



ACADEMY HIGH  
CHAMPAIGN URBANA

## WEEKLY NEWS

April 28, 2023



On April 22nd, 13 Academy High students participated in the Science Olympiad State Competition. Our team had 9 top 10 finishes, and 7 students brought home a medal! Congratulations!

### Upcoming Events

**Saturday, April 29th**

**Prom 6 - 10 pm at iHotel**

**Saturday, May 6th**

**Pick up purchased items from plant sale 10-11 am**

**Sunday, May 7th**

**Spring Hangout 3-4:30 pm - Everyone welcome!**

**Monday, May 8th**

**Rock Band Showcase at Boomerangs @ 7pm**

**Friday, May 12th**

**Jimmy John's Food Truck on Campus**

**Monday, May 15th - Friday, May 19th**

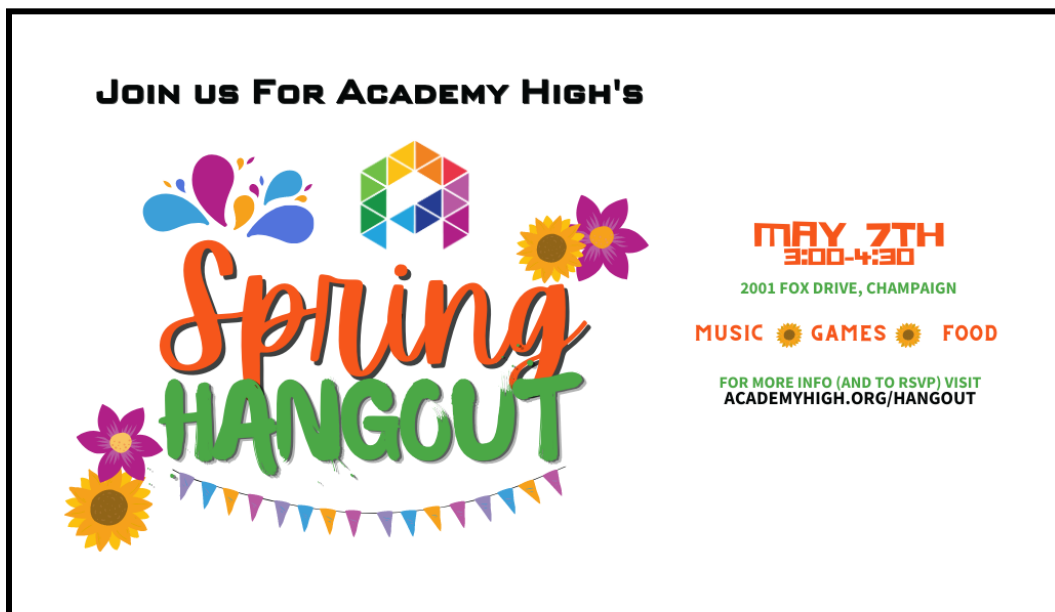
**Finals Week**

**Saturday, May 20th**

**Graduation at 11 am**

**Sunday, May 21st**

**End of the Year Picnic 1-3 pm at Morrissey Park**



### Spring Hangout - Sunday, May 7th

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of activities and socializing at the “Academy High Spring Hangout”! Get ready to enjoy springtime. This event will include music, food, group games, board games, arts and crafts, and a photo booth. For more information and to RSVP, please visit our website!



### End of Year Picnic – Sunday, May 21st

AHPA is excited to host our annual end-of-year picnic at Morrissey Park on Sunday, May 21st from 1-3 pm (if it rains, we'll move inside to Academy High). The main dish will be provided by the AHPA (Portillo's hot dogs, Italian Sausages, and veggie dogs) and we are asking for volunteers to bring drinks and sides. AHPA will have games to play, and we recommend families bring picnic blankets or chairs to sit on. We hope to see you there!

Want to contribute? Sign up to donate drinks, chips, or dessert [here](#).

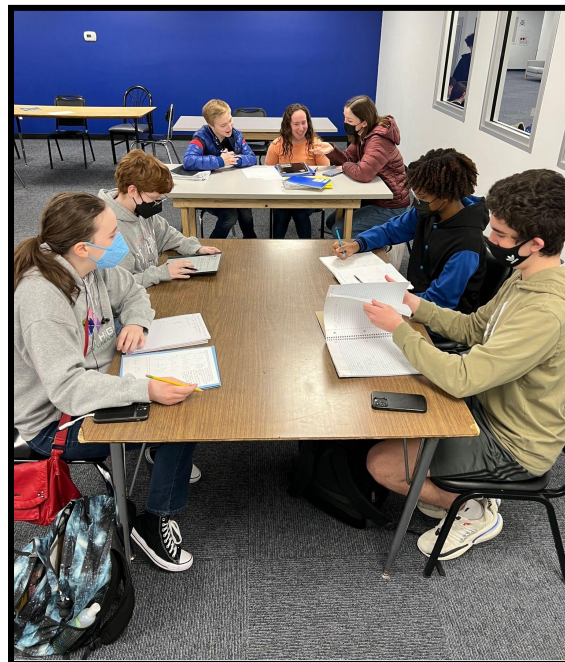
## Academics & Student Life

### Algebra II/Precalculus

The second semester of junior math is very geometric. We started with trigonometry and then moved on to vectors and dot products. The latter is a more modern approach to solving geometric problems in a space with dimensions greater or equal to three. Using the language of vectors, we explored lines and planes in 3-dimensional space and how they intersect.

We discussed how to compute angles and distances among points, lines, and planes using the dot product. We also put some emphasis on the number of solutions of a linear system, whether it's under-determined, over-determined, or just right to find roots.

More recently we have been studying polar coordinates and polar curves. This is a slightly different view of the 2-dimensional plane, and it will later surprise us when we talk about the complex numbers in the last unit.



### Calculus



This quarter began with a deep dive into the discussion on derivatives and their implications on the graph of a function. Students are learning to use derivatives to find critical points, increasing/decreasing intervals, and concavities to graph a function without a graphing calculator.

We also discussed several pre-calculus methods to obtain other information about the property of a model or a graph, including domain, symmetry, monotonicity, and asymptotes. Combining these tools can provide us with good visualization of a function and, more importantly, the properties we care about.

You might wonder why we still need these in the era of booming AI. It's true that computers can graph a function much faster and more accurately than humans, but how a computer does it is entirely different than how we do it. Humans don't have the same computational power as a small silicon chip, hence we can't process a large amount of data in a split second and plot the function as so. We have to use abstract and deductive thinking to understand the properties of a model. We analyze its shape and trend from the mathematical expressions. And these areas are exactly the limitations of an AI program, and that's why you should still continue your math education.

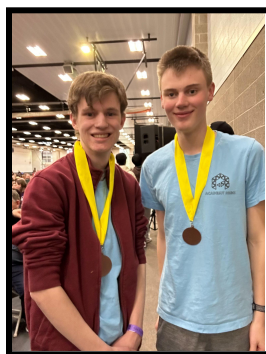


## Congratulations to the Science Olympiad Team!



Our Science Olympiad team completed a successful 2022-2023 season with the state competition on April 22. Our talented team of 13 competed in events covering topics of biology, chemistry, physics and engineering. They built wifi antennas, bridges, planes, and trajectory devices, just to name a few! The last competition of the year brought the top high school teams in the state to the University of Illinois and our team had our best showing to date! We had 7 of our 13 members bring home a medal and earned 9 top 10 finishes.

Eleanor, Ray and Sophia took home a 1st place finish in Experimental Design. Julia was a 3rd place finisher in Agricultural Science. Jack and Ian had a 4th place finish in Remote Sensing. Ray and Venus earned a 5th place medal in Write It Do It. Congratulations on an amazing season!



## Caring Crew: Illinois Marathon Volunteering



The Caring Crew is excited to volunteer at the Illinois Marathon, and in doing so, help support DREAM--an organization that reaches and empowers young males ranging from the age of 3 to 24 to achieve excellence and academic achievement. You can learn more about DREAM at <https://www.dream.org/>.

Also, you can support Corban Eagles who is running on behalf of DREAM. Please find the link to his fundraising page [here](#).

## Women Empowered Club: Period Product Drive

From May 3-17, the Women Empowered Club is accepting donations of menstrual products that the City of Champaign will distribute to people in need of supplies. The attached list contains suggestions for products that are accessible and safe for everyone regardless of circumstances. Donations will be accepted in the vestibule at Academy High.

- Products should be disposable, not require cleaning or hot water for use, and be unscented.
- Pads with wings and tampons of all sizes are accepted.
- Disposable heat pads intended to help with period cramps.



## AHPA Announcements

### AHPA Spring Fundraiser - Order By Monday, May 1st!



We have once again partnered with Country Arbors Nursery to help you plan your spring garden! Please place your order and submit payment by Monday, May 1st:

[countryarbors.com/events/academyhigh-spring23](https://countryarbors.com/events/academyhigh-spring23)

Plant pick up will be at Academy High between 10:00 - 11:00 am on Saturday, May 6 (alternative pick up arrangements can be made). Proceeds will be used for teacher appreciation events and school community events.

Do you have a large van or truck? We're looking for a few volunteers that would be willing to pick up plants from Country Arbors the morning of May 6th around 9:00 am. Please reach out to Carla Caceres if you're able to help with transport.

### Monthly Meeting – Tuesday, May 2nd

All parents and guardians are welcome to join us for our upcoming Zoom meeting on Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7-8 pm. This is a casual meeting and opportunity to learn about upcoming opportunities with the AHPA and also the school community at large.

Meeting link is [here](#).

### Teacher Appreciation Lunch – Monday, May 8th

Help us celebrate our wonderful teachers and staff for Teacher Appreciation Week! Donations should be brought to Academy High before 11:45 am.

Sign up to donate food for our teachers [here](#).



## Athletics

### Boys Tennis



Academy High boys tennis athlete Max Libman will be playing a match at Morrissey Park this Friday at 4:30pm.

On Monday, May 5th, our boys tennis team will be playing Champaign Central and Urbana at Blair Park at 4:30pm. Please come out to support and cheer our players on!

## Track and Field

Last Friday, our girls track and field team ran at Gibson City. In the 200m, Eleanor Laufenberg finished with a time of 29.89 and Shannon Weible finished with a time of 33.49. In the two-mile, Sophia Libman finished with a time of 13:06 and in the one-mile, she finished with a time of 6:17. Eleanor Laufenberg also ran the 800m and finished with a time of 2:44. The meet was a success!



We have two upcoming meets for our track and field team. The first meet will be held on Friday, April 28th. Our boys track team will be running at Central's McKinley field at 5:30pm.

On Friday, May 5th, our girls track team will be running at St. Joseph-Ogden High School at 5:30pm.

Please come out to support our boys and girls track teams at their competitions!



## Softball

On Monday, May 1st, Heritage-Academy High's softball team will play at Heritage High School at 4:30pm. Please come out to support Bre and her teammates!

## Girls Basketball Camp



We are hosting a Girls Basketball Camp this summer at the Savoy Recreation Center!

Our camp is designed for young female athletes who are passionate about basketball and want to improve their skills in a fun and supportive environment. At our camp, we have experienced high school players who will work with each player to enhance their individual abilities, as well as develop their team skills through a variety of drills and exercises.

We will focus on building the fundamentals of basketball such as dribbling, shooting, passing, rebounding, and defense, as well as advanced techniques for those who are ready for more challenging training. Learn more at our website: <https://www.academyhigh.org/bball>