



ACADEMY HIGH
CHAMPAIGN URBANA

WEEKLY NEWS

January 26, 2024



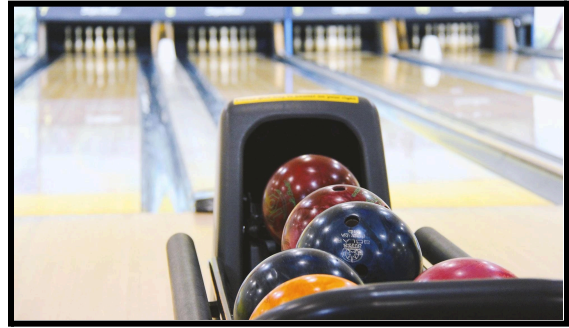
Evie Price works with Romeo during “Exploring Human Behavior” with Mrs. Chesser.

Upcoming Events

Friday, February 2nd	Student Social: Bowling at the Union, 6:30-8:30pm
Tuesday, February 6th	AHPA Parent Roundtable, 6:30pm
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
Monday, February 19th	Portillo's Fundraiser for AHPA
Saturday, March 2nd	Science Olympiad Regionals at UIUC
Thursday, March 7th	All School Field Trip to Romeo & Juliet, Chicago
Friday, March 8th	End of Third Quarter

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 .

Details for the All School Field Trip to Chicago Shakespeare on March 7th



On Thursday, March 7th, Academy High will be making a day trip to Chicago for a student matinee of *Romeo and Juliet* at the [Chicago Shakespeare Theatre](#) at Navy Pier.

Students and faculty will travel on a Peoria Charter bus that will depart from Academy High at 8:15am. We will arrive at Navy Pier in time for students to purchase lunch, or they are welcome to pack a lunch from home. The performance will start at 12:30pm, and we will

board the bus immediately after the production to head back to Academy High. Our estimated time of arrival is 5:15pm. We are so excited for the chance to see this production in person!

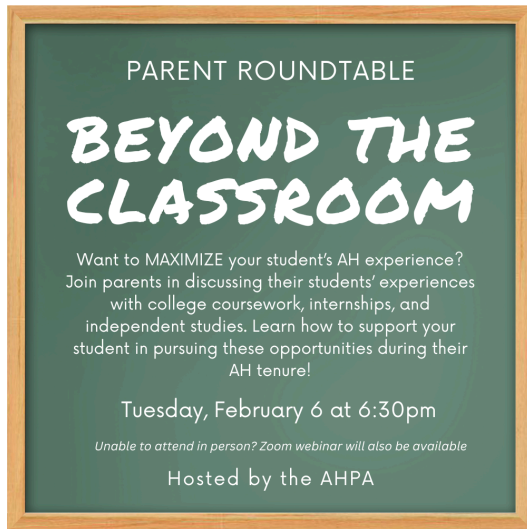
Save the Date! Prom Scheduled for April 27th

Prom will take place on Saturday, April 27th at the I-Hotel and Conference Center in Champaign. This year, our students voted for the 2024 prom theme to be Enchanted Garden.

All Academy High students are welcome and encouraged to attend this event. Every student can also bring an outside guest. More details to come!



Beyond the Classroom - Parent Roundtable - February 6th at 6:30pm



Parents of Academy High students - this gathering is designed especially for you!

Join us for Beyond the Classroom, a parent roundtable discussion, hosted by the AHPA, featuring parents of current senior students and recent alumni.

Learn about their students' experiences with college coursework, internships, and independent studies and how you can best support your student in pursuing these opportunities too!

Contact Colleen Braun or Katie Stafford for more details!

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast

The Academy High Parent Association (AHPA) invites families to contribute to the upcoming Teacher Appreciation Breakfast on Monday, February 12th! Please sign up at this link to provide baked goods, fruit or a gluten free item. Our faculty and staff always enjoy these special days. Thanks so much for your support!



Invitation to the CU International Film Festival on March 2nd



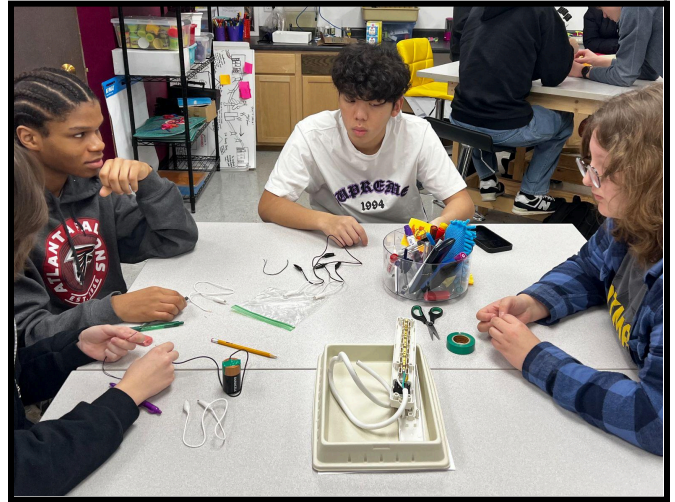
CU International Film Festival (CUIFF) is taking place on **Saturday, March 2nd at 7pm** at the Spurlock Museum of World Cultures in Urbana. CUIFF will showcase short films from around the world that entertain, educate, and elevate us. Short films were submitted from around the world, including Australia, Canada, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. There will be a red-carpet gala before the festival, a meaningful cinematic experience, and an evening to remember. Here is a [link](#) to the website with more information.

Please save the date - you are invited to attend! General admission is FREE, and it is recommended to arrive early to secure a seat. This is a wonderful opportunity for the Academy High community to enjoy an evening out together. If you have any questions, or if you are interested in volunteering, please contact CUIFF at info@cuiff.org.

Physics for Juniors and Seniors

This semester our junior and senior students are taking physics with Dr. Josek. Dr. Josek has an illustrious background in science and education. They completed their bachelors, masters, and doctorate at the University of Illinois, where they currently serve as a microscopist at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology.

Dr. Josek previously served as a Postdoctoral Associate and Instructor at Illinois State University. As a graduate student and postdoctoral associate, Dr. Josek developed science curricula for high school and college students. One of these units (the Lyme disease unit that many of our students have completed) was co-designed with Mrs. Capell.



Students in physics are currently engaged in an OpenSciEd curriculum unit exploring the Texas energy crisis of 2021. This unit, developed by education professionals at University of Colorado Boulder has earned the NGSS Design Badge. In this unit, students will be exploring how energy transfers between different systems and developing engineering solutions to develop reliable energy systems.

New Class for 9th Graders: Introduction to Experimental Design

Intro to Experimental Design is a new freshman class being offered at Academy High. In this class, students will dive into the process of science, honing their skills at observation, developing testable hypotheses, creating well-designed experiments, collecting & analyzing data, and communicating scientific information (through writing lab reports and presenting formal research posters).

Students are currently designing their first experiment that will test the effectiveness of different soaps and hand sanitizers at removing bacteria from their hands. Later this semester, students will design experiments that test the different effects that various environmental conditions have on the regeneration rate of planarians (a freshwater flatworm).



Senior Night: Pack the House

Our last home basketball game will take place on Thursday, February 8th at 6:00pm at the Savoy Recreation Center. This game will be senior night for our two seniors: Sophia Libman and Eleanor Laufenberg.

Alongside senior night, we will also hold a “pack the house” night to get as many Academy High students, parents, and fans to attend! All Academy High students who attend the game will get free admission and will receive a free drink and snack when they arrive. Owlér Café concessions will also be selling food and drinks. Please come out to support our girls basketball team and seniors at their last home game of the season!



Track and Field

Track and Field season is quickly approaching! Our first practice will take place on Monday, February 5th from 4:30-6:00pm at Academy High, and our first competitive meet will be on Friday, February 16th at the University of Illinois Armory.

Even if you are unsure about joining track and field, I highly suggest you try it out! There are many different skills that are needed for this sport. We currently have a great group of veteran runners (Eleanor Laufenberg, Sophia Libman, and Jack Braun), who will be thrilled to welcome any new members to the team or answer any questions you might have!

If you are interested in joining, please let Ms. Leskis know by the end of the weekend.

Host An Exchange Student Next Year!



[AFS](#) is currently looking for hosts for the 2024-2025 school year.

There are so many students signed up to participate in next year's program! Academy High is hopeful that 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 previous AFS exchange student at Academy High, has graciously offered to answer any questions from interested families. We can also connect families with a volunteer who leads AFS's placement process in Illinois!

Community Volunteer Opportunity: Teen Nature Workdays

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.



Need service hours? Want to boost your resume or college app? Come to a FREE teen nature workday!

Cut, chop, pull, and plant with the Urbana Park District. No experience necessary. Adult signature required - scan QR code for the waiver.

First Saturday of every month from 2-4 pm.
Come when you can!

- Jan 6/Feb 3/Mar 2: Perkins Prairie (Urbana Dog Park)
 - Ruby to Perkins & Eastern
- April 6: Solidarity Gardens at Meadowbrook Park (Race St lot)
 - Green to Race & Windsor

Questions? 217-384-4062 or ckprahl@urbanaparks.org

Scan here for more info!

2024 Girls Who Code Summer Programs Application



girls who code 2024 SUMMER PROGRAMS

[THE MISSION] Level up by becoming a coder this summer. Get the skills, network, and community you need to change the world with our two free programs.

WELCOME TO THE GAME. CHOOSE YOUR ADVENTURE.

VIRTUAL SUMMER IMMERSION PROGRAM

Ready for a multiplayer experience? Build a network and invest in your future in live classrooms hosted by top companies.

Who gets to join?

- 9th-11th grade girls and non-binary high school students, with or without prior coding experience, including alums.

What will you learn?

- Design computer games using p5.js, a JavaScript library for creative coding.

What's in it for you?

- Find support and community from devoted Teaching Teams and classmates.
- Get career inspiration and mentorship from exclusive Partner Events.
- Enhance your experience with grants and laptop and hot spot access.

When does the program take place?

- Round 1: June 14 - June 28
- Round 2: July 8 - July 19
- Round 3: July 29 - August 9
- Classes meet M-F for 2-3 hours, followed by independent work time and optional Student Hours.

KEY DATES:

Early decision deadline: February 14
Regular decision deadline: March 22

girlswhocode.com/summerapply

SELF-PACED SUMMER PROGRAM

Ready for a single-player life? Explore hot topics in tech and become a coder on your own schedule.

Who gets to join?

- 9th-12th grade girls and non-binary high school students, with or without prior coding experience, including alums.

What will you learn?

- Choose from courses in Cybersecurity, Data Science + AI, and Web Development tracks.

What's in it for you?

- Enjoy the flexibility to learn independently, at your own pace.
- Connect with fellow coders and Advisors through Discord and Student Hours.
- Apply your new skills to create projects with real-world relevance and impact.

When does the program take place?

- July 1 - August 9
- Each course in a track takes 3-6 hours to complete.

JOIN THE FUN:

QR code and image of three girls coding.

Girls Who Code's Free Virtual Summer Programs Overview

Our free virtual summer programs are open to **9-12th graders who identify as girls or non-binary**. Any coding experience level is welcome!

In addition to our free programs, we offer a financial support grant of up to \$300 and laptop and hotspot access for eligible students.

This year, students can choose to learn new coding skills in game design, web design, cybersecurity, or data science and artificial intelligence! As they build computer science skills, students will learn about the many diverse careers in tech through virtual events with professionals in the field.

Students receive priority consideration if they apply at girlswhocode.com/summerapply by **February 14, 2024**. Regular-decision applications are due by **March 22, 2024**.