



**ACADEMY HIGH**  
CHAMPAIGN URBANA

## **WEEKLY NEWS**

**August 25, 2023**



**Class of 2024 Ready to Start Their Senior Year**

### **Upcoming Events**

**Sunday, August 27th**

**Back to School Social at Colbert Park, 3-5pm**

**Tuesday, August 29th**

**Chipotle Fundraiser at N. Prospect location 4-8 pm**

**Wednesday, August 30th**

**Back to School Night, 6-7:30 pm**

**Monday, September 4th**

**Labor Day/No School/End of AHPA Mum Sale**

**Tuesday, September 5th**

**School Photo Day**

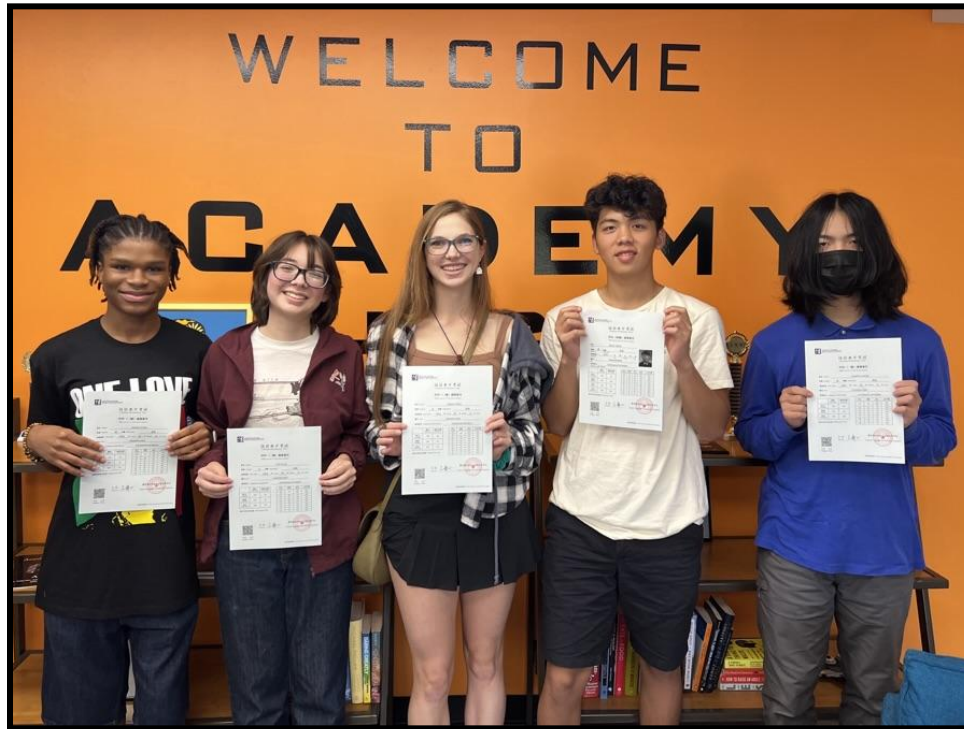
**Friday, September 22nd**

**Fall Dance**

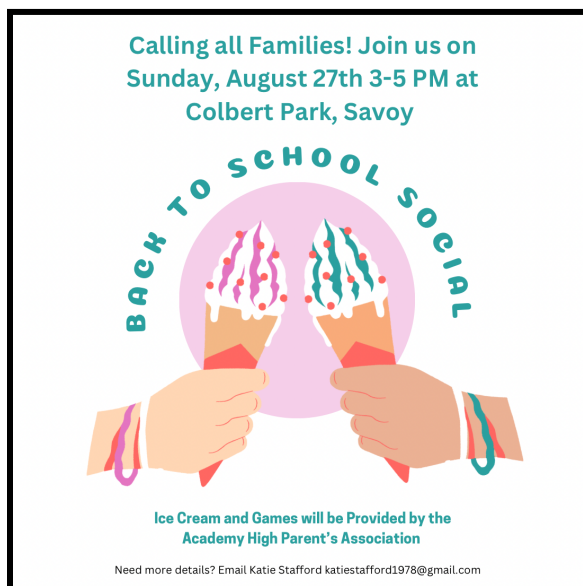
**Wednesday, September 27th**

**Empower Illinois Donor Information Event, 6:30pm**

## Chinese Students Receive HSK Results from 22-23 School Year



Earlier this week, returning students in Mrs. Chen's Chinese II-IV classes received their results from last year's HSK test. The HSK test is an international standardized test of Chinese language proficiency. Congratulations to Mrs. Chen and her students on receiving strong scores!



This Sunday, August 27th, the Academy High Parent's Association (AHPA) will be hosting a Back to School Social at Colbert Park in Savoy from 3-5pm.

All students and their families are encouraged to come out for this free event - there will be ice cream!

## Academy High Mum Sale Through September 4th



Academy High has once again partnered with Country Arbors Nursery for a fall mum sale fundraiser! Proceeds will be used for school community events and teacher appreciation events.

The sale will take place through September 4th. You can place your order and submit payment here:

<https://countryarbors.com/events/academy-fall23>

You will pick up your plants at Academy High on Saturday, September 9th. If you have any questions, please reach out to Carla Caceres.

## Families - Let Us Know How You'd Like to Volunteer This Year!

One of the things that makes Academy High a special community is how many parents are involved in different aspects and activities of the school. We ask that each family submit a response to our Volunteering at Academy High survey to help faculty, administration, and the Parent's Association understand ways that you and your family might want to get involved at Academy High this school year.



Next Wednesday, August 30th, parents and guardians are encouraged to attend Back to School Night from 6-7:30pm at Academy High. In addition to learning more about the school's exciting programming for the coming year, this event will offer the opportunity to meet and greet with faculty and learn more about the subjects covered in each class.

**DO GOOD WITH CHIPOTLE**

CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR  
**ACADEMY HIGH**

33% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 29TH | 4-8PM**  
903 W ANTHONY DR # A, CHAMPAIGN, IL, 61821

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **AGM2YFN**  
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT

**Eat at Chipotle and Support Student Council**

On Tuesday, August 29th, you can help Academy High's Student Council raise funds for its annual programs including dances, end of semester celebrations, and Prom!

It's as simple as ordering a meal at the **Chipotle off N. Prospect between 4-8pm**. Be sure to grab a flyer from the front vestibule of the school (also attached) or use code **AGM2YFN** when placing an order online.

**Upcoming College Counseling Workshops for Junior and Senior Families**

Lisa R. Micele

**LRM**  
College Consulting

**AH College Counseling Workshops with Lisa Micele**

Please save the date and watch for additional class level emails, registration directives and links in the coming weeks.

	<b>Class of 2024 – SENIORS</b>	<b>Sept 13</b>	<b>Zoom 7-8pm</b>
	<b>Class of 2025 – JUNIORS</b>	<b>Sept 20</b>	<b>Zoom 7-8pm</b>



## Academy High Achieves Student Exchange and Visitor Program (SEVP) Designation



In late July, Academy High was approved to begin sponsoring F-1 visas for international students who wish to enroll at the school. By sponsoring F-1 visas, Academy High will empower international students to experience life in the United States, in Champaign-Urbana, and in our school community. We look forward to building our International Student Program in the years to come!

## Faculty Spotlight: Sidney Leskis, Physical Education Faculty & Athletic Director



This summer, Ms. Leskis attended the **Athletic Director Personal Development Conference** at the IHSA office in Bloomington, Illinois. Over the course of two days, she took classes with other athletic directors from the state. Class topics included leadership styles, program culture, personnel management, financial and legal decisions, and organizational relationships.

The conference focused on utilizing an education-based athletic approach; where athletics teach and build skills that are directed toward a student-athlete's success in both sports, education, and beyond. Ms. Leskis met a lot of new people within the Athletic Director community and plans to attend more professional development classes as the year progresses!

## Alumni Spotlight

### William Ding, Class of 2022



**Hometown:** Champaign, Illinois

**University:** New York University

**Degree/Major:** Environmental Studies

**Expected Year of Graduation:** 2027

**Tell us a little about what you've been up to since you graduated?** I began my Freshman year of college at New York University's Manhattan campus, where I am majoring in Environmental Studies. Two of my favorite classes so far are Environmental Systems Science and Environment & Society. Throughout my time at NYU, I have made many close friends from different backgrounds that study different things. Some friends come from New Jersey and major in Biology, while others are from Singapore and major in fashion and sustainability. Together we like spending time at Washington

Square Park, shopping in K-Town under the Empire State Building, eating in Chinatown and St. Marks, going to concerts and museums, and exploring the city.

**Is there anything specific about your college experience that you feel Academy High prepared you particularly well for?** One thing Academy made easy for me was reaching out to my professors. While my relationship with my teachers at Academy isn't exactly the same as the one I have with my professors, it helped me talk to them and get to know them (and get them to know me). This not only helped me pass my classes when I was handling the workload but also will be helpful in the future. Another thing Academy prepared me for was being able to manage my work every week. I found that my Academy eased us into the way colleges give us work really well.

**When you look back on your time at Academy High, what do you remember most about your experience?** One of the most important experiences at Academy was at the end of my Senior year. I had some mental health issues that prevented me from attending school for a while, but all my teachers were highly understanding and supportive. I received plenty of help and accommodations for my missing work and was able to graduate with my peers. Another great experience with Academy was taking a group trip to China with the Chinese class in my Freshman year. This was one of the most rewarding trips I have ever had. We did a lot of touring the country while spending time with students from China and learning about the culture.

**What advice would you give a freshman student as they begin their Academy High journey?** My advice would be to take advantage of the smaller size and all that Academy offers. Your teachers are there to help you grow and building strong connections with them will open many opportunities and motivate you to learn a lot in school. Being close to your classmates is just as important. They will be there to push you to be better and have fun. A great way to make friends is to join clubs you are interested in, where you'll be able to meet people with similar interests and do things you enjoy. If there is a club you want to join but doesn't exist, Academy also makes it easy for you to start your own club.