



September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Athlos Families,

It is hard to believe that we have already been in school for a couple weeks! It will be a great honor to serve your family again as Principal of Athlos Leadership Academy this year. I look forward to working alongside you to provide opportunities for each of our students to experience the success that comes with being of strong character, having a healthy body and performing at high academic levels. As I walk around the classrooms, hallways and lunch room, I see the students settling into their daily routines and making new friends. It is so much fun to see so many happy faces! As always, please feel free to stop by my office before or after school if we have not met. I look forward to seeing you all at some of our family events coming up!

**Fall Pictures** A reminder that fall pictures are on **September 20<sup>th</sup>**! This will be designated as a free dress day for students.

**Sheridan Story** Athlos Leadership Academy is partnering with The Sheridan Story, a non-profit organization that coordinates and runs weekend food programs in Minnesota schools. Our partnership with the organization will enable students who sign up to receive a free bag of food to take home at the end of every week. It's completely free and your family's privacy is protected-you just need to sign up!

Each bag typically contains a fruit, vegetable, protein, rice/pasta and a soup or boxed meal. There are four types of food bags you can choose from. Green permission forms were sent home last week in Wednesday folders.

Completed cards can be returned to school with your student or dropped off at the front desk. The first food distribution will be on Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, but permission cards can be returned throughout the school year. If you have any questions please contact Joey Corcoran, Lead Social Worker at [joseph\\_corcoran@alabpmn.org](mailto:joseph_corcoran@alabpmn.org) or 763.777.8945.

**School Pass** School Pass is a program designed to create efficiency during afternoon dismissal for families who pick up their students on a regular basis. All families picking up after school will continue to enter through the third driveway on the north side of 101st Avenue. Families will drive around the field to the front of the building. There will be staff outside to direct families appropriately. Families who are using School Pass and received their sticker tag and green laminated ID sheet for their window will be directed to pull up into one of two designated lanes. Zone 1 is designated for Pre-K -2nd grade families and Zone 2 is designated for 3-8th grade families. Zone information is also listed on your green sheet if you are unsure of which zone lane you will need to pull into. Your students will be dismissed from class with a green laminated ID sheet that matches the sheet you received. Staff will be in the front of the building to assist with matching students to their assigned pick up person.

In order to move families through the pick-up zones efficiently, families participating in School Pass will not be able to park in the designated pick up zones and come inside to pick up their students. Students will be released from

classrooms upon your entrance through the driveway. The vehicles in each zone will be moving forward as each student comes outside and gets into the assigned vehicle.

Families who are picking up students at the end of the school day and are not participating in the School Pass program will be directed to park in the parking lot and to enter the building to sign out the student in the assigned parent pick up room.

School Pass is also available for students that participate in the pm extended day program.

If you would like information regarding School Pass or sign up for the program, please contact our main office. Please make sure you speak with the office or your student's teacher to indicate that you are picking up your student.

**Academic News** I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued partnership and to share some exciting academic successes from our 2018-2019 school year. Minnesota has implemented a K-3 literacy initiative with a goal for all students to be reading at or above grade level by the end of third grade. Through high quality core instruction, strategic interventions, and partnerships with families, Athlos Leadership Academy's K-3 proficiency has increased on an annual basis. For our 2019 reporting, we are excited to share that 93% of our K-3 students who were enrolled by October 1<sup>st</sup> were reading at or above grade-level by May 2019. We greatly appreciate the strong partnership with families as we collaboratively support students in reaching high and deep to meet their goals.

K-3 Fountas and Pinnell Reading Proficiency Trend Data October 1 <sup>st</sup> Students Only	
	Spring 18-19 (% meeting grade level target)
K	94%
1	83%
2	96%
3	96%
Total K-3 Proficiency	93%

**School Hours** Just a reminder that our school hours changed to 7:45am to 2:55pm this year. Students may be dropped off in the building at 7:25am and class starts at 7:45am.

**Breakfast** Breakfast is served from 7:25 to 7:40 a.m. Families who drop off their student(s) and would like their student to purchase breakfast in the cafeteria may do so starting at 7:25 a.m. As usual, the breakfast line is long and slow. As students re-memorize their meal number, the line will move faster each day!

**Transportation** As most of you know, transportation is the area that sometimes requires the most patience for the first couple of weeks of school. Yesterday, our bus company informed us that due to the bus driver shortage in the Twin Cities, they might be short drivers for some routes. Our transportation coordinator and I will continue to work on those issues with MTN and update you regularly through our messaging system. Please feel free to call the bus company: Metropolitan Transportation Network, phone: 763.571.1541, at any time to discuss your bus being early/late, not showing up, etc. We hope that in the next couple weeks that the bus routes, stops and times are routine and in place.

**Parent Drop Off and Pick Up** You all have done an incredible job this year out front at drop off and pick up! I just want to put out some reminders regarding AM parent drop off and PM parent pick up for new families:

At no time can parents park their car in the lanes in the front of the building. When cars are parked in these lanes it can block traffic and become a safety issue for other families. We welcome parents to walk their student/s into the building. We only require that you park in the front of the parking lot and walk your students into the building via the crosswalk.

All staff, families and students are required to use the crosswalks to get in and out of the building.

Traffic flows much faster through the front lanes if cars that are dropping off can pull up as far as possible in the parking lanes in either zone 1 or zone 2.

Thank you for all your attention to these times of day, as it can be challenging to get everyone through the parking lot in a timely manner!

**Security** For security purposes, we ask that parents of 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students say their good-byes out front or in the front lobby during arrival. This helps us to maintain building security during the morning rush and will minimize the number of parents signing in and out of the building in the mornings. If you believe your child needs assistance, please reach out to us and one of our staff members or a Student Ambassador will help escort him or her to the classroom.

**Fifth Grade/Dancing Classrooms** Athlos' fifth graders were chosen again this year to participate in the Dancing Classrooms program for the 2019-2020 school year. This program is provided by the non-profit organization, Heart of Dance. As seen in the films *Mad Hot Ballroom*, *Dancing in Jaffa* and *Take the Lead*, Dancing Classrooms was started in one school by Mr. Pierre Dulaine, a world champion ballroom dancer. Inspired by his own achievements and the impact dancing had on him as a child, Pierre felt the most important work he could do was to teach ballroom dance to New York City public school children. The program has expanded beyond New York and is now in 30 cities in the United States and internationally. Dancing Classroom's mission is to cultivate essential life skills in children through the practice of social dance. Students will be taught a syllabus of traditional ballroom dances which will foster respect, teamwork, confidence and politeness.

The ballroom dance classes will take place on the stage in the gym and the music room. The program will be a part of every 5<sup>th</sup> graders week for the first trimester and is provided as a way to enrich the academic learning experience. Classes are conducted with individual classroom groups, twice a week for ten weeks, and led by a Dancing Classrooms teaching artist in collaboration with our students' classroom teachers. A letter with additional details was sent home to fifth grade families in their Wednesday Communication Folder.

**Totino Fine Arts Program.** Just a reminder that Athlos is partnering with Totino Grace Fine Arts Academy for the 2019-2020 school year to provide orchestra lessons to 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders and band lessons to 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Students will need an instrument and books; practice materials and music will be provided. Anyone who is interested please go to <https://www.totinograce.org/2017-18-tgfaa-registration> or email Tim Hoffman at [tim.hoffman@totinograce.org](mailto:tim.hoffman@totinograce.org) with questions.

### **Girls on the Run (3rd - 5th grades)**

Girls on the Run is returning to Athlos this fall! Girls on the Run is an afterschool program that uses the power of running to prepare 3rd - 5th grade girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living. Over the course of the 10-week, 20-lesson season, girls learn life-changing lessons about healthy friendships, teamwork, decision-making, self-respect and more, all while preparing to run a 5k. Open to all 3rd - 5th grade girls; no previous running experience required, and need-based financial aid is available. Our Fall 2019 season will be each Tuesday & Thursday 3:15 - 4:45 p.m. from September 3<sup>rd</sup> - November 12<sup>th</sup>, culminating with the Girls on the Run 5k on November 10. Visit [www.gotrtwincities.org](http://www.gotrtwincities.org) or contact Bri Scott at [briana\\_scott@alabpmn.org](mailto:briana_scott@alabpmn.org) for more information.

### **Heart and Sole (6th-8th grades)**

Girls on the Run's middle school program called Heart & Sole is returning to Athlos for its 6th season. Heart & Sole is a 10-week after school program for 6th-8th grade girls, providing a positive, structured space for them to learn about themselves, explore new ideas, cultivate empathy, strengthen connections and develop life skills that will help them as they move through adolescence and beyond. The program teaches life skills such as: team building, creating a support system, boundary setting, making connections and friendships, problem-solving, emotional regulation, self-care, overcoming obstacles and more, all while preparing to run a 5k. Open to all 6th-8th grade girls; no previous running experience required, and need-based financial aid is available. Our Fall 2019 season will be each Tuesday & Thursday 3:15 - 4:45 pm from September 3<sup>rd</sup> - November 12<sup>th</sup>, culminating with the Girls on the Run 5k on November 10. Visit [www.gotrtwincities.org](http://www.gotrtwincities.org) or contact Bri Scott at [briana\\_scott@alabpmn.org](mailto:briana_scott@alabpmn.org) for more information.

**Extended Day** Visit our webpage to find information and apply for the AM/PM extended day program for students.  
<http://www.athlosbrooklynpark.org/>

**MCA Test Scores.** Individual Student Reports for Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments and ACCESS tests will be sent home next Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with all students who attended Athlos last year.

**4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Planners** If your 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade student hasn't purchased an Athlos planner, they may stop by the front desk with \$5 during the school day. We encourage all students to purchase their planners by the second week of school since it's used as a primary communication tool between home and school regarding academics. Parents are welcome to purchase planners for their students at the front desk using a credit card at any time throughout the school as long as supplies last.

**Sick Student** Students should not be in school if they have a temperature of 100 degrees or above. In addition, students who have a contagious illness or are experiencing vomiting, diarrhea or other symptoms of illness that may prohibit active participation in school routines should not be in school until appropriate treatment is secured. Students should be free of elevated temperature, vomiting, and diarrhea symptoms for 24 hours without the use of Tylenol or Motrin prior to their return to school.

**Parent Ambassadors** The Parent and Teacher Ambassador Program plays an extremely important role in the marketing and support of Athlos Leadership Academy. They work in collaboration with the administration, student ambassadors and teacher ambassadors to reach out to new or prospective families, support school volunteer needs, and provide essential role modeling for our students. Our first meeting will be held on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6:00pm. Please email Charo Nickens at [charo\\_nickens@alabpmn.org](mailto:charo_nickens@alabpmn.org) with questions.

**Special Education Advisory Council** SEAC is an acronym for Special Education Advisory Council, which is a group that provides input on special education issues to its local school district. The purpose of SEAC, is to advise and advocate, not to decide policy. Minnesota law requires each school district in the state to have a SEAC although it does not specify how the groups should be organized or what duties they should perform. As a result, each SEAC may have a unique mission and structure.

There will be a Special Education Advisory Council meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:45-7:30pm. This meeting will be held in the cafeteria by the school's Dean of Special Education and the Director of Special Education. The primary goal of the SEAC group is to provide a forum for parents and staff to share ideas, identify concerns, and advise the Special Education Department in order to improve services along with educational and extracurricular opportunities for children with disabilities. Please email Ainsley Klar at [ainsley\\_klar@alabpmn.org](mailto:ainsley_klar@alabpmn.org) with questions.

**WATCHD.O.G.S.** Dads and Kids' Pizza Night to kick off a new innovative father involvement program called WATCHD.O.G.S.® (Dads Of Great Students). WATCH D.O.G.S.® is the father involvement initiative of the National Center For Fathering. Inspired by one father's desire to increase male involvement in his children's school and with the help of the school's teachers and administration, WATCH D.O.G.S was created in 1998 at George Elementary in Springdale, AR. Since then, the program has spread to schools throughout the United States and other countries abroad. Our first meeting will be held on September 17<sup>h</sup>, 2019 at 6:00pm.

Studies by the U.S. Department of Education have demonstrated that a positive adult male role model will have uniquely positive impact on the development and educational success of a child. Dramatically increasing the child's likelihood of graduating and getting mostly A's along the way, while at the same time dramatically decreasing the likelihood of that child living in poverty, getting involved with drugs and alcohol, and avoiding potentially devastating choices that result in a criminal record or a teen pregnancy. The U.S. Department of Education has identified the WATCH D.O.G.S.® program as an effective way to increase male involvement in our nation's schools.

Each school year thousands of men volunteer to work at least one day in their child's school through the WATCH D.O.G.S.® program. These men work alongside the educators to help as crossing guards, car/bus rider facilitators, hallway monitors, library assistants, lunchroom helpers, classroom and homework tutors and playground/gymnasium coaches.

The possibilities are endless. Every school year these men have a positive impact on the lives of hundreds of thousands of kids. Please email Joey Corcoran at [joseph\\_corcoran@alabpmn.org](mailto:joseph_corcoran@alabpmn.org) with questions.

**Student Ambassadors Permission Slip and Application** Student Ambassador applications will go home in Wednesday folders September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019. All Student Ambassadors must have their completed applications in to their homeroom teacher by September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Students will be chosen by October 9<sup>th</sup> and we will have start up meetings with students before the fall break. After the break, they will start their assignments. Student Ambassadors will be chosen based on their academic and character performance.

**Unity Day** We will be celebrating Unity Day on Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. Unity Day is designed to bring our community together in support of kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. To show unity, students and all staff are encouraged to accessorize with orange items such as socks, shoes, leggings, long-sleeved shirts under uniforms, headbands, etc. Students are expected to be in uniform on this day; let's show our creativity!

**Inclement Weather** When school is closed due to inclement weather, bad road conditions, or other emergencies, please listen to one of the following radio/TV stations for the announcements regarding Athlos Leadership Academy: KSTP – TV, KSAX, KSTP.com, 45TV School Alert Plus, Fox 9, WCCO Radio, WCCO Channel 4, and KARE 11. We will also send out an all school phone and email message to all families and staff. This would be a good time to check in with the front desk to make sure that your cell phone numbers are updated in the system to ensure that you are getting these messages. You can also go to most stations and sign up for their alert system.

**Emergency Drills** In case your students mention it, we will be practicing emergency drills over the next couple weeks. Bus evacuation drills will be held in the next few weeks as well!

**Book Fair** The fall book fair is scheduled from November 4<sup>th</sup> to November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019. All classrooms will stop by the book fair during the week so make sure to check in with your child's teacher on what day they will be attending. As a reminder, we only accept cash and credit cards at the book fair. We will be posting volunteer opportunities to help with the book fair on our Sign-Up Genius site. It can be found under the "Get involved" tab on our website.

**Character Traits of the Month** As always, we continue to develop and foster a school environment that values and demonstrates high levels of character development amongst adults and students. Next week we will begin introducing all 12 character traits before delving deeper into each trait throughout the school year during morning meetings and instruction. Please reflect on how as a family you can reinforce character development at home by engaging in conversations about what the 12 traits look like in your family's home. The character trait development that we teach in school will have deeper meaning if our message is consistent at both school and home.

**Infinite Campus** Infinite Campus manages all student data within our school district including grades, attendance, parent/family contact information, meal and fee payments and much more.

Among Infinite Campus' many features is Campus Portal, a web portal and mobile application that provides near real-time access to information regarding a student's academic experience. For example, via Campus Parent Portal, parents and families can receive customized alert notifications regarding student grades, meal payments and attendance. All meal payments can be made within the Campus Parent Portal without having to login to a separate system. The Campus Parent Portal is can be accessed by clicking the "Parent Portal" link at the top of our website page. To setup your account, you will need an activation key. Please contact the main office at 763-777-8942 for your activation key or if you have any other questions.

**Extra Pizza** We will be allowing students to purchase an extra slice of pizza (on Friday's only) starting on **September 27<sup>th</sup>**! Your student may purchase an extra piece by paying with cash ahead of time at the front desk, or they may pull from available funds in their lunch accounts. If you need access to your student's lunch accounts through your Parent Portal please contact Christina Ferguson at 763-777-8953.

**Student Names on Uniform Labels** Please write your students first and last name or initials on their uniform tags. It seems that sweatshirts are the items that we lose the most! Sharpie markers seem to last the longest.

**Parent Conferences** Parent conferences will be held this year on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 7:30am to 6:00pm. There will be no school or child care on campus this day.

PK – 5<sup>th</sup> families that would like to sign up for conferences may visit the school's website on Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at [www.athlosbrooklynpark.org](http://www.athlosbrooklynpark.org) and on the front page, scroll down to the section that is titled "NEWS and INFO". Click on the link for PickATime. After you log in, you will be able to choose a time to meet with your student(s) homeroom teacher(s). If you do not have a current email address or access to the internet, please contact your student(s) homeroom teacher(s) to arrange a time for your conference. Families will be able to schedule a conference between 7:30am and 5:40pm.

6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade families will not use the PickATime website to sign up for parent conferences. Families may come in between the hours of 7:30am and 5:40pm to meet with each of their student's teachers for ten minutes each. Sign-ups are not required for the upper grade conferences.

**Volunteers** Available volunteer opportunities and information are posted on the "Get Involved" page of the school website. Feel free to contact Ms. Webb with questions regarding volunteering during the 2019-2020 school year.

**School Fundraiser** We are excited to be participating in the GLOWRUN fundraiser this year for the first time!!!! We will be participating in the fundraiser from November 11<sup>th</sup> to November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019. More information to come!

#### **MN Health Care Assistance**

For information on how to obtain an application for Minnesota health care programs or for application assistance, please go to the following web address. A link can be found on our school website under Parent Resources.

<https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/children-and-families/health-care/health-care-programs/programs-and-services/children-families-apply.jsp>

Warmly,



Principal Geraghty MS, EdD, PhD

Athlos Leadership Academy

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