



ACADEMY HIGH  
CHAMPAIGN URBANA

## WEEKLY NEWS

January 12, 2024



**Caring Crew presented a check for the Eastern Illinois Foodbank to Amanda Borden**

### Upcoming Events

Friday, January 12th

Girls Basketball Game at Uni's Kenney Gym, 6pm

Monday, January 15th

No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Wednesday, January 17th

11th Grade Meeting w/ Lisa Micele, 6:30pm

Friday, February 2nd

Student Social: Bowling at the Union, 6:30-8:30pm

Thursday, February 8th

Last Home Girls Basketball Game, 6pm

Thursday, February 15th

No School/Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences

Friday, February 16th

No School/Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thursday, March 7th

All School Field Trip to Romeo & Juliet, Chicago

## Junior Families: College Counseling Workshop Next Wednesday



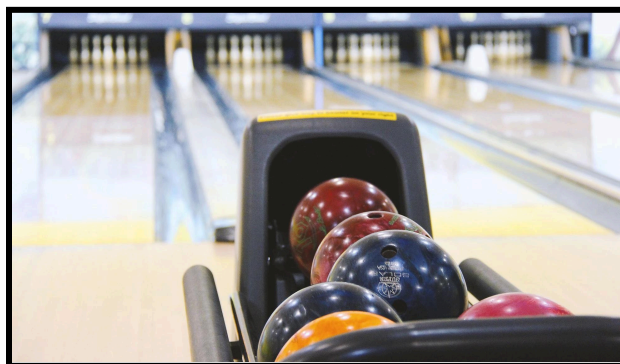
Junior families are encouraged to mark their calendars for the upcoming Class of 2025 meeting with Lisa Micele, scheduled for Wednesday, January 17th at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be conducted over Zoom, and Ms. Micele will share the link closer to the date. This workshop will delve deeper into crucial aspects of the college preparation journey, providing essential information for both students and their families.

This workshop will seamlessly lead into the next phase of support – individual family conferences facilitated by Ms. Micele that offer personalized guidance and address specific questions or concerns that families have regarding college applications.

## Student Council Social Event: Bowling on Friday, February 2nd

Academy High's Student Council is putting on a bowling event that will take place on Friday, February 2nd at the Illini Union Rec Room from 6:30-8:30pm. This event is exclusively for Academy High students and their guests. Guests must fill out and return a permission slip that is available at the front desk.

Tickets are \$15 per student, which gets each student two hours of bowling and a rental pair of bowling shoes! The fee can be paid via Venmo (@academyhigh), cash, or check by January 31st. Students can RSVP on our website.



## Save the Date! Prom Scheduled for April 27th



Academy High will be hosting its 2024 Prom at the iHotel on Saturday, April 27th. Prom is open to all Academy High students, and every student is welcome to invite one guest.

Students currently have the opportunity to vote on one of three theme choices for prom. Tickets will go on sale in March, and we will be looking for chaperones around that time too.

## Interdisciplinary Collaboration: English and History

English III/IV ended the Fall semester with a brief exploration of mid-century American playwrights in preparation for their study of Arthur Miller's Pulitzer prize winning *Death of a Salesman* (1949) in the spring. Students looked at scenes from two contemporary adaptations of the play which use an all-black cast. In the coming weeks they will do an in-depth analysis of how racial identity affects the portrayed experience of the typified American family. This week, students viewed the 1961 film adaptation of Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun* (1959) and discussed the intersectionality of age, gender, race, religion and class in this depiction of the African American experience.

This month in US History we've been learning about Reconstruction. This is the period from 1865 to 1877 when America wrestled with the aftermath of the Civil War, including how to incorporate formerly enslaved people, as well as their enslavers, into a united body politic. Many historians consider Reconstruction, and its ultimate failure, to be a pivotal moment in US history. Students have thoughtfully engaged with a PBS documentary series as well as our foundation text, Jill Lepore's *These Truths*, to consider important questions about the significance of citizenship, when the Civil War actually started and ended, and the role of violence in American history (and how much and whether we should teach it). In a couple of weeks, we'll be reading W.E.B. Dubois' *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903) to improve our understanding of the Black experience in Jim Crow America.

## Science Olympiad Team Preparing for Regionals

Members of the 2023-2024 Academy High Science Olympiad Team have been ramping up their preparations for the regional competition that will be held on March 2nd at Parkland College. This year will mark the 7th time that Academy High has competed. Our team this year is made up of 13 students and includes students in 9th-12th grade.

The 2023-2024 team is hoping to build on the success that we have had over the last few years. Our team has been very competitive at the regional level (earning a 2nd place finish last year) and has advanced to the state competition each of the last 4 years.



To create more dedicated time for students to prepare, we have added a team meeting each Wednesday at lunch and Saturday workdays (from 3-6pm) on January 20th, February 3rd, February 10th, and February 24th.

## X-Time Club: X-Plore Station Drop Off

The Academy High X-Time club recently delivered an X-Plore station to the Villa Grove Community Center. The station features fun STEM activities for kids such as fort building boards, drawing supplies, a marble run, whiteboards, and more that the young members of the Villa Grove community will be able to engage with and learn about STEAM topics. Thank you so much to all of the X-Time club members for helping to make this happen!



## Did You See Our End of Semester Video?



Over the course of the fall semester, Mr. Conerty captured videos of our students and faculty in action to celebrate all of the wonderful work that is being done at Academy High.

If you've not had the chance to watch the video or share it with your family and friends, [be sure to check it out!](#)

## Last Two Games of the Girls Basketball Season

Our girls basketball team played Unity Christian Decatur on Thursday, January 4th. The game resulted in a win for Academy High with a final score of 33 to 26.

Our last home game of the season will take place on Thursday, February 8th at the Savoy Recreation Center at 6:00pm. Academy High will be competing against Cornerstone Christian Academy. Come out to support our girls as they play their final game of the 2023-2024 season. Please wear Academy High gear or red clothing if you plan to attend!



## Do You Know About Academy High's New Family Referral Program?

Academy High has a New Family Referral Program to reward our current families who spread the word about our school. After all, our current families know our community better than anyone!

The referral process is simple:

1. Refer a new family to Academy High.
2. When a new family completes an online application, they will have the opportunity to list your name as a reference.
3. Once the referred student is enrolled and attends Academy High for a semester, you will receive a \$500 credit towards your tuition.

Not only will you help us grow our school community, but you will also enjoy savings on your tuition. It's a win-win! Families can refer up to four new families each year, meaning you have the opportunity to earn up to \$2,000 per year.

Please keep in mind that we are accepting applications for the upcoming school year when you're checking in with friends, co-workers, and neighbors.

A graphic with an orange and white background. At the top, a red banner reads "NEW FAMILY REFERRAL PROGRAM". Below this are two circular images: the left one shows a woman painting a book cover, and the right one shows three young women in athletic wear. Below the images is a dark blue banner that says "\$500 TUITION CREDIT". At the bottom, white text reads "REFER A NEW FAMILY AND RECEIVE A \$500 CREDIT WHEN THEY ATTEND ACADEMY HIGH."

## Community Volunteer Opportunity: Teen Nature Workdays

A flyer with a background of autumn leaves. The text reads: "Need service hours? Want to boost your resume or college app? Come to a FREE teen nature workday!" Below this is a circular image of three young women sitting on the ground. To the right of the image, text says: "Cut, chop, pull, and plant with the Urbana Park District. No experience necessary. Adult signature required - scan QR code for the waiver." Below the image is another circular image of a yellow flower. At the bottom left, text says: "First Saturday of every month from 2-4 pm. Come when you can!" followed by a list of dates and locations: "Jan 6/Feb 3/Mar 2: Perkins Prairie (Urbana Dog Park) Ruby to Perkins & Eastern" and "April 6: Solidarity Gardens at Meadowbrook Park (Race St lot) Green to Race & Windsor". At the bottom, there is contact information: "Questions? 217-384-4062 or ckprahl@urbanaparks.org" and a QR code with the text "Scan here for more info!".

This is a great opportunity for students looking for service hours or resume boosters as well as those interested pursuing a career outdoors:

**February 3rd, 2-4 pm:** Perkins Rd Wet Prairie

**March 2nd, 2-4pm:** Perkins Rd Wet Prairie

**April 6th, 2-4 pm:** Meadowbrook Park (Race St lot)

Registration is not required, but all students need a parent or guardian to sign the waiver before participating for the first time. If you have any questions, please call the Nature Center at 217-384-4062 or email [ckprahl@urbanaparks.org](mailto:ckprahl@urbanaparks.org).

## Alumni Spotlight

### Paula Pessin Sardela, Class of 2023



**Hometown:** Urbana, Illinois

**University:** University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

**Degree/Major:** Business (Gies)

**Expected Year of Graduation:** 2027

**Tell us a little about what you've been up to since you graduated?**

Since graduating, I have been studying in the Gies College of Business at the University of Illinois. I have enjoyed taking various business classes and look to major in Marketing with a minor in International Business. I have had the honor to participate in both the James Scholar program and the Business Living Learning Community at U of I. Along with that I compete for the Illinois Synchronized Skating team. Through this I have had the opportunity to travel

to various other colleges, and meet many other high level teams. Additionally, I am a part of the marketing committee for Association of Latino Professionals for America. I continue to work as a Learn to Skate instructor and now I am also a teaching assistant for the Kinesiology 104 ice skating class.

**Do you have your sights set on any goals for the next year?** I have enjoyed competing in the U.S Figure Skating Collegiate program and hope to continue to do so next year. Another goal of mine is to take a leadership position within the Association of Latino Professionals for America. This summer I will be participating in a business study abroad program in Japan. I look forward to the rest of my time at U of I!

**When you look back on your time at Academy High, what do you remember most about your experience?** A lot of my experiences at Academy High stand out to me. When I look back on it, I would say the language courses were what I enjoyed the most. We did various interesting activities such as cooking, movies and games. I also learned very practical skills such as emailing, crafting a resume, and interviewing in another language. As a result of this course I was able to take the AP exam and receive credit for it.

**What advice would you give a freshman student as they begin their Academy High journey?** My advice for the freshman is to take advantage of all the opportunities both inside and outside of Academy High. Use this as a time to explore what you like and find your passions. Along with that try new things, you may end up enjoying something that did not interest you at first. Even if what interests you is not directly offered, there are plenty of resources to help you pursue it. Overall make good use of your time, and use all the

opportunities you get.