: Women's History Storytime | 11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | Ages 0 - 5

Celebrate Women's History Month with a special storytime all about women astronauts who reached for the stars! We'll read all about the incredible women who made history in space exploration, showing us all that the sky's the limit. Ready to blast off?

Music & Movement Storytime | 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.

Thursday, 3/27 | Tales in the Spotlight | 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. | Ages 0 - 5

Join us to sing, dance, and read in the theater!

Sunday, 3/30 | 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.



Saturday, 3/1 | 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.

Tuesday, 3/4 | Youth Resource Fair | 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. | For Kids and Their Families

Bring your family and visit Whitney Library's Resource Alley. Learn about the great youth-oriented services and community organizations in the area.

Sunday, 3/9 & 3/23 | Fiber Arts Club | 12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Ages 13 - 17

Join us every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month 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, 3/10 | What's in the Cards: A Trading Card Game Club | 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. | All Ages

Calling all TCG players! Do you love Pokémon, Yu-Gi-Oh, or Magic: The Gathering? Join our new club as we battle it out, trade cards, and talk shop!

Tuesday, 3/11 | DIY Phone Charms | 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. | Ages 12 - 17

Teens are invited to design their own unique phone charms using colorful beads and charms. Come listen to music with friends, and express your personality by making a fun accessory for your phone, keys, or backpack!

Friday, 3/14 | Pi Day Crafternoon | 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | All Ages

Come celebrate Pi Day (3.14) with an afternoon of STEAM activities, and create your own spirograph design!

Saturday, 3/15 | Video Game Day | 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Ages 13 - 17

Join us for an afternoon of game time. Together, we will play a variety of Nintendo Switch games. Come ready for an afternoon of fun and teamwork. Walk-ins welcome, no registration required.

Sunday, 3/16 | 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 *Gwen & Art Are Not In Love* by Lex Croucher, where Heartstopper meets *A Knight's Tale* in this queer medieval rom-com about love, friendship, and being brave enough to change the course of history.

Monday, 3/17 | Big Game Time! | 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Ages 10 +

Bring your fighting spirit and dive into some competitive gaming. We'll have board games, card games, and video games ready to challenge your skills!

Wednesday, 3/19 | Emoji Coaster | 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. | Ages 13 - 17

Get ready for some crochet fun! Crochet a coaster or two and decorate your creations. All skill levels are welcome!

Thursday, 3/20 | Wind Chimes | 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Ages 6 - 12 | Ticketed Event

Make some music on a windy day with these Do-it-Yourself wind chimes! This is a ticketed event. Tickets are free and will be handed out 30 minutes prior to the start of the program.

Saturday, 3/22 | 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.

Sunday, 3/23 | "Drive-In" Movie | 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. | Ages 3 - 10 | Ticketed Event

Ready for a movie night with a twist? Come decorate a cardboard box to make your very own car, then hop in for a drive-in movie experience—right inside the library! We will be watching Pixar's *"Cars."* Supplies are limited. First come, first served.

Monday, 3/24 | Bead Bash | 4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. | Ages 12 - 17

Teens are invited to design and create one-of-a-kind beaded jewelry.

Saturday, 3/29 | Glow-in-the-Dark Wooden Ornament Art | 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Ages 6 & Up

Calling all artists! Join us in Youth Services and get ready to paint. We'll be painting and decorating wooden ornaments that you can take home. Don't forget to dress for the mess!



"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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