



aspen

COMMUNITY  
NEWSLETTER

JULY 28, 2023 | VOLUME 1



## Community School: A Year of Planning

BY JESSICA PITTMAN, *COMMUNITY SCHOOLS COORDINATOR*

Have you heard? Aspen Meadow, Ridge, and Valley are becoming Community Schools! This means we are strategically working with our students, parents, families, whole staff team, and extended Fresno area community to create some of the best schools in Fresno!

A community school is focused on the entire family and the whole child. Aspen Public Schools will align community resources to create the best learning environment for our students.

We have launched our Advisory Council (of parents, students, staff, and partners), and this team will help guide the remainder of our planning year. Each Community School will look a bit different as we break off into three teams and review the surveys and focus groups you all participated in so we can best determine what changes we want to make in the year ahead.

Thank you to many of you who have already given your time to this - your feedback and engagement are central to all we do!

## Newsletter Highlights

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A YEAR OF PLANNING

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JESSICA PITTMAN,  
*COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
COORDINATOR*

# Introducing Our School Performance Analytics Director

BY HILARY DOWNS, *SCHOOL PERFORMANCE ANALYTICS DIRECTOR*



Dear Colleagues,

I am excited to extend a warm welcome to each of you as the new School Performance Analytics Director for Apsen Public Schools. I look forward to working with each of you and contributing to Aspen's mission of transforming the community by developing exceptional leaders.

As the School Performance Analytics Director, my role is to work collaboratively with the CMO, Site Directors, Teachers, and the Board of Directors to curate and analyze organization data to support key decision-making processes. I am here to provide accurate, reliable, and high-quality academic and student

data reports to support the district in improving our instructional and data structures and practices. I am committed to supporting each of you in your roles and providing you with the necessary data and insights to improve your work. I am confident that together we can make meaningful strides in improving student outcomes and furthering our organization's mission.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. I look forward to working with you all and making a positive impact on the students we serve.

## Expanded Learning: Think Outside the Box!

BY JESSICA PITTMAN, *COMMUNITY SCHOOLS COORDINATOR*

Welcome to all the new families who are joining us in the fall - we look forward to getting to know you and your children!

We are planning a parent orientation to showcase what we have planned for the after school program, and will be adding additional days of Expanded Learning that are open for 9 hours to your students. For these non - School days, you can drop off your student and pick them up when it works for you. You can trust during these hours there will be fun, engaging learning activities happening.

We have heard your feedback and are lining up more sports, outside activities, and learning opportunities in science, art, engineering, and cultures. Keep the creative, outside-the-box-ideas coming! It's going to be an awesome year!

# ASPEN ATHLETICS



## ASPEN MEADOW

We are so excited to have all your students returning for another year at Aspen Meadow! In the fall, we are excited to bring back girls' volleyball (5th and 6th) early into the school year. In mid-October, we will have 4th, 5th, and 6th cross country for boys and girls.

At Aspen Meadow, we are looking to continue adding sports programs and continuing to allow students to learn the fundamentals of sports with the ASES program. I am excited to see the athletes' progress from last year and hope to continue to add to this upcoming year. We hope to see our upper-grade athletes soon!

-LANCE POITRAS, PE TEACHER, ASPEN MEADOW

## ASPEN VALLEY

Hello, my name is Mrs. Wenter, and I will be the Physical Education teacher for the year. Our mission for P.E. is to create an active and engaging environment while students develop healthy bodies, sportsmanship, and positive attitudes toward a lifetime of physical activity. This will be my 6th year at Aspen Valley Prep. I feel very blessed to have the opportunity to teach your child.

I look forward to a great year of P.E. and athletics!

### What to Expect in Valley P.E.:

After learning the class expectations, we learn how each student will lead the class in stretches. Then we do introductory games that can be played at recess.

Next, we move into Units that will include group games, Volleyball, Football, Basketball, and more.

### What to Expect in Athletics:

We plan for 5-6 Boys Flag Football, 5-6 Girls Volleyball, Cross Country running, and Cheer.

-JAMIE WENTER, PE TEACHER, ASPEN VALLEY





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# STUDENT SERVICES

BY SARAH CRANTZ, *CHIEF STUDENT SERVICES OFFICER*

## Immunizations

Pursuant to the California Health and Safety Code and the California Code of Regulations, children must provide proof of having received required immunizations (shots) before they can attend school. Immunization records are required for all incoming students. Verification of immunizations will be completed with written medical records from the child's doctor or immunization clinic.

If your doctor's office is too busy to accommodate your child's needs please take advantage of the services through the Fresno County Department of Public Health (FCDPH). They are available to give immunizations in their clinic every week, Monday - Friday from 8 am - 4 pm with an appointment. You can not go as a walk-in, but you can call and make an appointment for as soon as possible.

Here is the phone number to call to make that appointment: (559) 600-3550. And the link: <https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/public-health/community-health/immunization-program>

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings at Aspen are held three times a year with our SELPA. They are open to the public to address topics of interest to families of children and young adults with disabilities. The El Dorado Charter SELPA's Community Advisory Committee is a dynamic, collaborative partnership comprised of educators, parents/guardians, and community members. The CAC allows members to be involved and provide input to the Charter SELPA regarding the Special Education Local Plan, annual priorities, parent/guardian education, and other special education-related activities.

**Mark your calendar for the CAC meetings for 2023-24 held via**

**Zoom:**

**October 14, 2023**

**January 23, 2024**

**April 23, 2024**

For additional information regarding CAC, please visit the El Dorado Charter SELPA Community Advisory Committee webpage at: <http://charterselpa.org/Parent-Resources/#CAC>

# LET'S BEGIN THE YEAR READY TO LEARN!

**AS WE PREPARE FOR THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR, WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF OUR STUDENTS. WITH A STRONG FOCUS ON CREATING A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT, WE AIM TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION BACK TO SCHOOL FOR OUR CHILDREN.**

- **VISIT THE SCHOOL WEBSITE. IT CONTAINS VALUABLE INFORMATION INCLUDING SCHOOL START AND END TIMES, IMPORTANT DATES, AND UPCOMING EVENTS.**
- **EASE STUDENTS BACK INTO A REGULAR SCHOOL SCHEDULE. THE WEEK BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS, HAVE STUDENTS GO TO BED AND WAKE UP EARLIER A LITTLE MORE EACH DAY, MOVING THEM CLOSER TO WHAT THE SCHOOL BEDTIME/WAKE-UP ROUTINE WILL BE.**

- **FUEL THE BODY WELL BY HELPING YOUR STUDENT CHOOSE FOODS THAT ARE NUTRITIOUS.**
- **HAVE STUDENTS BRING A WATER BOTTLE TO KEEP THEM HYDRATED THROUGHOUT THE DAY. SEND HEALTHY SNACKS.**
- **BE SURE YOUR CHILD GETS ENOUGH SLEEP. DOCTORS RECOMMEND CHILDREN UP TO THE FIFTH GRADE GET AS MUCH AS 10 TO 11 HOURS OF SLEEP EACH NIGHT.**
- **REVIEW ALL MATERIALS THE SCHOOL SENDS HOME.**

- **TALK ABOUT WHAT THAT FIRST DAY MAY BE LIKE AND ASK YOUR CHILD HOW HE OR SHE FEELS ABOUT IT. OFFER REASSURANCE, ENTHUSIASM AND SUPPORT. LET THEM KNOW IT'S NORMAL TO BE NERVOUS AND LET THEM KNOW THAT LOTS OF OTHER STUDENTS FEEL THE VERY SAME WAY.**
- **LAYOUT THE CLOTHES THE NIGHT BEFORE WHAT YOUR STUDENT WILL WEAR FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.**
- **ENCOURAGE YOUR STUDENT TO ENTER THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR WITH A MINDSET OF MEETING NEW PEOPLE AND HAVING NEW EXPERIENCES.**

- **IF THE FIRST COUPLE OF DAYS ARE A LITTLE DIFFICULT: REMAIN POSITIVE AND CALM. LET YOUR CHILD KNOW YOU CARE AND ARE THERE TO SUPPORT HIM OR HER.**
- **FOLLOW YOUR STUDENT'S PROGRESS ON INFINITE CAMPUS AND SIGN UP FOR PARENTSQUARE.**
- **ATTEND BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT AND MEET YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER. THIS INFORMATIVE NIGHT PROVIDES PARENTS WITH AN UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE STRUCTURE AND EXPECTATIONS.**
- **CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING IN YOUR CHILD'S CLASS, LIBRARY OR PARENT CLUB.**

# ACADEMIC COACHES CORNER

BY SCOTT BERGSTROM, *MATH INSTRUCTIONAL COACH*  
AND HANNAH WALLER, *ELA INSTRUCTIONAL COACH*

**MATH** (Scott Bergstrom) I am very proud of the work and growth that happened for teachers and students in our math program during the 22-23 school year.

At the start of our fourth year of implementing the Navigator math curriculum, we welcomed 5 new teachers. In Phase 1 of the year, our newest teachers spent time learning the structure and vision of our math lessons, as well as a more rigorous method of planning for lessons (IPP - "Intellectual Preparation").

All teachers focused on strong classroom management practices (clear, consistent, and reinforced expectations) and engaging students around the key points of the lessons. Engagement was an area in that our veteran teachers were able to make some wonderful gains in. At Aspen, we believe effective engagement has everything to do with student active listening and discourse. Teachers are the facilitators of the students learning and in Phase 1 they built a strong foundation of clear and effective expectations for active listening (tracking classmates, agreeing /disagreeing, and building on to another classmates' thinking, etc).

We launched Phase 2 in January, where teachers stepped up their intellectual preparation by becoming crystal clear on all of the key points, planning questions and back pocket questions to elicit those key points from kids, preparing for potential misconceptions, and planning clear stamping of the key learning after exciting key points from kids. With this strong lesson internalization, teachers began to adjust to real-time data, asking questions that were needed because of what they were seeing in the moment.

Additionally, strong internalization supported teachers to more effectively engage kids around active listening and discourse became more of the norm (students authentically in discourse with one another, and not just the teacher) and student voice became more centered.

Phase 3 work was intentional support for 3th-4th grades around SBAC from April to the end of the year. This work pushed teachers to analyze Exit Tickets and plan targeted interventions to close gaps. We used the Mock SBAC test to plan targeted lessons that addressed common trends with students.



The 2023-24 school brings new and exciting opportunities for our math program! We are bringing in 5th grade into the fold and will be intentionally reexamining and improving our data analysis and response practices. At Aspen Public Schools, we believe educators are responsible for understanding our students' skill levels of understanding at all times. This is essential to our mission of keeping expectations for our students high and expertly scaffolding to help our students meet those expectations. We do this so they can succeed in all of the ways we believe they can.



# ACADEMIC COACHES CORNER, CONT.

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*ELA* (Hannah Waller) This year was highly productive for ELA teachers and student growth, and I couldn't be more thrilled with the work teachers have put in. With consistent observations, feedback, and coaching, teachers could deliver high-quality, equitable instruction, facilitate meaningful discussions, and engage students in rich literature and informative texts.

Teachers also provided an explicit, systematic, and sequenced approach to teaching students how to read, which yielded high iReady and End of Year Assessment data in Phonics and Phonemic Awareness. Our reading foundations instruction, grounded in the Science of Reading, is providing equitable access to a sequenced, structured, and systematic approach that equips students with the reading skills necessary to be successful readers and learners.

As we wrap up the 22-23 school year, we celebrate all the hard work the teachers put in this year. They planned and internalized lessons more deeply than ever before, they focused on leveling questions in complexity to facilitate discussion to get students to grade level standards mastery, and worked diligently to unpack lesson standards and content to allow students to experience the richness of what CKLA has to offer. Because of our teachers' diligent work, our students were answering complex questions, citing explicit text evidence to support their answers, and engaging in meaningful discourse around the author's purpose while also formulating arguments. We saw tremendous growth in teacher planning and delivery, which produces high quality, rigorous instruction for our students.

Looking forward to the 2023-2024 school year, I am excited to unlock the data analysis potential in our teachers as we strive to use data in our classrooms to drive our instruction. We will be diving deeper than ever to look at standards alignment and how to use our classroom data to push students to greater comprehension of complex texts. We will spend time analyzing texts and assessments to ground our work in ELA standards mastery at grade level. This coming year, 5th grade will be joining the CKLA community as we push for the best ELA experience for our students. .

Students will be able to experience a variety of literature texts including, "Mid Summer's Night Dream" and "Don Quixote" coupled with rich informational technical texts such as "Chemical Matter" and "Early American Civilizations", just to name a few. We are excited to embark on this new challenge as we continue to push for strong standard aligned instruction.

The ELA and Math Coaches have worked extremely hard to align our practices, coaching models, and look for's. In doing so, this has created an immense amount of continuity across grade levels and content subjects. Looking forward to next year, we will continue to align and build even greater continuity.

We are also excited to be welcome Keila Gaeddert to the Coaching Team, she will be coaching K-2 Foundational Reading Skills this coming school year.



## School Resource Officers Update

At Aspen Public Schools, we understand that ensuring a safe and secure learning environment is paramount. In light of this, we have proactively enhanced our emergency, safety, and security protocols. Before the new school year has commenced, we have conducted training sessions for all of our staff members. These sessions have equipped our dedicated team with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively handle various emergencies, ensuring the well-being of our students and staff.

Additionally, we are pleased to inform you that a comprehensive campus safety walk has been carried out across our entire school grounds. This walk involved thoroughly assessing our facilities, identifying potential hazards, and implementing necessary preventive measures, ensuring that every campus area is safe for everyone.

SROs continue to train during school vacations, such as Active Shooter training, Crisis Response, and Trauma training, just to name a few.

At Aspen Public Schools, our top priority is our students and staff members' health and safety. To ensure we can provide such an environment, all our staff are trained to respond to crises in the unfortunate event one occurs at one of our campuses. This training includes fire procedures, Emergency evacuations, lost or missing student training, and lockdown training. Aspen also regularly implements drills to practice these skills and keep what was learned from diminishing. We are committed to providing the safest environment possible for our students so they may focus on learning and prosper.

Best wishes for a safe 2023–2024 school year,

Aspen Public Schools Resource Officer Team

### A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Greetings Aspen Public School Family,

Welcome to a new school year!  
Our teachers and staff have worked hard getting prepared for our students to come back to school. We appreciate how our maintenance and custodial staff have worked all summer to get our campuses sparkling clean! This fall our organization will serve over 800 students across our three campuses. In the weeks ahead, I'll be sharing Aspen's 5- year strategic plan with you and all of our community partners. We are excited about the future and so glad you will be joining us on this journey! We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Shelly Lether, *Executive Director/CEO*

