Hello ECA Students and Families!

We’re excited to welcome back all students on September 6 at 1 pm. Students new to ECA will return on September 1 and should already have received that information. This year, our 305 students come from 31 communities in Connecticut!

More information and news will arrive in your inbox in the coming weeks. But for now, please read through to the end of this message for today’s important news.

**Opening of School**
First day for NEW students only: September 1, 1 pm - 4:10 pm.
First day for ALL students - NEW AND RETURNING: September 6, 1 pm - 4:10 pm.

You will also receive information from your department’s chairperson about these first days.

**Parent Square, PowerSchool and Student Square**
Instructions for logging in to all platforms were sent to you by snail mail to your home address. All important school-related communication will come through Parent Square, Student Square and Power School. Please be sure you’re able to access these platforms. Using the phone and tablet apps is a simple way to interact. If you’re having trouble logging in, please contact Tenisha by email at tbiggs@aces.org.

**Transportation**
Transportation to/from ECA is handled by your local school district. All questions about transportation should be directed to either your district central office or to your sending high school. If you’re having trouble solving a transportation problem, please call me.

**Student Attendance**
ECA’s attendance policy from the ACES student handbook is copied below. Please send information about your student’s absences, late arrivals and early dismissals ahead of time when possible to our office manager, Tenisha Biggs THROUGH PARENT SQUARE only. If you have any questions or need clarification about the attendance policy, please let me know.
Attendance Policy/Early Dismissal
CT state law requires parents/guardians to ensure their children attend school regularly during the hours and terms the school is in session. Learning experiences that occur in the classroom are considered to be meaningful and essential components of the learning process. Time lost from class tends to be irretrievable in terms of opportunity for instructional interaction.

ACES requires that accurate records be kept of the attendance of each child. A student should not be absent from school without the parent’s or guardian’s knowledge and consent. Verification of absence should be written by parent or guardian.

An absence shall be considered “excused” when a child does not attend school due to illness, injury, death in the immediate family, religious obligation, and emergency, or other exceptional circumstances. Written excuse for such absence should be submitted to school officials by the child’s parent or guardian. All other absences with or without written explanation shall be considered unexcused.

A child whose total number of absences at any time during a school year is equal to or greater than 10% of the total number of days that the student has been enrolled at the school during the school year is considered a “chronically absent child.” The child will be subject to review by the districts and/or the school attendance team.

Save the Date
Back to School Night/Open House will be held on September 14 from 6 pm - 8 pm at ECA. Details to follow.

Social Media
Be sure to keep up with ECA on Facebook (@ECAACES) and Instagram (@EducationalCenterfortheArts).

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Leslie Abbatiello
Principal