



ACADEMY HIGH
CHAMPAIGN URBANA

WEEKLY NEWS

March 31, 2023



Over Spring Break, students in our Chinese classes traveled to Taiwan!

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 1st	Caring Carnival 3 - 7 pm at Central HS
Tuesday, April 4th	AHPA Meeting at 7 pm on Zoom
Tuesday, April 11th	Monical's Fundraiser for Prom
Friday, April 14th & Monday, April 17th	No School
Saturday, April 22nd	State Competition for Science Olympiad Team
Wednesday, April 26th	PSAT for 9th and 10th graders
Saturday, April 29th	Prom 6 - 10 pm at iHotel

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

Academics & Student Life

Monical's Pizza Fundraiser for Prom!

On Tuesday, April 11th, everyone is invited to order pizza from Monical's to help raise money toward funding the professional DJ and dessert at the upcoming prom.

It's easy and tasty: you, your family, your friends, and your neighbors bring in the flyer (attached to the email) to the Monical's Pizza in Champaign or Urbana and enjoy a delicious meal. In return, Monical's Pizza will donate 20% of your bill to Academy High! What could be easier?



Physical Education



This week in physical education, we are playing a game that grows the student's teamwork and practices their hand-eye coordination skills. Participants catch and toss the ball over a net similar to volleyball until a point is scored. The game helps students to communicate with each other and encourages them to help get their teammates back in the game if they are eliminated.

Last week in physical education, we did a relay week. With each PE class, we did a handful of relay races that stimulated teamwork, communication, and agility. One of our relay races was called, "Relay Scrabble". In this specific race, students had to run down to the pack of letters that were face down, grab one and run it back to their team. As students collected letters, they then had to make a word to get a point for their team. Students got very creative during this game with the words they made!

Caring Carnival Tomorrow at Central HS

The Caring Crew is excited to invite you to the Caring Carnival, a family-friendly event taking place tomorrow (Saturday, April 1st) at Central's gym, from 3 pm to 7 pm. This fundraiser benefiting Eastern Illinois Foodbank is a collaboration of service clubs from Academy High, Centennial, Central, STM, Uni, and Urbana.

We are also grateful for our gold sponsors: Busey Bank and Picture Perfect Technologies! A big thank you to them both!

There will be games, food, and a volleyball tournament for middle and high school students. If you are interested in making a volleyball team of six, you can still join and register at the event.



Please enjoy this promotional video, written and directed by Academy High's Film Club member, Max: https://youtu.be/MDgimR_KOHH



Prom Tickets on Sale

Academy High's student council is selling tickets to Prom! Tickets are \$25 per student. Students can pay with cash, check, or via Venmo (@AcademyHigh).

All Academy High students are welcome (and encouraged!) to attend this year's prom. Students in the 11th and 12th grade are able to bring outside guests if they choose; permission slips for guests are available at the front desk and need to be completed when purchasing tickets.

Yearbooks On Sale!

Academy High's yearbook will be on sale starting Monday, April 3rd. This year's hardcover edition of the yearbook, featuring photos from throughout the school year, will cost \$30 each. Students can pay with cash, check, or via Venmo (@AcademyHigh).

New Program Announcements

College and Culture Tour for Class of 2025 and 2026



In the early fall of 2023, students in the 10th and 11th grades will take a day trip to visit different college campuses and explore cultural and historical sites. Academy High is excited to make this College and Culture Tour Program an annual trip for the sophomore and junior classes. They will be an excellent opportunity for students to step outside of the local community, to bond with their peers, and to learn about different college contexts. More information will be forthcoming as plans are solidified over the summer!

Senior Milestone Trip for Class of 2024

A senior trip is a memorable event for high school students as they celebrate their impending graduation and the end of their academic journey as a class. The Senior Milestone Trip is an opportunity for seniors to travel and bond with their classmates before they embark on their individual paths. This trip will take place in the spring of the senior year. More information will be shared in the early fall!

AHPA Updates

Next AHPA Meeting Tuesday, April 4th

All parents and guardians are welcome to join us for upcoming AHPA meetings this quarter! This great group works together to build community and to support our teachers and students. They will meet on April 4th and May 2nd from 7-8pm.

If you have any questions about the AHPA, please reach out to Katie Stafford. Keep your eyes peeled in future newsletters and emails for more information.

AHPA Spring Fundraiser - Taking place now through May 1st!



We have once again partnered with Country Arbors Nursery to help you plan your spring garden! Please place your order and submit countryarbors.com/events/academyhigh-spring23 payment here:

You will pick up your plants at Academy High between 10:00 - 11:00 am on Saturday, May 6 (alternative pick up arrangements can be made if needed). Proceeds will be used for teacher appreciation events and school community events. If you have any questions, please reach out to Carla Caceres.

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

Our track and field team has three upcoming meets this week! Our girls will be competing on Monday, April 3rd at McKinley Field at 4:15pm. On Saturday April 8th, we have a girls and boys meet at different locations. The girls meet will be held at the Gene Armer Track at 11:00am. The boys meet will be held at Rantoul High School at 12:00pm. Please come to support our track team!



Tennis

Tennis season has officially started and our boys tennis team is starting to attend competitive matches. The next match is Saturday, April 1st at Blair Park at 10:00am. Please come out to support our tennis team!



Next School Year - See What Faculty Are Excited About!
Keep your eyes peeled in two weeks for more faculty excitement!



Dr. Tock

I am excited about collaborating with faculty to make our building a more fun and welcoming space for AH students, teaching US History, Environmental Studies, and Archaeology, and continuing to work with our amazing AH community.



Ms. Miller

Next year I'm excited to help the students create a fabulous yearbook, to expand the school library by procuring a wide variety of new books, and to transform the building with the other teachers on the Beautification Committee.



Mrs. Chen

I am excited to meet my students and help them grow and learn Chinese. With new curriculum changes and advancements in technology, I am excited to see how I can use them to create a more dynamic and engaging learning experience for my students.



Ms. Leskis

Next year, I am looking forward to growing the athletic department by expanding our sport selection and coaching staff, and connecting with the incoming freshman students.

Alumni Spotlight

Megan Wiarda, Class of 2021



Hometown: Mattoon, Illinois

University: Indiana University

Degree/Major: Management and Human Organization

Expected Year of Graduation: 2026

Tell us a little about what you've been up to since you graduated? After graduating Academy High, I have been attending Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. My major is Management and Human Organization with minors in Chinese and Folklore and Ethnomusicology. I have really enjoyed the last year and a half here, and I am living in my first apartment on campus. I am currently on the Swim Club team, and I am also a lifeguard and swim instructor for the Student Recreational Sports Center. I am enjoying my college experience and I have made lots of friends. I am also applying to be an Aquatic Program Assistant Manager for summer 2023. I have also continued my

hobby of doing nails and I am now making money from it.

Do you have your sights set on any goals for the next year? My goals for next year are to apply for internships and start to gear towards finding jobs in the HR field. I would like to continue planning events as well as continuing to figure out what I would like to do after I graduate. Other than that, I would like to focus on myself and just being able to enjoy the rest of my college experience.

When you look back on your time at Academy High, what do you remember most about your experience? I remember the different events that I organized, but also the friends that I made when attending the school. Through Academy High, I found my love for event planning and being able to organize the school dances and fundraisers. During my sophomore year of high school, Mrs. Chen took the Chinese class to China, and we got to learn more about the culture and language. This trip was very memorable and it's something that other schools normally would not be able to do. This school was different from any other school that I had attended in the past. I remember that we got to shape most of our modules and our input mattered to the faculty. I will always remember the close-knit community and how everyone was accepted, no matter how different you were.

What advice would you give a freshman student as they begin their Academy High journey? It is important to keep an open mind when coming to Academy High. There are lots of

new things waiting for you and it can help you feel more prepared for college. Use the next four years to figure out who you want to be and to find things that you love doing. Do not be afraid to speak up, ask those questions, and make those relationships. These next four years are going to be quick, be sure to challenge yourself and step outside of your comfort zone, try new things.