



ACADEMY HIGH
CHAMPAIGN URBANA

WEEKLY NEWS

October 27, 2023



Seniors dressed up for “Rhyme without Reason” Day

Front Row: Marine, Protein, Scene, Jean, Walgreens

Back Row: Lightning McQueen, Aquamarine, Queen, Sardine, Screen, Clean, Caffeine, Vaccine

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, October 31st

Halloween Costume Contest

Friday, November 3rd

Half Day - 12:15 Dismissal / Faculty Inservice

Tuesday, November 7th

College + Culture Tour (9th - 11th graders)

Wednesday, November 8th

Fall Fun Day

Making the Most of High School, 6 - 7:30pm

Friday, November 10th

Jimmy John's Food Truck on Campus, 12 - 1pm

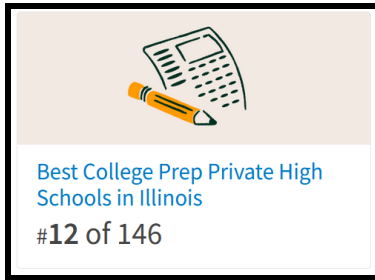
Sunday, November 12th

Fourth Annual Care Fair, 4 - 5:30pm

Monday, November 20th -
Friday, November 24th

No School, Thanksgiving Week

Academy High Is Ranked!



Academy High is proud to share news of its [impressive rating on Niche.com](#) for the 2023-24 school year!

Of the 146 non-public schools in Illinois, Academy High ranks **#12**. We're thrilled to be the sole representative from Central and Southern Illinois in the top 25.

And, of 9 high schools in Champaign County, Academy High ranks **#1**! This accomplishment is owed to the care and support of our faculty, our students and families, and our Board to make our school the best it can possibly be!

Student Council News

The Student Council is hosting a Halloween Costume Contest on Tuesday, October 31st! Come dressed in your favorite Halloween costume for the chance to win a prize!



Curriculum Focus

Experimental Design

UIUC professor Dr. Eva Fischer and graduate student Lisa Surber-Cunningham brought poison dart frogs and tadpoles to Experimental Design and discussed the research that they conduct on amphibian behavior in their lab.

Some Experimental Design students had the opportunity to brainstorm research questions for their semester research projects, and will be borrowing tadpoles from the Fischer Lab to complete their own research!



Academy High to Host “Making the Most of High School” on November 8th



Discover essential insights on academics, extracurriculars, personalized education, and college planning from experts **Lisa Micele**, Academy High's college consultant, and **Erin Schoonover**, Senior Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

This event is structured to give Academy High's 9th and 10th grade families the opportunity to meet and greet with Lisa Micele between 6:00-6:30, before the community-wide presentation begins. We hope you can join us for an evening of insights and guidance to prepare both a successful high school journey and college planning.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Wednesday, November 8th
- **Time:** 6:00 PM (for Academy High families), 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM (public event)
- **Location:** Academy High, 2001 Fox Dr, Champaign
- **Admission:** Free and open to families of current middle and high school students

RSVP to secure your spot and submit your questions in advance for an interactive experience. Spread the word to friends with middle or high school students - all are welcome!

Upcoming Guest Speakers Hosted by the Business Club

The Business Club is excited to announce to guest speakers who will be visiting Academy High in the coming months to talk about their career paths, the work they do, and lessons they've learned about leadership along the way. Join the Business Club during lunch to hear from these speakers:

- Thursday, November 9th
 - **Colin Ramage - Commercial Portfolio Manager at Busey Bank**
- Thursday, December 7th
 - **Dr. Pamala Lau - President of Parkland College**



Jimmy John's Food Truck Coming to Campus



On Friday, November 10th, Jimmy John's Food Truck will be on campus for our lunch hour! Students will be able to purchase meals, which will be offered at a discounted rate (TBD).

Fourth Annual Care Fair: Sunday, November 12th

The Caring Crew is excited to hold our fourth annual Care Fair, a fundraiser benefiting Eastern Illinois Foodbank. The event will be taking place on Sunday, November 12th, from 4 pm to 5:30pm at Academy High.

There will be food, games, contests, and more! During the week leading up to the fundraiser, there will be a silent online auction, where donated items will be auctioned off to the highest online bidder before closing time.

Silent Auction and Bake Sale Donations:

We would be grateful for any donations of silent auction items, from gift cards, baskets, lessons, services (i.e., snow shoveling for the first snowfall, car wash, etc). If you are interested in donating items, please email caringcrew@academyhigh.org. Also, please let us know if you are able to bake for the bake sale at the Care Fair. We are so grateful for your support!

Heads and Tails Raffle:

The event will also include a 50/50 Heads and Tails Raffle - buy a light-up ring (\$15) at or before the event, and play to win the cash prize, 50-50 split between you and the Eastern Illinois Foodbank!

Culturally Inclusive Food Drive:

As part of the Care Fair we are excited to collect non-perishable food donations. We are conducting a Culturally Inclusive Food Drive and the suggested food donations are based on surveyed food preferences from Eastern Illinois Foodbank's clients. Last year AH's Global Studies class had the opportunity to distribute the surveys at a food mobile in Danville. Here is the link to the suggested food donations. We appreciate your support!

The Caring Crew is excited for the event, and please be on the lookout for more information coming soon!



Last year's Care Fair was a huge success!
Join us for this year's event on November 12th!

AHPA News

AHPA Meeting - Tuesday, November 7th

All parents and guardians are welcome to join us at our monthly Academy High Parent's Association (AHPA) meeting! This great group of parents work together to build community and to support our teachers and students. Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 7th from 7-8pm at Academy High. If you have any questions about the AHPA or joining the meeting, please reach out to Katie Stafford.

Monical's Pizza Fundraiser - Tuesday, November 14th

Save the Date! Dine in or carry out on Tuesday, November 14th at Monical's in Urbana, Champaign, or Mahomet and AHPA will get a percentage of sales that will be used to support events throughout the year when you bring in or show the flyer at the time of purchase. The flyer will be shared in an upcoming email as well as physical copies will be available in the front office.



Teacher Appreciation Lunch - Monday, December 4th

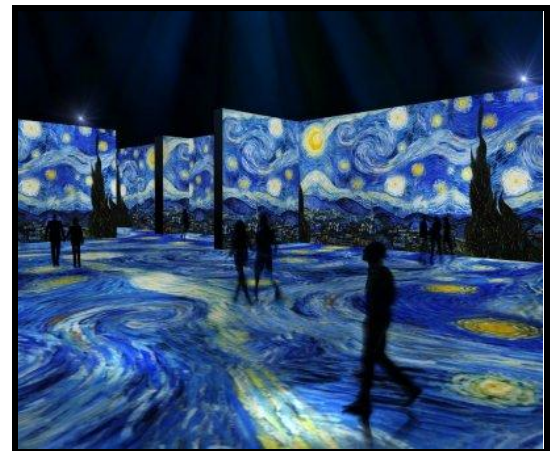
AHPA would like to thank all of the families who provided food for our faculty and staff at the October breakfast! As we look ahead to the end of the fall semester, we are hosting a potluck lunch for teachers on Monday, December 4th. We invite the Academy High community to bring items for this special event! Please check out the lunch signup [HERE](#), and consider how you can help make this a special treat for our hardworking faculty and staff! If you have questions, feel free to contact Colleen Braun.

Upcoming Field Trip for 9th-11th Graders: College + Culture Tour

We are thrilled to announce our plans for the **College + Culture Tour**, a day-long field trip planned for all students in the 9th, 10th, and 11th grades, scheduled for **Tuesday, November 7th**. This exciting program offers a unique opportunity for our students to broaden their horizons, bond with peers, and explore various college campuses and cultural sites.

Itinerary:

- **Purdue University (West Lafayette):** Our students will have the chance to visit Purdue University, where they will experience a brief presentation and a guided tour to learn about academic programs, and get a taste of college life at a large, public research institution.
- **Newfields Museum (Indianapolis):** Next, we will visit Newfields Museum, where students can explore the many exhibits and be immersed in a unique art experience, fostering an appreciation for culture and creativity.
- **Butler University (Indianapolis):** Our final stop will be Butler University, providing a snapshot of the world of smaller, private universities. Combined with the visit to Purdue, this experience will help students get a feel for what college life might be like and explore potential options for their future education.



Cross Country Moving Onto Sectionals

Our cross country team went to Regionals at Chrisman High School on Saturday, October 21st. Jack Braun finished with a time of 22.28, Eleanor Laufenberg finished with a time of 22.38, and Sophia Libman finished with a time of 21.18. Congratulations to our team on their results at Regionals!

Both Sophia Libman and Eleanor Laufenberg will be competing at Sectionals this Saturday, October 28th at South Shores Park in Decatur. Their race will begin at 10:00am. Please come out to support Sophia and Eleanor!



Upcoming: Girls Basketball

The Academy High Girls Basketball season will start with the first practice on Monday, October 30th. We are looking for more players to join the team; no experience is necessary. Joining the team can be a great way to connect with peers and represent our school. It is also a great way to join the athletic community in Champaign-Urbana by meeting and networking with student-athletes on other high school teams.

Our first home basketball game will take place on November 14th at the Savoy Rec Center. The game will start at 6:00pm. Be sure to wear red if you plan to come and support the team!

If you have any questions or are interested in joining the team, please reach out to Ms. Leskis.



Academy High X-Time Club

X-Time Club, a student-run club dedicated to increasing access to enriching STEAM opportunities for children in the community, held its first STEAM outreach event at [Y on the Fly](#) on Monday, October 23rd, after school. Club members traveled to the Y on the Fly to lead a boat flotation activity, and a special thanks to Jack Braun for planning the event and Colleen Braun for helping with transportation. X-Time Club looks forward to continuing to partner with Y on the Fly this semester.

Jamari Story, Sorin Popescu, Sophia Popescu, Jack Braun, Maegan Frye, Hannah Walker, and Sophia Libman helped lead the activity.



Save the Date - The CU International Film Festival (CUIFF)



[CU International Film Festival \(CUIFF\)](#), led by Academy High's very own senior student Max Libman, is thrilled to announce the date for its second annual festival: **March 2, 2024**.

The festival will take place at the Spurlock Museum of World Cultures, featuring short films, a red-carpet gala, and award presentations. Stay tuned for further details, including an announcement of an exciting new pre-festival experience.