

BACK TO SCHOOL GUIDE – SUMMER 2017

EXPLORE ACADEMY



As we move toward the beginning of the 2017-18 school year, here is the back-to-school guide which includes everything you need to know as we get ready for the new school year. Please review all items as we are adding new components for this school year. There are separate sections at the end which specifically address different student grades.

SCHOOL START DATE

The start date of school has been changed due to delays in construction on the building, and the website [calendar](#) has been updated accordingly. It shows a tentative start date of August 14th, which is based on the construction timeline of the new classrooms we're building out. This is subject to change.

SUPPLIES

The supply list is very minimal: students will need a Chromebook and some notebooks and pencils. Some specific seminars might require specific items (sketch books for art, for instance).

COURSE CATALOG AND COURSE SELECTION

The 2017-18 course catalog is online [here](#).

***UPDATE: there is a new version of the math schedule in the back of the catalog. It adds more course offerings than in the previous iteration.**

***NOTE ON MATH COURSE NUMBERS:** many of you have taken notice that math seminar flavors possess the same number. This was done on purpose as we are going to work student choice into every math seminar, allowing students to pursue their choice of flavor within the options provided. We want the scheduling of math classes to be as least restrictive as possible, and by packing all flavors into one seminar we felt students would benefit from greater flexibility.

COURSE SELECTION WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE EVENING OF WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2ND AT 8PM.

Registration links will be emailed out to parents and students, and posted on the school website. Access to these accounts requires students to use their Explore Academy accounts. With the exception of 9th graders (see below), all students are expected to schedule all eight terms prior to the first day of school. For those terms not scheduled by the start of school, schedules will be automatically generated without student input.

FRESHMEN SCHEDULING: Terms 1 to 4 will be scheduled for freshmen, although freshmen will have the choice on which elective they take for the first four terms. Freshmen can click [this link](#) to register for their elective. For terms 5-8, freshmen will schedule their classes beginning August 2nd with the assumption that they pass 100-level classes in terms 1-4.

TRANSPORTATION

We've confirmed (finally) that we will receive funding for a fourth bus, so that's allowed us to expand our transportation scope. We are working on adjusting and expanding routes now and will update this guide (and the website) when the routes are finalized and approved by the bus company.

ORDERING SCHOOL APPAREL

Now is the time to start ordering school apparel! To have orders ready for orientation, we recommend families have their apparel orders placed as soon as possible. Here is the [link](#) to our apparel catalog and the [link](#) to our online store.

LUNCHES

Explore Academy utilizes an electronic student-account payment system where parents deposit money into student accounts, and accounts are debited on days when students eat. The menu for the given week is provided one week ahead of time, and students are required to select the meals they would like to purchase prior to the start of each week (to ensure an accurate meal count from the catering service). The link to the parent account deposit system will be updated with new student accounts one week prior to the start of school and will be posted on the school website (and emailed to parents when available). The price of lunch for full-paying students is \$3.50.

FREE-AND-REDUCED LUNCH APPLICATION

The free-and-reduced lunch application has been completely revamped. For this coming year, Explore Academy will align with the National School Lunch Program to serve free and reduced lunches to those students that qualify. Here is the [link](#) to the application. **NOTE:** we require income verification and other supporting documentation for all families before the application is considered processed.

HOST A FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT

Last year, the Explore Academy community welcomed six foreign exchange students. It was a great experience for all, including the exchange students themselves! For the coming school year, more exchange students are ready to join our community (there are dozens on a waiting list), however we are in need of host families looking to take on a student for the school year. Please [email us](#) if you are interested.

DRIVER'S EDUCATION

Driver's Ed will be offered across terms 3 and 4 during 3rd period lunch. The class takes place Monday through Wednesday with students eating while attending the class. The course will run ten (10) weeks and students are required to schedule 3rd period lunch for both terms 3 and 4 in order to attend. The cost of the program is \$400 and students will earn one seminar credit for completion of the 30-hour classroom portion.

ATHLETICS SIGN-UP

Sign-ups for fall athletic programs (soccer and flag football) will be posted here and on the school's website once league registration opens. All students will require a completed sports physical to participate.