

# THE *Eagle Eye*



May 7, 2020

Eagle Ridge Academy

Volume 16 | Issue 15

## Executive Director News

*Jason Ulbrich, Executive Director*

I am so thankful for spring to finally be here! The green grass and blooming of the flowers brings a certain joy that can only come with the sunshine of spring. Just when the drabness of social distancing has set in, we are provided with the refreshing respite to be outside exercising, gardening, or even taking part in fellowship with others.

This spring will be busy at Eagle Ridge Academy as we wrap up this school year and begin to plan for a new school year.

### Fall 2020

All schools in MN are in extended distance learning until the end of the school year. As we look forward to the fall of 2020, Eagle Ridge Academy plans to deliver a classical education in a variety of formats. I believe that the educational environment will not be business as usual when we begin school this coming fall.

Eagle Ridge Academy will be starting a task force that will research and develop multiple modalities of providing a classical education to our students that will meet the social distancing guidelines. We are looking for ERA staff and parents to be part of this task force. If you would like to be on the Fall 2020 task force, please [sign up here](#).

### Schools of Logic and Rhetoric Principal Search

Mr. Bart Johnson, principal of the Schools of Logic and Rhetoric, recently announced his resignation in order to pursue his passion and open a charter school. While we appreciate Mr. Johnson's calm leadership over the past year, we are disheartened that our staff and students will have their fourth principal in as many years.

In our search, the board of directors and many ERA staff have been very clear that we look for a candidate that has experience and/or a strong belief in classical education. We are also in search of an experienced school leader that has successfully managed the stress and demands of the position. Because we are late in the hiring process and the reality of the COVID-19 environment, we believe the quality of the candidate pool will be significantly reduced as compared to starting in January. Thus, we have a couple plans that provide ERA with flexibility:

**No School**  
**Monday,**  
**May 11**

**Inclement Weather**  
**Make-Up Day**

**#GoGryphons**

**Plan A:** Follow the timeline below and only hire a GREAT leader with proven success at the principal level and a thirst for Classical Education. Also to provide a commitment to ERA, we will negotiate a two year agreement. We will settle on neither the classical nor experience qualification. If we do NOT find a proven leader who is committed, we will move to Plan B. If you would like to be on the Principal Search Committee, please complete [this form](#).

**Plan B:** Fill the position with interim (one year) candidates. We would appoint a principal for grades 6-8 and a principal for grades 9-12, as well as hire a dean of students to assist the leaders and teachers with behaviors.

Date	Action
April 30	Position posted
May 20	Posting closed
April 30 – May 20	Phone screens and reference checks
May 22	First round interviews
May 27	Second round interviews
May 29	Offer & negotiations

### US News and Report

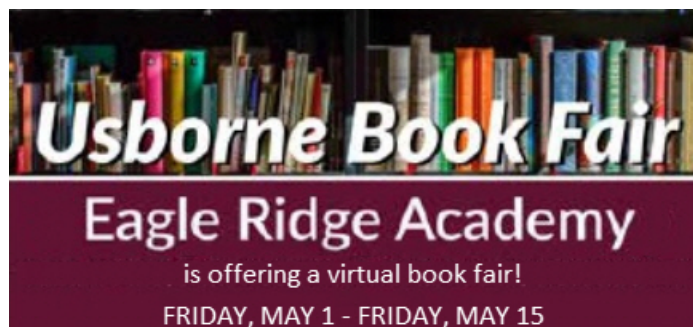
On May 1, Eagle Ridge Academy was presented with a Best High Schools recognition by U.S. News & World Report. Eagle Ridge Academy ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in Minnesota. Last year we were ranked 5<sup>th</sup>. While we do not intentionally run our program to be rated highly, it is a true testament to the power of a high quality classical, liberal arts program.

### Gryphon Conversation

Please register for [A Gryphon Conversation](#), a virtual meeting where you may engage with myself and school leaders as we provide updates on the latest happenings at ERA. The conversation for third - fifth grade parents is scheduled for tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. Please join us via Zoom through [this invitation link](#). Meeting ID: 974 1947 6013; Password: eagleeye

### Classical Connections

To help families learn more about classical education, Missy Madigan is hosting a popular and informative series entitled [Classical Connections](#). Registration is limited to 25 participants per session and is filling up quickly. We hope you will join us!



Click [HERE](#) to shop

## Distance Learning Update

*Janelle Mellgren, Principal, School of Grammar*

*Bart Johnson, Principal, Schools of Logic & Rhetoric*

Eagle Ridge Academy Families,

We continue to miss seeing your children and to be grateful for all you're doing to support their learning at home. Per Governor Walz's most recent executive order for schools, we have adjusted and updated our original distance learning plans to account for the period of extended distance learning we'll be continuing for the remainder of the school year.

During our time on Friday and Monday, we were able to incorporate data we received via parent and teacher surveys given last week into our distance learning plan. Thank you to all who responded to the surveys. We've included a brief summary of the parent survey data from each school below.

We will continue to look for ways to make this time of extended distance learning the best we are able for everyone. Should you need support or have questions, please don't hesitate to contact someone at school. We have ways to work with and support you during this unusual time.

### **School of Grammar:**

(Answering "Agree" and "Strongly agree")

1. 94% are satisfied with the level of communication between the teacher and the student.
2. 99% of parents believe teachers respond to questions in a timely fashion.
3. 94% of parents understand the weekly work that needs to be completed.
4. 88% are getting extra feedback (not just grades) from teachers.
5. 91% have figured out the on-line platforms.

### **School of Logic:**

(Answering "Agree" and "Strongly agree")

- 81% are satisfied with the level of communication with their child's teacher.
- 89% agree that their child's teacher responds to questions in a timely fashion (within 24 hours-excluding weekends).
- 63% agree that their child receives verbal or written feedback about their learning at least once a week from their teachers.

### **School of Rhetoric:**

(Answering "Agree" and "Strongly agree")

- 71% are satisfied with the level of communication with their child's teacher.
- 81% agree that their child's teacher responds to questions in a timely fashion (within 24 hours-excluding weekends).
- 67% agree that their child receives verbal or written feedback about their learning at least once a week from their teachers.

To read the updated extended distance learning plan for the School of Grammar, please [click on this link](#); for the Schools of Logic & Rhetoric, please [click on this link](#).

## Guidelines for Academy Visitors

Please use the following guidelines to pick up any items remaining in the building that belong to your children.

Office Hours for May 12 -14 will be 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

*Due to new recommendations from the MDH, we have revised our process for the end-of-year pick up of belongings in order to reduce the risk of contact.*

- Please queue up outside the Door 2 entrance.
- Please practice guidelines for social distancing, assuring a 6-foot space between individuals while waiting outside.
- Provide your student's name and grade to the EAs located outside the Door 2 entrance.
- The EAs will retrieve your student's belongings.
- As to not overwhelm the space in the building, we ask that you follow the schedule below when picking up items from the Academy:
  - Last names beginning with A-I , Wednesday, May 13
  - Last names beginning with J-Q, Thursday, May 14
  - Last names beginning with R-Z, Friday, May 15



### Reminder:

Unclaimed Lost & Found items will be donated at the end of the school year.

## Developing Connections

*Kelly Schiffman, Director of Development*

This gorgeous weather is perfect for hitting the golf course! We are excited to announce that we are still able to hold our annual Gryphon Classic Golf Tournament on June 8! There will be certain social distancing guidelines, but overall, you will notice little difference.

The most important piece is that you still get to play 18 holes of golf, on a Monday, all while supporting the students of Eagle Ridge Academy! Proceeds this year will help support a new 6,200 SF gymnasium and new weight room.

For more information or to register, visit <https://www.eagleridgeacademy.org/event/7th-annual-golf-tournament/> or call Kelly Schiffman at 952-746-7760, ext. 1107.

We hope many of you will join us this year and support the school while being outdoors and enjoying some safe distance company on the course!



**GRYPHON  
CLASSIC GOLF  
TOURNAMENT:**

*June 8 • Register Now*



## Community Outreach

*Kelly Schiffman, Director of Development*

Eagle Ridge Academy is grateful to everyone who has offered to help in this time of distance learning. In an effort to provide as much support to our community as possible, and as a way to be unified in our desire to help, we continue to provide an avenue for people to express their ideas for support and willingness to help.



We are still in need of cloth face masks and we would be grateful for the donation to help keep everyone safe. And, with the nice weather, our Gryphon Garden will be planted soon. Are you and your kids crafty? We want to border our garden fence with colorful, painted rocks. Sign up at the link below for this and other opportunities.

To donate, participate, or submit ideas, please use [this SignUp Genius link](#) or if you have a suggestion of a community support project or know if a family in critical need, please contact Kelly Schiffman at [kschiffman@eagleridgeacademy.org](mailto:kschiffman@eagleridgeacademy.org). The school is open between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. for drop off.

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

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## Summer Excellence Club and Credit Recovery

*Amber Dahlstrom, Director of Special Services*

The Minnesota Department of Education has recently issued guidance on summer programming. We are currently working on plans for summer Excellence Club and Credit Recovery that will meet the needs of our students and fulfill MDE requirements. If your student is eligible for either of these programs, communication will be coming soon. We thank you for your patience as we work through this uncharted territory together.

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## 2020-2021 Applications Still Being Accepted

*Janice Gerheart, Admissions Specialist*

Enrollment for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year is well underway and we are excited to welcome all of our new families to the ERA community in August. There are still spots available in grades 7-12, so if you have friends, colleagues, or relatives that might be considering a change to their child's education, please have them contact Janice Gerheart at [jgerheart@eagleridgeacademy.org](mailto:jgerheart@eagleridgeacademy.org).

## Community Updates

*Kris Babler, Activities Director*

Hello ERA families,

I am writing to update you regarding ERA activities fee refunds in light of the changed school year and to give a quick update on future activities offerings. See below for how specific fees will be handled.

Please note, a 3.5% transaction fee along with a \$1.69 check processing fee will be assessed for all reimbursements requested. There is no fee associated with a credit to your Infinite Campus account. To submit a reimbursement request, [please fill out this form](#). **Remember, the deadline to complete the Activities Refund form is May 7, 2020.**

**Athletic Fees** - With the cancellation of the spring season, all spring sports fees will either be refunded, less the 3.5% transaction fee and \$1.69 check fee, transferred into your Infinite Campus account, or donated to ERA Activities.

**Club Fees** - Clubs that started within 30 days of the School Closure executive order (after February 15) will be refunded, minus any club expenses that have already been made by the club advisor and minus the transaction fee.

Eligible clubs and reimbursement rates are listed below:

- Spring Session of Lego League – \$100
- MS Robotics – full refund (minus the transaction fee)
- Both Spring Theater Productions - \$86.40
- Gryphon Youth Volleyball - \$57.60
- Boys Volleyball Club - \$38.40

**Summer Offerings** - It is Eagle Ridge Academy's intent to offer summer programming. We are working with coaches and program leaders to identify ways to make offerings for students within CDC and Minnesota Department of Health guidelines. Watch for registration information for both summer and fall activities in the coming days.

**Website Update** - We are hard at work to modernize, update, and streamline the activities pages on the Eagle Ridge Academy website. Our goal is to provide a more functional, easy-to-navigate web page for the registration process and to contact our program leaders.





**Coming Soon...**

**Virtual K-12 Art Show  
(Fine Art Festival and Expo Art Show)  
to take place mid-May**

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**Order Food Service for 5/12-15**

Our chef at Eagle Ridge Academy prepares breakfast and lunch each school day. These meals are available to all children 18 years old and younger, and the children do not have to be students at the Academy. There is no income qualification to be eligible to receive the meals that are provided during distance learning. For your convenience, we bundle meals so you may pick up one week's worth of meals for each child rather than travel to the Academy daily. We ask that you complete [this order form](#) and choose up to 4 meals for each child for the week of May 11, 2020. We recommend Tuesday as a pick up day, as we have experienced occasional delays in shipments due to the COVID-19 virus. We have staff on hand to facilitate safe pick up of the meals you order. The order form is emailed to families weekly and is due each Friday. If you forget to complete an order form, please let us know so that we will make sure to have meals available, though options may be limited as the order form assists us in planning.

If you have questions about food service, please contact Brittany Radtke, Chef:  
[bradtke@eagleridgeacademy.org](mailto:bradtke@eagleridgeacademy.org)





June auditions for *Sleeping Beauty* have been canceled. Stay tuned for more information regarding theatre opportunities later in the summer! -Ms. Michels



Conceived and Written by  
Don Kukla

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

Music and Lyrics by  
Michael McGill  
and Don Kukla

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## PTO News

Parent Teacher Organization, [pto.eagleridge@gmail.com](mailto:pto.eagleridge@gmail.com)

### TEACHER APPRECIATION...MONTH!

In the midst of distance learning, we are coming to appreciate, even more than ever, the hard work and dedication of our wonderful ERA teachers. While this week is the officially designated Teacher Appreciation Week, our PTO has planned a few surprises to span the month of May. We are asking for your help to make it all possible and show our teachers how much we see, notice, and appreciate all they do!

THIS WEEK: Help your child send a letter or picture to their teachers! These can be mailed directly to:

Eagle Ridge Academy

Attn: (Teacher's Name, or if sending multiple teacher letters together, "PTO Teacher Appreciation)

11111 Bren Rd. W.

Minnetonka, MN 55343

WEEK OF MAY 18-22: We are planning a very special gift and gift card delivery to each teacher at their home! Please consider a small donation in honor of your student's or students' teacher(s).

Donate anytime online [HERE](#) OR mail check/cash to the address above "Attn: PTO Teacher Appreciation".

Thank you in advance for your participation and partnership in encouraging our ERA Teachers!

## 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](http://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](mailto:anu.philip@gmail.com) or Jodie: [jodielynn20@yahoo.com](mailto:jodielynn20@yahoo.com)







# Eagle Ridge Academy

May  
2020

To-Go Meals

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 ChooseMyPlate.gov				1
4 SCHOOL CLOSED TODAY 4 days of meals this week	5 Crispy Chicken Sandwich Turkey Munchable Yogurt Pack (V) Grilled Cheese Sandwich (V) 4 Chef's Choice Breakfast	6	7	8
11 SCHOOL CLOSED TODAY 4 days of meals this week	12 Chicken Corn Dog Italian Beef Sandwich Mac and Cheese (V) Pretzel with Cheese Cubes (V) 4 Chef's Choice Breakfast	13	14	15
18	19 Chicken Nuggets Chicken Taco Cheese Quesadilla (V) Hummus and Veggie Bowl (V) Chips, Salsa, and Cheese (V) 5 Chef's Choice Breakfast	20	21	22
25 SCHOOL CLOSED TODAY 4 days of meals this week	26 BBQ Chicken Sandwich Turkey Hot Dog Cheese Pizza (V) Pretzel with Cheese Cubes (V) 4 Chef's Choice Breakfast	27	28	29

INFORMATION

All Meals

\$0.00

EXTRA INFO

If you have questions; contact Brittany Radtke  
Email: [bradtke@eagleridgeacademy.org](mailto:bradtke@eagleridgeacademy.org)  
Pork-Free Menu  
All meals listed on Tuesday are available throughout the week. Recommended pick-up is Tuesday from 10am-12pm. Meals include breakfast, fruit, vegetable, milk, and lunch entrees.

HARVEST OF



THE MONTH

Your MENUS plus more  
information on our app  
Taher Food4Life®



[www.taher.com](http://www.taher.com)

Menus are subject to change without notice. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.