



High Point Academy Family Newsletter

QUARTER 1 HIGHLIGHTS

It has been a wonderful first Quarter at HPA. We started the year reading *The Best Part of Me* and sharing the unique gifts each person brings to our community. We have built a strong foundation for learning and belonging at HPA by celebrating the genius that lives in each of us. In this newsletter, you will see just some of the genius of the staff and students at HPA this year! Please read on to learn about celebrations, updates, and highlights from the first quarter of the 2024-2025 school year!



Student Leadership

This year we began a partnership with **Leader in Me**, a framework that prioritizes the leadership and genius of each person. Based on the *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, we are working to establish a school culture where every person's voice is heard and affirmed and students are equipped to achieve and entrusted to lead their own learning.



Academics

Our academic year began with engaging every student in a joyous and rigorous learning experience. Teachers are working with students to understand their needs and teaching them to advocate for themselves.



Community Building

From back-to-school night and grandparent breakfasts to family conferences and our monthly SEAC and PTO meetings, we are thrilled to foster a vibrant community with staff, families, and local partners, all dedicated to our students' success. We're also eager to introduce exciting new experiences beyond the classroom, such as the upcoming trip to New York City for our 7th and 8th graders.

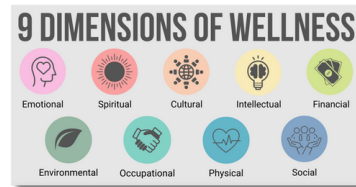
SCHOOL POLICY REMINDERS

Wellness

High Point Academy is a wellness school where we focus on the growth of the entire child. Our school wellness policy is rooted in physical and nutritional wellness: each child has access to a PE/wellness class and we follow a policy that encourages eating healthy food. This policy includes the following guidelines:

- Children drink plain water throughout the school day.
- Fast food is not allowed at High Point Academy.
- Candy is not permitted at any time during the school day. If children bring in any candy, they will be reminded that these are not healthy foods and encouraged to eat fruits or vegetables/school-provided foods.
- Drinks that are carbonated or flavored are not permitted. This includes, but is not limited to, sodas, energy drinks, and flavored waters.
- Food-based rewards are explicitly prohibited. High Point Academy seeks to help students develop a healthy relationship with food and does not want to teach that food needs to be earned.

We look forward to using the 9 dimensions of wellness to increase and broaden our focus on wellness throughout the year.



Technology

Computers: High Point Academy is a one-to-one school which means every child has access to a computer. Students in grades 3-8 can bring their device home with a signed technology agreement. This one-to-one structure allows for students to complete practice at home that is connected to what they are learning at school.

Cellphones: The use of SMART DEVICES, including personal cell phones, SMART watches, iPads, or other electronic devices is not permitted during school hours. Should a legitimate need arise for a student to connect with a family member, school phones are available for students to use with permission of a High Point Staff member. If a child refuses to comply with the electronic policy, the device could be taken away for a parent to retrieve.



Attendance

Absence: Student attendance is required under Colorado state law for every child between the ages of six and seventeen years (§22-33-104, C.R.S.) Regular, timely, daily attendance is vital to academic achievement. With proper documentation, the following absences constitute an excused absence: Illness, Injury, Family emergencies, Religious observance, Medical/Dental appointment, or Suspension. Excessive unexcused absences (more than 4 in a month OR more than 10 total) are considered chronically absent and the school may initiate judicial proceedings. (22-33-108, C.R.S.).

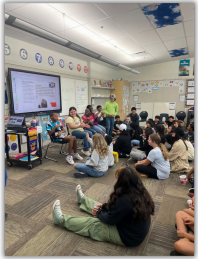


Tardy: Any time your child arrives at their classroom after 8:05 a.m., they are considered tardy. Children who are tardy must go to the front office **with a parent/guardian for check-in**.

Early Dismissal: Students will not be dismissed after 2:30. Students should only be dismissed early for excused reasons, and repeated early dismissal will require a meeting to discuss how we can partner to improve attendance.

STUDENT CELEBRATIONS

Developing Independent Learners: Students in first grade are learning to be fluent readers. In pairs and small groups, students are practicing their foundational reading skills and learning to provide one another feedback on their work.



Building a Trusting Community: On Fridays, middle school students participate in community meetings/team building. These opportunities build common expectations, deepen relationships, allow students to celebrate one another, and connect students through fun and laughter.

Learning from the Community: Every month the Denver Children's Museum joins our Pre-K students for hands-on learning experiences. In September, students got to act out a story!



Presentations of Learning: At the end of their first reading module, Kindergarten students were excited to present the toys they created. 2nd-grade students visited Mrs. Moore's class to learn about the new toys and ask Kindergarten students about their creations.

Whole-Child Learning: 6th-Grade students attend a 3-day outdoor Education experience in Estes Park. They participated in team-building activities, hiked through Rocky Mountain National Park, studied water ecology, and they even got a close up with some elk!

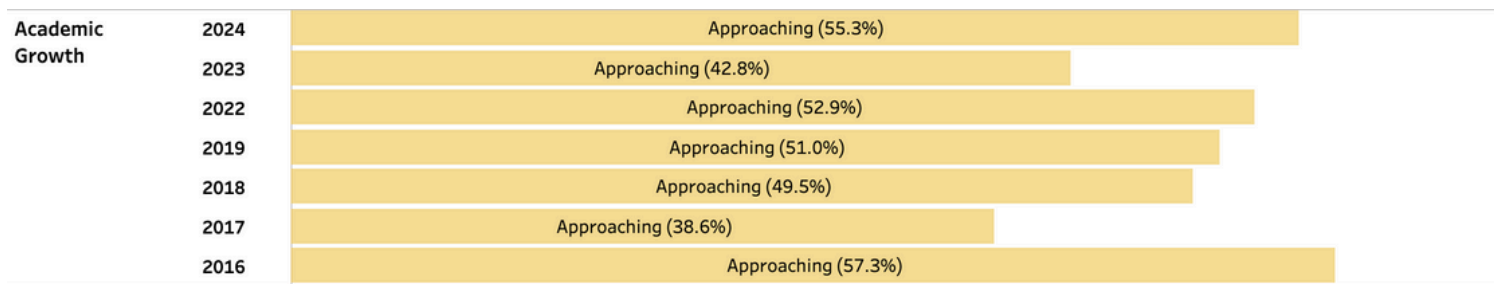


Student Leadership: After a rigorous application process, several 5th-grade students were selected to serve on the Safety Patrol. This leadership opportunity allows students to positively contribute to our community and helps make arrival and dismissal run a little bit smoother!

QUARTER 1 UPDATES

Colorado Measure of Academic Success (CMAS)

Every year students in grades 3-8 take the CMAS test, which measures learning in reading and math, and students in grades 5 and 8 take a science assessment. While these tests provide a measure of achievement and growth at one point in time, we are proud to share that we saw more growth last year than in the previous 8 years! This growth was the result of the hard work of our teachers, all students engaging in grade-level work every day, and building a culture of celebration for students working hard. As we move through this year, we are building on this positive momentum by consistently looking at student work/data to ensure every student makes at least one year's worth of growth and any students not yet on grade level are making 1.3 years worth of growth.



Community Feedback

We seek to constantly improve the experience we provide to our students as well as our families! Please take 5-8 minutes to let us know how we are doing.

Survey 1: [Conference Feedback](#). Family conferences provide an opportunity for us to partner for the success of every HPA student. We recognize that your time is valuable, and want to make these beneficial for you. This survey will give us information on your level of satisfaction with our communication about student growth and achievement.