

# THE *Eagle Eye*



September 6, 2018

Eagle Ridge Academy

Volume 15 | Issue 1



## Executive Director News

**JASON ULBRICH**

*Executive Director*

While the start of the school year brings new beginnings, it also brings the most challenges, especially with operations like transportation, ordering lunches, and parking. We appreciate your flexibility and patience. One question we often receive early in the year is “Whom do I go to?” Below is a list of operations staff, their contact information, and a brief description of their responsibilities:

**Ms. Karen Conner,**  
**Operations Manager**

- Supervises office and operations staff
- Building expansion and facilities
- Equipment and furniture
- Technology
- Transportation

**Ms. Kari Lyon,**  
**Human Resources Manager**

- Benefits and compensation
- Employee Handbook and policies
- Recruitment
- Substitute teachers

**Ms. Janice Gerheart,**  
**Admissions Specialist**

- Student admissions and enrollment
- State reporting
- Student records

**Ms. Courtney McGill,**  
**School Nurse**

- Health provider
- Medical staff training
- Student health records
- Health and wellness

**Ms. Jody Bertness,**  
**Food Service Specialist**

- Manages school breakfast and lunch program
- State and federal food service reports

**Ms. Donna Cornelius,**  
**Administrative Assistant**

- Clubs and events coordinator
- Volunteer coordinator

**Ms. Julie Twetan,**  
**Administrative Assistant**

- Attendance
- District receptionist

**Ms. April Fenn,**  
**Administrative Assistant**

- Executive Assistant to principals and activities director

**Mr. Kris Babler,**  
**Activities Director**

- Director of TEL Program (after school program)
- Activities and student life director
- Communicates activity events and results to the community

**Ms. Dee Martin,**  
**Accounts Payable Specialist**

- Accounts payable, deposits, and inventory

**Ms. Mary Cornelius,**  
**Communications Specialist**

- Website and social media
- Eagle Eye
- Executive Assistant to Executive Director and Operations Manager



## Whom Should I Contact?

When you need assistance with operations, please refer to the list provided. For help in areas of instruction, please use the following as a guide:

1. If there is a question or concern within the classroom, contact the teacher first.
2. If there is a question or concern with curriculum or school-wide instruction, please contact your building principal: Dr. Bruce Locklear for the Schools of Logic and Rhetoric and Ms. Janelle Mellgren for the School of Grammar.
3. If there is a question regarding mission, vision, or policies, contact the Executive Director.
4. If your concern or question is not handled in the appropriate manner, or more guidance is needed, please contact the next level.

When we communicate our questions and concerns at the level to which it is most closely related, we decrease confusion, frustration, and save time.

## Upcoming Events | SEPT. 6 - OCT. 6

**Sept. 11** – Lower School Portraits (Formal Dress Required)

**Sept. 13** – Lower School Curriculum Night (Grades 1-5)

6:00-7:00 pm: Grades 1-3

7:00-7:30 pm: Specialists

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

**Sept. 14** – Spirit Wear Day (K-12)

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

**Sept. 28** – School Portrait Retakes, Grades 6-12

**Oct. 6** – 3:00-7:00 pm, Rockin' the Ridge, sponsored by the ERA PTO

*For more info and events, visit the school calendar.*

# Community Updates



## School of Grammar Update

**JANELLE MELLGREN**

*Principal, School of Grammar*

We have so enjoyed our time back with students the past two weeks. Though it's often difficult to leave summer behind, it's a pleasure to re-engage in our learning community for another school year. This year, our School of Grammar staff are focused on Pursuing Excellence both in our learning and practice. We are also focused on helping each of our students do the same.

One important item we discussed as a staff during our Aug. 20 week together was the idea that the pursuit of excellence does not mean perfection, rather, it's an opportunity for us to use our strengths to set goals that will help us reach our highest potential. It also means having patience with ourselves and others as we continually take each step knowing that some steps lead to immediate success while others enable us the opportunity to practice perseverance and learn the value of mistakes.

We seek to support each of our students in this type of pursuit of excellence each day they are with us. Our year is off to a great start thanks to our students, staff, and families. We're looking forward to another fruitful year of learning and growing.



*School of Grammar students walk to their classrooms on the first day of school, Monday, Aug. 27. | PHOTO BY MARY CORNELIUS*

## Free & Reduced Lunch

**JODY BERTNESS**

*Food Service Specialist*

If you may qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch benefits, we invite you to fill out the [Application for Educational Benefits form](#). **It must be filled out each year to receive benefits.** If you need any assistance filling out the form, you may visit our office between 7:30 am and 4:00 pm Monday-Friday and a staff member will assist you.



## Logic & Rhetoric Update

**BRUCE LOCKLEAR**

*Principal, Schools of Logic & Rhetoric*

Greetings! Week one is in the books! Thank you for your support and for choosing to send your son/daughter to Eagle Ridge Academy.

Granted, I am new this year to Eagle Ridge Academy; however, I am no stranger to education. ERA is one of the best-kept secrets in the metro area. It is a school that believes deeply in excellence and lives this mission out daily through our teachings and expectations of our students. We also have exceptional faculty and staff, that we refer to as "Staffulty," to build a sense of belonging by all professionals in our building. Both are exceptional at their craft; whether serving as your child's teacher or supporting them in other ways in our school.

If you want to know the truth about how things are going in our school, you ask our students. We were curious about the first week of school from a student's perspective. As you know, the year began with a Celebration Assembly and our goal for the year is to build a strong sense of community around our high expectations for students.

In my conversations with students, they felt the year was "off to a good start." Additionally, there is a high degree of hope that we can build more school pride and become a more cohesive school with our older students mentoring and guiding our younger students. As this correspondence is being penned, we are planning greater opportunities for our School of Rhetoric students, especially those in grades 11 and 12, to work with students in grades 6-10.

We will keep you posted. Again, thank you for choosing Eagle Ridge Academy, and we look forward to serving you this year.



**APRIL GRABANSKI**  
*Chair, Board of Directors*

### You're Invited to Speak: BOARD LISTENING SESSION

In order to best serve and accomplish the mission and vision of the school, the Board of Directors invites you to *share your opinions and ideas* in Board Listening Sessions. These will be held in the library prior to Board workshops on the second Tuesday of each month. The first Board Listening Session is **Sept. 11, 2018 at 5:30 pm.**



### Academic Director Notes

**SUSAN BLOMGREN**  
*Director of Academics*

#### Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) Results

Student reports for the 2017-18 MCAs have arrived. Parents may expect a hard copy of their child's results mid-October.

#### Saxon Math Transition for Grades K-5

A team of K-5 teachers in consultation with the Upper School math department has been meeting over the past year to better align our math curriculum to state standards and increase the rigor of instruction. The Saxon math sequence, standards, quarterly math assessments, and MCA scores were analyzed and a revised sequence was proposed. Below outlines the

Saxon sequence previously used and the revised sequence being implemented this year to state standards.

2017-2018	2018-2019
Kindergarten: Saxon Level K	Kindergarten: Saxon Level 1
Grade 1: Saxon Level 1	Grade 1: Saxon Level 2
Grade 2: Saxon Level 2	Grade 2: Saxon Level 3
Grade 3: Intermediate Level 3	Grade 3: Intermediate Level 4
Grade 4: Intermediate Level 5	Grade 4: Intermediate Level 5
Grade 5: Course 1	Grade 5: Course 1
Grade 6: Course 2	Grade 6: Course 2
Grade 7: Course 3	Grade 7: Course 3
Grade 8: Algebra 1	Grade 8: Algebra 1

Using this model will enable students to still receive instruction on current grade level standards as well as provide additional rigor. To ensure that students are placed in the appropriate level, all students will be given a math placement test the second week of school. Students will still be placed in flexible groups based on results of the placement assessment.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we want to extend our greetings to all new and returning students, parents, faculty, and staff of Eagle Ridge Academy. As the school's Board of Directors, our goal is to preserve and advance the mission and vision of Eagle Ridge Academy. Our eleven-member Board is presently comprised of six faculty, four parents, one community representative, and the Executive Director as an ex-officio. We are here to serve the school and welcome feedback from all constituents.

As a charter school, we depend on parent and community involvement. One way to get involved is through Board Working Groups or Task Forces. Working Groups and Task Forces are established by the Board and Administration to address key aspects of strategy and operations. Their purpose is to be advisory groups that research, develop, and recommend best practices and present options to the Board for consideration. The time commitment for volunteer members of these working groups typically ranges from two to four hours per month.

Working Groups currently looking for individuals with skills, interest, and ability to commit time to serve are:

- **Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement (CISA):** Liaison – [Jane Wegener Venema](#)
- **Governance:** Liaison – [John Schwirtz](#)
- **Policy:** Liaison – [Ann Watanabe](#)

To learn more, please visit the [Board of Directors Working Groups](#) section of the website. You will find previous years' mandates for each Working Group. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to the Board Liaison as identified on the website by **Oct. 10**. Each Working Group has a schedule of meetings or will be establishing meetings in the next month.

Board agendas, meeting minutes, and materials are freely available through the Academy's eGovernance Solution, BoardDocs. To review materials from past meetings and view upcoming agendas, please visit the [Board section of the school's website](#).





## Developing Connections

**KELLY SCHIFFMAN**

*Director of Development*

Welcome back to a new school year where community and culture will be stressed and celebrated! We hope everyone feels a sense of belonging at the Academy. There are many opportunities to give back and participate at the Academy. We hope you settle in and enjoy a wonderful year.

### *Ways to Be Involved*

#### EVENTS

Eagle Ridge Academy hosts three events per year that generate nearly \$100,000 for Eagle Ridge Academy. We invite you to save the dates for these important and fun community events. Each event is coordinated by a committee of volunteers made up of parents and staff. We would welcome your voice, talents, and passion to help us grow our events. It's a great way to meet other people and build relationships.

Save the date and watch for more information in the coming weeks:

- Nov. 16, 2018: Gala for the Gryphons, "A Night in Old Hollywood"
- May 11, 2019: Donut Dash 5K
- June 17, 2019: Gryphon Classic Golf Tournament

#### GIVING AT EAGLE RIDGE ACADEMY

Eagle Ridge Academy is blessed to have philanthropic partners who support us. There are a number of ways to support the Academy:

- Make a 100% tax-deductible gift.
  - Online: [www.eagleridgeacademy.org](http://www.eagleridgeacademy.org)
  - Cash or Check written to **Friends of Eagle Ridge Academy**
- Ask your employer to match your gift.
- Attend an event.
- Contribute an item for silent auction or live auction for the Gala.
- Sponsor an event or ask your employer to sponsor.
- Donate the precious gift of time and volunteer.

#### CORPORATE MATCHING GIFT PROGRAMS

Did you know that many organizations have Matching Gift Programs? Organizations offer a match for their employee's individual or group gifts to charities of choice. Ask your employer if they offer a Matching Gift Program. You may have an opportunity to have your gift matched. Some employers match dollar for dollar, which doubles your donation to Eagle Ridge Academy. Some employers also have volunteer match programs, donating to the charity of choice matching their employees' volunteer hours. For a list of local and national organizations that match gifts, [visit this site](#).

## Community Updates

#### SHOP WITH SCRIP

Eagle Ridge Academy offers SCRIP, a gift card program that gives back to Eagle Ridge Academy with purchases on everyday items such as groceries, restaurants, retail, or gas. You buy gift cards at face value from more than 300 retailers and SCRIP donates a portion of all purchases back to Eagle Ridge Academy. Orders go in on Friday, with delivery to ERA the following Tuesday.

#### SPIRIT WEAR


Eagle Ridge Academy offers a large variety of spirit wear from Educational Outfitters. There are monthly and event-based spirit wear days during the year. Approved spirit wear is available for [purchase online](#). The first spirit wear day of the school year is September 14.

#### GRANTS

There are many grant resources available for education. As parents, you may come across opportunities for grants that would impact learning at ERA. Feel free to forward any opportunities to [Kelly Schiffman](#) for review. She will review for eligibility and determine if there is a need.

#### AMAZON SMILE

Do you shop on Amazon? If you enter <https://smile.amazon.com> when you go to Amazon, you can designate Eagle Ridge Academy as your charity of choice. Amazon donates a percentage of all purchases directly to the Academy. By remembering to go through AmazonSmiles when you shop, the donation from Amazon adds up quickly!



Eagle Ridge Academy's foundation, FERA, is a separate 501c3 non-profit, whose sole purpose is to financially support the Academy and sustain it for future generations. All funds raised for Eagle Ridge Academy flow through FERA and are disbursed to ERA.

*Kelly Schiffman, Director of Development, is your contact for any of the above opportunities. For more information on how to participate, receive the enrollment code for SCRIP, to volunteer, provide a referral or connection to a funding source, or other ways to support Eagle Ridge Academy, please contact her at 952-746-7760, ext. 1107 or by email at [kschiffman@eagleridgeacademy.org](mailto:kschiffman@eagleridgeacademy.org).*



## PTO News

**PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION**

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



# Stay Connected

### SIGN UP FOR THE NEW

## K-12 PARENT DIRECTORY APP!

### Register now for our new ERA Directory App!

The ERA PTO is pleased to announce that this coming year the entire directory school process will be paperless, from data collection to making the directory available both on your computer as well as your mobile devices.

Our new system, [My School Anywhere](#), will involve two steps: collecting your information online and then giving you secure access to the online system.

1. Register your information at [join.myschoolanywhere.com](http://join.myschoolanywhere.com) (use the secure invitation sent to you on Aug. 20 from [admin@eagleridgeacademy.org](mailto:admin@eagleridgeacademy.org)).
2. You will receive login instructions and the directory will be live on Sept. 7.

Why are we doing this?

- Saves time: this new system will help us publish the directory at the beginning of the school year (Sept. 7) AND we can keep it up-to-date throughout the school year.
- Reduces errors: because you enter your information yourself, you can be guaranteed that it's what you want and how you want it shared.
- Connects families: My School Anywhere is the only way to reach each other outside of the classroom.
- Quickly and easily sign-up for all volunteering opportunities in one location.

Thank you for connecting to our ERA community. If you have any questions please contact :

- Anu - [anu.philip@gmail.com](mailto:anu.philip@gmail.com)
- Lalitha - [lalitha23kasturi@gmail.com](mailto:lalitha23kasturi@gmail.com)
- Jodie - [jodielynn20@yahoo.com](mailto:jodielynn20@yahoo.com)

### Carpool Interest Sign-Ups

Once you are logged in to the 'My School Anywhere' the Carpool Interest information can be found under Sign-ups. Please see above headlines for instructions to join the new app.

### ERA PTO Annual Family Contribution

We kindly ask all Eagle Ridge families for a yearly contribution to the PTO. This money goes to fund events throughout the year to benefit teachers, students, and families. Examples of PTO-sponsored events include Rockin' the Ridge, Roller Garden Skate Night, treats for events and performances at the school, end-of-the year ice cream for students, and much more! You may contribute at any PTO event or online. [Please pay online dues here.](#) Thank you for your contribution to ERA PTO.

### Save the Date: the PTO's popular carnival event, Rockin' the Ridge (RTR), is on Saturday, Oct. 6

We are pleased to invite all K-5 families to join in for tons of exciting events and to have a memorable time with friends and families of ERA. RTR will be held at Eagle Ridge Academy on Saturday, Oct. 6 from 3:00-7:00 p.m. Older and younger siblings of K-5 students are also welcome!

Kids love to have fun and we have the option of an UNLIMITED WRISTBAND which may be pre-ordered for \$20.00 and may be picked up at the event. Otherwise, they are \$25 at the door. The UNLIMITED WRISTBAND may be used for all our games and activities. [Click here to pre-order for the UNLIMITED Wristband.](#) Our second option is to buy a 10-punch card for \$5 at the event, where point values vary between games and activities.

Lastly, to make this event memorable and successful, we need lots of volunteers to help make it fun for all our K-5 ERA families. There are many options for which volunteers may sign up, and you may choose where you like to be and have fun at the same time. [Please consider signing up now.](#)

### See it...Save it! First Contest has begun!

ERA earns money for valuable programs and projects through our "See it...Save it!" program, and we need your help! Find redemption items on products that you already have in your cupboard, clip them out, and send them to school with your child. Lower school and sixth grade students may drop them in the collection bin in their classroom; upper school students may deposit their bag of items (labeled with their adviser's name) in the collection bin in the Main Entrance vestibule. Look for Box Tops, My Coke Rewards, Milk Moola, Loaves 4 Learning UPCs and Tyson Project A+. We also collect used ink cartridges and old cell phones. Classrooms and advisories that bring in the most items win prizes! Our first contest ends Oct. 25 at 9:00 a.m., so start collecting now!

