



ACADEMY HIGH
CHAMPAIGN URBANA

WEEKLY NEWS

March 10, 2023



Upcoming Events

Friday, March 10th

End of Third Quarter/Re Enrollment Contracts Due

Monday, March 13th -
Friday, March 17th

No School/Spring Break

Sunday, March 26th

Ice Skating Social at UIUC Ice Arena 1:30 - 3 pm

Monday, March 27th

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast

Tuesday, April 11th

Monical's Fundraiser for Prom

Friday, April 14th &
Monday, April 17th

No School

Wednesday, April 26th

PSAT for 9th and 10th graders

Check out the [calendar](#) on our website to stay up to date on school events!

Academics & Student Life

Science Olympiad Team Earns Second Place at Regionals

2023 was a record setting year for Academy High's Science Olympiad team with a 2nd place finish at Regionals! The team competed in 23 events last Saturday and took home medals in 18 events! The team is advancing to the State competition on April 22nd. The team was led by returning seniors Ian Weible, Elliot Emswiler, Forrest Robeson, and Venus Lumetta. Juniors: Ray Scifres, Eleanor Laufenberg, Sophia Libman, Julia Stafford, and Phoenix Langley. Sophomores: Kylan Herring, Jack Braun, and Dillon Jones. Freshmen: Aiden Harms-Aronoff.

1st place medals:

Experimental Design - Ray, Sophia and Eleanor
It's About Time - Elliot

2nd place medals:

Anatomy and Physiology - Ray and Eleanor
Disease Detectives - Eleanor and Sophia
Remote sensing - Ian and Jack
Trajectory - Jack and Dillon
WIFI Lab - Jack and Forrest

3rd place medals:

Fermi Questions - Elliot and Forrest
Flight - Kylan and Aiden
Green Generation - Julia and Ray
Scrambler - Jack and Dillon

4th place medals:

Bridge - Kylan and Dillon
Codebusters - Forrest and Aiden
Dynamic Plant - Ian and Phoenix

5th place medals:

Cell Biology - Elliot and Phoenix
Rocks and Minerals - Ian and Phoenix

6th place medals:

Environmental Chemistry - Ian and Kylan
Forestry - Elliot and Phoenix



English Highlights

Freshman & Sophomore English

The quarter began with a discussion of personification in poetry, specifically in Olive Senior's *Plants* and Robert Burns' *To a Mouse*. While reading John Steinbeck's 1937 novella *Of Mice and Men*, students were invited to reckon with the ways in which people of varying identities have been historically 'othered'. Through a study of diction and characterization students explored the implications that gender, race, ability and socio-economic status had for various figures in the text. This culminated in a "Body Biographies" mini-project, during which students were prompted to draw more broadly thematic connections to the depiction of particular characters. The class shifted to a brief exploration of criminal law, posing a moral question to students about the justification of death in the story.

After the break, we will begin reading Trevor Noah's 2016 autobiography *Born A Crime* in which he grapples with the apartheid system of racial classification in South Africa.



Junior & Senior English

The quarter began with a dissection of Nigerian historian Don C. Ohadike's "Igbo Culture and History" to contextualize our study of Chinua Achebe's 1958 novel *Things Fall Apart*. Throughout our exploration of this text, students discussed themes of personal identity, culture and colonialism, and individuals pitted against their community. By looking deeply at character development, lexical selection, and use of symbols students drew connections between the author's particular stylistic choices and his depiction of the devastating impact of European colonialism on the culture and peoples of Africa. This was foiled by an examination of language used by Achebe's canonical predecessor, Polish-English author Joseph Conrad. Students analyzed Achebe's 1977 "An Image of Africa: Racism in Conrad's 'Heart of Darkness'", which calls attention to the importance of shifting the narrative focus to a study of texts written by culturally informed authors. As we wrap up our study of this novel, students will read some of Achebe's poetry centered around the acquisition of Biafra and the Nigerian Civil War.

Student Art on Display at Illini Union Art Gallery

Academy High students were invited to take part for the first time in a juried art show, The Eric Show, that was established in 2010 and is endowed by Dale and Peg Steffensen in memory of Dale's son Eric (1951-1970). The Eric Show honors Eric's legacy as well as encourages the amazing young artists of this community.

Artworks by Aurora Johnston, Edith Angelo, Ian Weible, Jamari Story, Jazz Jahiel and Phoenix Langley are on display in the show which opened Wednesday, March 8th at the Illini Union Art Gallery along with artwork from hundreds of students from 20+ area high schools.

The Illini Union Art Gallery is located in the far northwest corner on the main floor of the Illini Union at 1401 West Green Street in Urbana. The show will be on display through April 7th. Admission is free.



"Portal of Emotions" Painting by Phoenix Langley



Caring Carnival on Saturday, April 1st

Volleyball team registration is now open for the Caring Carnival! Academy High is excited to be working with Centennial, Central, Urbana, STM, and Uni to hold a community-wide fundraiser for Eastern Illinois Foodbank. The event is on Saturday, April 1st from 3 pm to 7 pm at Central High School. Teams of six can register and high school and middle school students are welcomed! If you are interested in forming a team please email Sophia.

Prom Scheduled for April 29th

Academy High will be hosting its 2023 Prom at the iHotel on Saturday, April 29th. The event will take place between 6:00 and 10:00, and include dinner, dancing, games, and a photo booth! The theme for the event is "Masquerade" and our colors are purple and gold.

Prom is open to all Academy High students in good academic standing; each 11th and 12th grade student is welcome to invite one guest.

Tickets for Prom at \$25 and will go on sale in March! We'll be looking for chaperones around that time, too!



Summer Camp - Registration is Open!



Share with your friends and neighbors! [Registration is now open](#) for the Academy High Summer Camps that will take place the weeks of June 5th and 12th. The camps will be open to rising 6th through 8th grade students and will be taught by our faculty and module instructors. There is a \$15 discount using the code [EARLYBIRD](#) for the first twenty who register.

AHPA Updates

Ice Skating Social on Sunday, March 26th

AHPA invites students and families to join us for Public Skate at the University of Illinois Ice Arena on Sunday, March 26th 1:30-3pm. This will be a great opportunity to meet up with friends and prospective families for some fun on the ice! The cost will be \$5 which includes admission and skate rental. Watch for more information after Spring Break!



Host An Exchange Student Next Year!



AFS is currently looking for hosts for the 2023-2024 school year.

There are [so many students](#) signed up to participate in next year's program! Academy High is hopeful that 2-3 of our current families might be interested in hosting an exchange student, who would attend school at Academy High next school year.

If your family is interested in hosting an exchange student through AFS, please [take a look at their website](#) to learn more about this opportunity. Adrienne Yasunaga, host to a current AFS exchange student at Academy High, has graciously offered to answer any questions from interested families. I can also connect families with a volunteer who leads AFS's placement process in Illinois. Please let me know of your interest and I will follow up with contact information.

Athletics

Track and Field

Academy High's indoor track and field season has begun! Our track team competed both Friday and Saturday this past weekend at the UIUC Armory. These indoor meets were hosted by University Laboratory High School and Centennial High School.

During the girls 400m run at Friday's meet, Eleanor Laufenberg placed 2nd and Shannon Weible placed 4th. For the girls 800m run, Sophia Libman placed 3rd. For the boys 400m run, Dillon Jones placed 7th, and for the boys 3200m run, Jack Braun placed 5th.

Academy High's track and field team will be competing at other meets after our spring break. More details to come!

