

# THE *Eagle Eye*



September 15, 2016

Eagle Ridge Academy

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## Executive Director News

**JASON ULBRICH**

*Executive Director*

2016 marks my 20th year in education; hence, my 20th first day of school as an adult. September 6, 2016 will forever be remembered in my mind as a day when crazy dreams came true. Sixteen months ago, we began looking for a new facility to meet the needs of our growing student body and to meet the demands of families wanting to join Eagle Ridge Academy. At the time, I believed that building a facility, adding over 400 students and 40 staff would take at least two to four years. However, almost everything kept falling into place until we opened September 6.

There have been many successes and failures over that time. There will continue to be adjustments as we continue on this journey. The expansion of 2016 was my sixth time leading a facility build and/or expansion in charter schools. However, this was by far the most complex and had the greatest challenge and rewards. Your support, flexibility, and patience for this great change has been amazing and is appreciated.



## Lower School Update

**MELANIE BAIER**

*Principal, School of Grammar*

**“We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we’re curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.”** *Walt Disney*

Welcome to the beginning of the new school year. I want to thank you for being curious and joining us on the journey in our new building. I can’t tell you how much we appreciate your patience as we learn new routines and procedures here in our new location. The best of things can test your mettle. I can tell you that while the parking lot, lunch, and recess are all new adventures, what is going on in the classrooms is tried and true Eagle Ridge Academy Classical Education. The teachers and students are settling right into the joy of learning and development of wonder and awe each day. Students are smiling (although tired) and excited to be here.

We have only been in this new facility for seven days and many of the operational pieces such as lunch, recess, parking, and transition time have been figured out. However, transportation is still a major concern for families and Eagle Ridge Academy.

Over the past week, we have worked hard with our transportation company to implement solutions. While we have put in place Band-Aids, at this point the only permanent solution is to add at least one additional route. Eagle Ridge Academy has budgeted monies for more routes; however, there is a serious bus driver shortage. For example, Minneapolis Schools had 20 routes not filled by busses last week and other larger districts are still up to 50 drivers short.

The only long-term solution is adding another route. We have been working to hire at least one driver to assist. The good news is that bus drivers view our routes as manageable and our students well-behaved; thus, we will have low turnover in our drivers.

We ask for your help in finding drivers. MTN will pay \$96/day or \$48/route and a \$500 signing bonus. They will also help you get licensed and trained. If you know anyone interested, please have them [contact me](#).



## Upper School Update

**ERICA POWELL**

*Principal, Schools of Logic & Rhetoric*

**“Chaos is inherent in all compounded things. Strive on with diligence.”** *Buddha*

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! I am so happy to say that we have finished week one in the Schools of Logic and Rhetoric. This past week has been a new adventure for our students. They have had new schedules, new lockers, new teachers, and a new building. The “new” at times has brought students nervousness and anxiousness, but through this I have seen students persevere through being lost, struggling to open lockers, meeting new people, and finding a spot to sit in the

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# Community Updates



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND WELCOME  
BACK TO  
SCHOOL**

new lunchroom. I want to say THANK YOU to the students, teachers, and parents for persevering this week through all of the newness.

This past week your child was given handbook information in either their advisory class or in their humanities class.

Please take time to review the student handbook that you received in your back to school folder with your child. There is a lot of important information that will help you and your child navigate Eagle Ridge Academy this year. College fair permission slips were also handed out in advisory to 11th and 12th grade students. If your child was not in advisory, please have them see Ms. Klute to get a copy of the permission slip for the National College Fair, which will be held on Oct. 4.

Another new item to be looking for this week is our once-a-month College and Career Readiness email that parents in grades 9-12 will be receiving on Friday. These monthly emails will provide information on college admissions, college selection, local college and career events, and to-do lists for getting your child ready for college. Please be look for this email on Friday from Ms. Klute.



## Developing Connections

**KELLY SCHIFFMAN**  
*Director of Development*

Welcome back to a new year full of many wonderful things – some known, some unknown – many changes, which will require perseverance, optimism, and celebration. Opening a new building, adding 400 additional students, and welcoming families back has been our pleasure and privilege. The Development Office will play an important role in continuing to create opportunities for the community to support the Academy in a variety of ways. As parents frequently wonder how they can be involved in their children's education and each parent has different interests, I want to share several options for consideration, including dates of events.

## Events

Save the Date for one of our exclusive events. Join a

planning committee in helping plan one of these events this year. All proceeds from these events will benefit the "Above and Beyond Campaign" continuing to support the auditorium, gymnasium, library, and the new endowment fund to sustain Eagle Ridge Academy for the future.

**November 18, 2016:** Eagle Ridge Academy Gala,  
*"A Night on Broadway"*

**May 13, 2017:** Donut Dash 5K

**June 19, 2017:** Golf Tournament

## Shop with SCRIP

Join ERA's SCRIP Program! You purchase gift cards from Scrip online at face value, and the retailer gives a percentage back to Eagle Ridge Academy. The difference is an instant rebate for Eagle Ridge Academy. Great Lakes Scrip Center offers more than 300 of the country's biggest brands, including grocery, department stores, gas stations, restaurants, hotels, home improvement, and more. Just by using Scrip to pay for your normal weekly purchases, you can easily raise \$500 or more per year. It's time to put your shopping dollars to work!

There are two simple steps to sign up:

Sign up with [ShopWithScrip.com](http://ShopWithScrip.com) and use Enrollment Code 961LF2D642179.

Register with PrestoPay.

## Donate Products or Sponsor an Event

Consider donating food or items toward an event for Silent Auction or Raffle. Or, if you own or work for a business, consider sponsoring an event. In-kind donations are tax-deductible and help keep our costs associated with events low so more money goes to the school, and you create community awareness and support. It's not too early to commit to being a sponsor!

## Matching Employer Gifts

More than 900 organizations nationwide offer matching gift programs in their workplaces. Eagle Ridge Academy parents and employees' family members who are employed at a number of Minnesota organizations have an opportunity to have their 100 percent charitable gift matched by their employers. By taking advantage of these programs, donors can as much as double their donations, which goes 100 percent to Eagle Ridge Academy's students. Another program that some companies offer is Dollars for Doers, a national program in which employers donate a specific dollar amount equitable to the amount of hours a volunteer donates. For instance, if a volunteer donates 75 hours in a year's time, the organization may donate \$500 to the charity at which the volunteer works (or whatever the organization's equivalent may be). Many organizations have their own volunteer match programs. Please consider checking with your employer to see if they offer these opportunities.

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## Donate to the *Above and Beyond Campaign*

Our Campaign will fully benefit the students of Eagle Ridge Academy. Any amount of gift is appreciated and helpful, from one-time cash gifts to pledges to be paid over time. There will be naming opportunities as well for specific areas within the school. As a reminder, ERA takes [online donations](#). As part of our growth in development in planning ahead for the Academy, we are excited to introduce a new foundation, Friends of Eagle Ridge Academy (FERA).

With the immense growth and critical need for philanthropy, FERA was created as the funding entity for the Academy. Families, corporations, grantors, and community entities will still gift in the same manner, only the receiving end will be FERA, who will then disperse funds to the critical needs of the Academy. FERA is a certified 501(c)(3) entity under the Internal Revenue Code, with funds accepted going only to Eagle Ridge Academy. FERA is qualified to receive tax-deductible donations, bequests, transfers and gifts, and is classified as a private foundation for its sole beneficiary, Eagle Ridge Academy. We promise to be good stewards of your generous resources.

Events, corporate giving, employee giving, and individual giving will focus on specific entities of the Campaign and offer options:

- Auditorium:* Seating, stage, lighting, and curtains
- Gymnasium:* Walking track and green space development
- Library:* Books and Library Resources
- Endowment:* Endowment funds are investments to secure the future of the Academy, taking a small percentage of interest each year to fund specific needs, such as major building repairs, additions, or capital projects.
- Teacher and Staff Development:* Trainings, Masters and higher level degree programs, professional development
- Student Scholarships:* College scholarships
- Capital Projects:* Specific building projects necessary for growth of school.

As staff, we strive to make your children's educational experience positive and rewarding. Everything we do is to make a difference in the lives of our students. Thank you for being a part of it!



## Community Updates, Continued



### 2017-2018 Enrollment Kick-off

[Janice Gerheart](#)  
*Admissions Specialist*

The open enrollment kick-off for the 2017-18 school year will begin on Oct. 1, 2016 and will run through Jan. 15, 2017. All applications received during that time will be a part of the enrollment lottery that is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 19, 2017. The application will be available on the front page of the ERA website, as well as on the enrollment page beginning Oct. 1, 2016.

If you have children that you wish to be a part of the sibling lottery, and potentially attend ERA next year, please complete one application for each child.

An [enrollment kick-off event](#) for all grade levels is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016. The School of Grammar (K-5) event will run from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. followed by the Schools of Logic and Rhetoric (6-12) event from 12:30p.m. – 2:30 p.m. The event will take place in the Forum where parents will have an opportunity to hear a short presentation on Classical Education, visit classrooms, view curriculum, complete an online application, and receive miscellaneous information regarding uniforms, transportation, lunch, after-school care, and more. Please share this information with family members and friends that might be interested in learning more about Eagle Ridge Academy.

Prospective families enjoy meeting and speaking with current families that are already a part of the ERA community. We welcome parent volunteers to attend the kick-off event to assist with welcoming, serving, and sharing personal experiences. A Sign-Up Genius will be available soon, but feel free to contact me directly if you would like to volunteer.





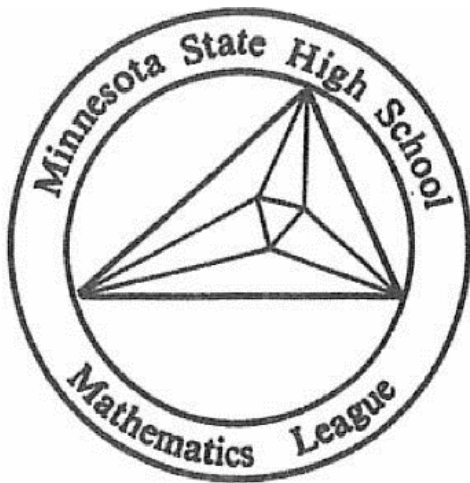
## Middle School & Upper School Math Teams Information Meeting

**STEPHEN MACLENNAN**

*Math Teacher*

Middle School Math Team (grades 6-8) and Math Team (grades 9-12) are activities that meet Mondays after school from September to January (Middle School Math Team) or March (Math Team). Team members explore both standard mathematics topics and topics outside of the normal curriculum, compete in Minnesota Math League events, and may even optionally participate in national events. A joint information meeting for both activities will be held at 3:15 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 19, in Room 1227.

Advisors: Mr. Nimchuk (Middle School Math Team) & Mr. MacLennan (Math Team)



## 3...2...1...Zero Hour!!

**STEPHEN MACLENNAN**

*Math Teacher*

New during the 2016-2017 academic year is Zero Hour, an optional class period for ERA students to get help with mathematics and other subjects. It is conducted from 7-7:50 a.m. in Room 1227. Students planning to arrive at 7 a.m. should let Mr. MacLennan know in advance so he can meet them at Door 7 until parking lot issues are resolved. For additional information, see Mr. MacLennan's ERA website Zero Hour page at [oislessthan1.weebly.com/zero-hour](http://oislessthan1.weebly.com/zero-hour).

## Work Part-Time at Eagle Ridge Academy

**KARI LYON**

*Human Resources Manager*



We need you! Eagle Ridge Academy is currently recruiting for the following position:

### Lunchroom/Playground Assistants (\$12/hr)

- o 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- o 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

To be considered, please return a completed application to Kari Lyon or visit our [Employment page](#) on our website.



## PTO News & Information

**PTO Secretaries**

[pto.eagleridge@gmail.com](mailto:pto.eagleridge@gmail.com)

[Rockin' the Ridge](#), our Annual Community Festival, will occur on Friday, Sept. 30 from 6 p.m. – 9:30 pm. Flyers were sent home with your student this week. Be looking for more information weekly. Drawings, wristband, and punch card information will be sent home next week!

The PTO will be placing a second order for our Spirit Wear t-shirt options and spirit wear pants (pants only for grades 6-12). Orders accepted through Sept. 21 will be delivered by the Oct. 13 Spirit Wear date. Flyers were sent home this week, or you can print [this order form](#).

The PTO is accepting annual contributions (formerly known as Dues) with a thank you gift of our window clings, which will be sent to you. Your contribution supports our teachers, staff, and students in many ways. More information is detailed on the contribution form.

Ensure your students are included in the Directory! Family information will be available online and in print. Families of grades 6-12, [please include information for each student](#). Families of K-5 students, please fill out the form in your Back to School folder. Are you a small business owner and would like to advertise in our print directory? Please review [this letter](#) for information from Fun2Raise to promote your business and support our school.

# Athletics



**MARILYN STRAND**  
*Activities Coordinator*



Above: the ERA/ISM Girls Varsity Volleyball team celebrated with a hug after their victory over AFSA on Sept. 8, which was the first home game hosted in the ERA gymnasium. | PHOTO BY MARILYN STRAND

## ERA/ISM Huskies Competition Calendar

September 19 – 30

Sun. 9/18

Mon. 9/19

Tues. 9/20

Wed. 9/21

Thurs. 9/22

Fri. 9/23

Sat. 9/24

*Girls Soccer (V):*  
Home, 5:00 pm  
v. Cristo Rey  
Jesuit HS

*Volleyball (JV):*  
Home, 5:30 pm  
v. Prairie Seeds  
Academy

*Boys Soccer (V):*  
Home, 4:20 pm  
v. Nova Classical

*Boys Soccer (JV):*  
Home, 6:00 pm  
v. Nova Classical

*Volleyball (V):*  
Home, 6:00  
pm v. Calvin  
Christian

*Boys Soccer (JV):*  
Away, 4:30 pm  
v. Hiawatha  
Collegiate

*Volleyball (V):*  
Home, 6:00  
pm v. Liberty  
Classical

*Girls Soccer (V):*  
Away, 5:30 pm  
v. Nova Classical

*Boys Soccer (V):*  
Home, 5:30 pm  
v. Cristo Rey  
Jesuit HS

Sun. 9/25

Mon. 9/26

Tues. 9/27

Wed. 9/28

Thurs. 9/29

Fri. 9/30

Sat. 10/1

*Boys Soccer (MS):*  
Home, 4:30 pm  
v. Guardian  
Angels

*Girls Soccer (V):*  
Home, 5:45 pm  
v. Schaeffer  
Academy

*Volleyball (V):*  
Away, 6:00 pm  
v. Chesterton  
Academy

*Girls Soccer (V):*  
Away, 5:00 pm  
v. North Lakes  
Academy

*Boys Soccer (MS):*  
Home, 4:30 pm  
v. Annunciation

*Girls Soccer (V):*  
Home, 5:00 pm  
v. Prairie Seeds  
Academy

*Volleyball (V):*  
Tournament @  
Hmong Academy

*Volleyball (V):*  
Tournament @  
Hmong Academy

*Boys Soccer (JV):*  
Home, 12:00 pm  
v. Cristo Rey  
Jesuit HS

*Girls Soccer (JV):*  
Home, 12:00 pm  
v. Cristo Rey  
Jesuit HS



## Upcoming Events

September 19 – 30

**Sept. 16** – Spirit Wear Day  
(K-12)

**Sept. 20** – 6-7:30 pm, Upper  
School Curriculum Night,  
Grades 6-12

**Sept. 22** – Lower School  
Curriculum Night

6-7 pm: Grades 1-3

7-7:30 pm: Specialists

7:30-8:30 pm: Grades 4-5

**Sept. 28** – Formal Dress Day  
(K-12)

**Sept. 30** – School Portrait  
Retakes, Grades 6-12

**Sept. 30** – 6-9:30 pm, **Rockin'  
the Ridge**, sponsored by the  
ERA PTO

*For more information and  
more events,  
visit the [school calendar](#).*

## Transportation Reminder

School of Grammar families: Please email the School of Grammar Receptionist, [Mrs. Marilyn Strand](#), by 12 p.m. if you are picking your student up in the car pool line instead of having him/her take the bus for that day.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer five times in 2016-17! Click here to visit the [ERA volunteer website](#).

### Background Checks

Every volunteer must complete a one-time volunteer background check to volunteer at Eagle Ridge Academy. All of our background checks are processed through an online background check service, Trusted Employees. Please contact Mrs. Marilyn Strand if you plan to volunteer this school year and have never completed a volunteer background check for ERA. Thank you.

### Volunteer Opportunities

There are many volunteer opportunities throughout the school year. Volunteering is a great way to get to know other ERA families as well as help and support our school. A complete list of volunteer opportunities with sign-up links can be found on the [Volunteer page](#) of the school website.

NEW Volunteer Opportunities this week:

- 1) Lunchroom Volunteer Team
- 2) Mrs. Mills Mystery Reader (parents of Mrs. Mills only)
- 3) 2016-17 School of Grammar Classroom Parents



## 2016-2017 Activity Clubs

K-12 Activity Clubs will be held in 2 sessions this school year:

### Session 1

Oct. 10 – Dec. 16,

2016 *Online*

*Registration:*

*Sept. 20 – 30, 2016*

Club Information will be available at the September 20 & 22 Curriculum nights.

### Session 2

Feb. 6 – April 7, 2017

*Online Registration:*

*Jan. 17 – 27, 2017*

This schedule does not include year-long clubs, student led clubs or athletics, including JCL, Knowledge Bowl, Debate, NHS, or Theater.

Further information can be found on the [Activity Clubs](#) page of the ERA website.



## Thanks for Reading!

**MARY CORNELIUS**

*Communications Specialist*

My name is Mary Cornelius, and I started at ERA as the Communications Specialist in May. This summer, among other projects, I redesigned the Eagle Eye. I hope you have enjoyed this year's first issue! You can look forward to receiving these updates twice a month in your inbox and on our website. Feel free to contact me with questions.