

THE *Eagle Eye*



April 23, 2020

Eagle Ridge Academy

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Executive Director News

Jason Ulbrich, julbrich@eagleridgeacademy.org

Dear Eagle Ridge Academy Community,

As expected, in order to limit the spread of the coronavirus, Governor Walz has announced that schools will continue distance learning for the remainder of the academic school year. As well, per his executive order, there will be no distance learning on neither May 1 nor May 4. Our staff will concentrate on professional development and getting caught up on those days.

How times have changed over the past month! Almost everything that seemed normal in early March is now unfamiliar. The term “new norm” has become cliché. The use of Zoom and Google Meeting has become our standard mode of communication and even socialization. While the novelty of these technologies was exciting at first, I find myself craving normal interaction with staff, students, and families.

The reality of this new norm really hit me on Easter Sunday when we were blanketed with our annual April snow storm. I knew then that I needed to embrace this change and own the reality. At that point, I decided to use my time differently and reschedule my days. Personally, I am taking time to conduct more professional development, continue exercising, volunteering at Union Gospel Mission, spending more time in daily devotionals, and trying to stay away from Netflix by training for a marathon. Although Tiger King was addicting!

We want you to know that we realize ERA families are still adjusting to having the entire family at home and trying to work and be a part-time teacher. The strain and struggle of this is real. While our primary purpose at ERA is to provide a traditional classical education that demands the best of our students, we understand we also need to partner with families more than ever.

ERA staff are still working diligently to provide the highest possible education that we can at this time. We are also delivering meals, providing child care, and starting to prepare for next school year! Please visit our website to keep up to date on how we are handling the new norm. On the website there is an [updated FAQ](#) and resources for families to do distance learning.

Starting Monday, April 27, ERA will be offering parents weekly book studies on Classical Education (details will be forthcoming in an email) and provide a [weekly conversation](#) with myself and other school leaders. This conversation will be provide quick updates and let families ask questions or provide ideas.

Schools of Logic & Rhetoric News

Bart Johnson, bjohnson@eagleridgeacademy.org

Keep Calm and Carry On

The staff and students in the Schools of Logic and Rhetoric are settling into distance learning. The new normal seems to be taking hold and routines are solidifying. Adolescents and teenagers are resilient. Most of them are handling this crisis well, continuing their studies, maintaining social relationships, and exercising.

Teachers are noticing some students seem to be more engaged during this time of distance learning. I am impressed by how creative the teachers have become in delivering instruction and providing resources and feedback. From hosting synchronous and asynchronous discussions, to selecting video lectures and texts, the variety of learning activities is wide-ranging.

Please continue to encourage and monitor your student's work habits and help them to find resources when they need them. Often, just reminding them to contact the teacher can be all they need. We are taking attendance, so please also remind them to check in with their first hour teacher to let us know they are present for the day.

In this extraordinary time, all we can do is follow the guidance we are given to stay healthy and remember to connect with our friends and family who are not with us. Let's continue to remain positive and resolute as we move toward a successful conclusion. Go Gryphons!

Order Food Service for 4/27-5/1

In order to accurately prepare food each week, we have moved to an online ordering system for food service meals. If you would like to pick up meals from ERA next week, [please complete this form](#) by Friday, April 24. Meals may be picked up for a week at a time each school day between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. We recommend picking up meals on Tuesdays as sometimes food delivery is delayed due to COVID-19 and it is possible that only one day's worth of meals will be available on Monday each week. If you have questions about food service, please contact Brittany Radtke, Chef: bradtke@eagleridgeacademy.org.

Developing Connections

Kelly Schiffman, kschiffman@eagleridgeacademy.org

The Eagle Ridge Academy community is more than just community ... it's a family. This current situation we are all in has banded us all together in a desire to help each other. As a way to be unified in our desire to help, we are providing an avenue for people to express their ideas for support and willingness to help.

We are tremendously grateful to the many people who have donated face masks and other items to the school, donated gift cards for meals, volunteered their time, and sent notes of encouragement. If you have a suggestion of a community support project or are interested in providing supportive services to those in need, I ask that you contact me directly at kschiffman@eagleridgeacademy.org.



New opportunities and needs are added each week, so please check back. This week, to stay positive and look forward to brighter times, we are planning for the Gryphon Garden and have some opportunities for creative support. If anyone is good with wood working, we're looking for someone to build us an herb garden ladder!

To donate, participate, or submit ideas, [please use this SignUp Genius link](#) or email Kelly Schiffman directly.

Being a helper in time of need is a great gift to others...and to ourselves as we struggle in feelings of helplessness. Thank you.

The annual **GRYPHON CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT** is still on!



PTO News

Parent Teacher Organization, pto.eagleridge@gmail.com

CHANGES TO UPCOMING PTO EVENTS

The Annual Roller Garden on May 9 has been postponed with the new date to be determined.

SEEKING 2020-2021 ERA PTO BOARD MEMBERS

Please nominate yourself or another person to join our 2020-2021 ERA PTO Board. We are looking for engaged, enthusiastic ERA parents to join us in fulfillment of our mission to create fun student events and support our teachers. No experience is necessary, just a desire to have fun, meet other parents, and serve our community. Most positions are paired and we thrive on teamwork. All are welcome and we hope you'll join us! Due to circumstances regarding the current pandemic, we have extended our nomination period through the end of the school year to maximize participation. We can't wait to see you in the fall! [Nominate yourself or someone else here.](#)

STAY CONNECTED WITH FRIENDS USING OUR SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Connect with our ERA community through the K-12 Parent Directory. (Please note that My School Anywhere is now Membership Tool Kit.)

Step 1:

- Create an account at eagleridgeacademy.membershiptoolkit.com.
- If you already have an account from last year, using My School Anywhere, you can use the same email and password to log in. You can then confirm or edit your information.

Step 2:

- Click "verify my email" and check your email for a link to complete the process.

Questions? Please contact:

Anu: anu.philip@gmail.com

Jodie: jodielynn20@yahoo.com

Activities

A registration link will be available soon for 1st – 6th graders to audition for Sleeping Beauty! *Please note that this event may be postponed or changed to accommodate social distancing.*



Conceived and Written by
Don Kukla

MISSOULA
CHILDREN'S
THEATRE
A PRODUCTION OF MCT, INC.

Music and Lyrics by
Michael McGill
and Don Kukla

AUDITIONS

June 8, 9-11a.m. (Use Event Entrance)

Grades 1-6 only

Register before May 29 or before slots fill up!

\$110 per student

Everyone gets a part!

Performances: June 12 at 7 p.m. and June 13 at 2 p.m.