

Knight News

York Academy Regional Charter School

January 25, 2019



Government Shutdown

It is truly unfortunate that the federal government created an environment within our country that places many families into a difficult financial situation. Should any York Academy family be employed in a federal job and is not working or being paid for the work performed, I strongly suggest submitting an application for free or reduced priced meals for York Academy children.

The staff will process that application quickly and hopefully be able to provide some assistance during the government shutdown. The application for Free or Reduced Lunch can be secured from the Main Office of either school.

Handicapped Parking at the York Academy Lower School



Please be aware that the City of York moved the designated space for handicapped parking to the front of the building on North Street. Those displaying handicapped parking permits should use the North Street space rather than the previously designated area on Beaver Street.

Be reminded that Parking Enforcement Officers will ticket individuals parking or dropping off students on Beaver Street. The York Academy provides a safe procedure for dropping off students by using the rear parking lot of the Lower School.

Security for Parent Pick-up

The York Academy Staff takes the security of our students seriously. During dismissal, our staff is instructed to not allow a student to be dismissed to a person that does not appear on the child's Emergency Card. Therefore, if parents are designating a non-parent to pick-up the child, the name of that person must appear on the Emergency Card. Parents may update information on the Emergency Card by visiting the Main Office or updating the demographic information through the [Parent Portal \(Sapphire\)](#).

STUDENT
SAFETY



February PTO Meeting

The February PTO meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the Upper School Center for Creative Expression. John McElligott from [York Exponential](#) will be speaking on the future of technology and will provide a demonstration of the use of robotics. This is a great opportunity to learn more about technology and how it will impact the future of our children.

York Academy Online Store Now Open

The York Academy Online Store is now open and will remain so through Sunday, February 10. York Academy families interested in purchasing gym uniforms and/or school approved sweatshirts (navy blue for grades K-5 and maroon for grades 6-9) should take this opportunity to place orders at this time. All items will be delivered on Monday, February 24.



As a reminder, eighth and ninth graders who are scheduled for physical education class in the third trimester will need black shorts and a gray or teal t-shirt with the York Academy logo. [Click here to shop now.](#)



Permission Form Deadline: PTO Yoga & Yogurt Bar (6-9)

With the end of the second trimester in sight, it's time to relieve some stress! The York Academy PTO is hosting a Yoga & Yogurt Bar event for all MYP students (6-9) on Friday, February 8 from 4 – 5:30 p.m. in the Lower School Cafeteria. No younger siblings are permitted to attend. Students will relax with yoga instructor, Mrs. Mace and enjoy a self-serve yogurt bar with endless toppings. Permission forms are due by Wednesday, February 6. [Click here](#) to view and print the form.

Student Recognized for MLK Community Service Essay



The York Academy is pleased to share that sixth-grader Neva Kirk-Jadric was recognized for her writing skills last night at an Open House at Representative Carol Hill-Evans' district office. Neva participated in the MLK Community Service Essay Contest sponsored by Hill-Evans and was selected as the first-runner up. She is pictured with Language & Literature teacher, Ms. Gorman (left) and Representative Hill-Evans (right). Neva demonstrated the IB attributes of being caring, knowledgeable, open-minded and reflective when preparing her essay.

Through her project, "Catching the Bus to Shelter," she hopes to change homelessness a few people at a time. Neva's dream is to find donors who would provide school buses that could be converted into solar powered living spaces, complete with small kitchens, washers/dryers, bathrooms with showers, and bunk beds. The buses would be parked in empty lots or fields. Families in need, especially those with infants or young children, would be offered space first. Neva hopes that local businesses would support the project financially or by donating materials.

In her words, "This project is important to me because everyone deserves to have a home. These buses aren't a permanent solution to homelessness, but they can be a stepping stone to a permanent future."

Safe2Say Something (S2SS)

The York Academy is committed to assuring the safety of children while in our care. We are also concerned about the safety of our entire staff and continue to evaluate the operation of our schools to address safety concerns.

The York Academy is pleased to announce that our school will be participating in the [Safe2Say Something](#) program initiated through the Attorney General's Office as a requirement of Act 44. The program is designed to teach students, teachers, classified staff and administrators how to recognize warning signs and signals - especially within social media - of individuals that may be a threat to themselves or others and [Say Something](#) to a trusted adult or use the anonymous reporting system. The program teaches participants to:

- Recognize the signs and signals of at-risk behaviors – especially within social media
- Take every sign or signal seriously; act quickly by talking to a trusted adult or
- Report it anonymously through the Safe2Say Office of the Attorney General's 24/7 Crisis Center, [mobile app](#) or [website](#)
- Respond to and manage the submitted tip via a school-based educator and administrator team



Students are usually aware of the problems their peers experience at home or at school, and schools need to assure that students are aware of danger signs and provide them with the tools necessary to assist a peer work through a problem. Our students are heavily involved with social media and there is significant sharing of information on these apps. Our students need to be able to identify issues on social media. S2SS teaches students what to look for in text, video and photos while empowering them to act quickly to help a fellow student.

The S2SS program is being provided through Sandy Hook Promise (SHP), a nation-wide non-profit organization. SHP programs are available in all 50 states with millions of students and parents trained. The program is designed for students in middle and high schools. The York Academy staff will be training all students in grades six through nine in the next several weeks.



PTO Roller Skating Party (K-5)

The PTO is hosting a Roller Skating Party for all York Academy families in kindergarten through fifth grade on Tuesday, February 12 from 6 – 8 p.m. at Roll “R” Way. Siblings are welcome to come. Admission is free, but children must pay for skate rental. Come join us for a night of great music and skating!

February Early Dismissal & Spirit Day

The York Academy will dismiss Lower School students at 12:15 p.m. and Upper School students at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, February 15. Teachers are scheduled for training during that afternoon. Please make sure arrangements are made to have children picked up at the designated times.

Friday, February 15 is also Spirit Day. Students wishing to participate are asked to wear an article of clothing that represents their favorite athletic team or sport. We ask that if your student chooses to participate, they make a \$1.00 contribution to the PTO. These dollars are used to provide enjoyable activities for our students and families throughout the year. Students that elect to not participate are to wear their regular school uniform.



Knights of the Arts

Please join our “Knights of the Arts” for an evening of music and drama on Friday, February 22 at 7 p.m. in the Upper School Center for Creative Expression. There will be performances by the drama class and various rock bands, as well as electronic music compositions. Artwork will also be on display in the glass case in the cafeteria.

The doors will open at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are by donation only (\$3) and proceeds will benefit the performing arts at York Academy. We hope to see you there!

Selecting the New Chief Executive Officer

The Board of Trustees reviewed over 20 applications for the position of the York Academy’s Chief Executive Officer. After interviewing six well qualified candidates, the Board further narrowed the field to two candidates. They are Ms. Angela Sugarek and Dr. Michael Lowe.

Ms. Angela Sugarek

Ms. Sugarek is currently the principal of the James Hogg Middle School in Houston, Texas. The school in which Ms. Sugarek is the principal is an International Baccalaureate School serving 950 students. Previously, Ms. Sugarek was the principal of Durham Elementary School, Houston, Texas, Dean of Instruction at McReynolds Middle School, and a Data Analyst with the Houston Independent School District.

Ms. Sugarek earned a Bachelor of Science degree in History and Mathematics from the Eastern New Mexico University and a Master of Educational Administration from the University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. Michael Lowe

Dr. Lowe is currently the Head of the York Academy Upper School. The Upper School offers the Middle Years Programme to 130 student in grades eight and nine. Prior to his current role, Dr. Lowe was the Supervisor of Instructional Development for the York Academy. In addition, his previous assignments include Assistant Superintendent at the School District of Cheltenham, Supervisor of Elementary Education at the Red Lion Area School District, and Principal for the School District of the City of York.

Dr. Lowe earned a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication from Shippensburg University, Master of Science in Counseling from Shippensburg University, Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Duquesne University and a Certificate of Advanced Educational Leadership from Harvard University.

The Board of Trustees extended an invitation to over 100 of our York Academy stakeholders to meet with Ms. Sugarek on February 6 and Dr. Lowe on February 7. Both candidates will have 30 minutes to share their educational background, employment history and vision for the York Academy. Following the presentation, the Board of Trustees will present several questions for the candidates to address.



School Delays or Closings

Please be aware that the York Academy does not follow the decisions made by other school districts in York County regarding inclement weather. The decision to delay or cancel school will come directly from the York Academy. All parents should be aware of the following details when there is a possibility of a delay or closing.

- Since the office staff does not begin their work day until 7:30 a.m., please do not call the school before this time. Calls made prior to 7:30 a.m. may not be answered.
- The York Academy will send a phone message to all families that provided the school with their number, indicating the status of school.
- The York Academy will send an email message to all families that provided the school with their email.
- The York Academy will notify WGAL News 8 and they will add the announcement to their list. Watch for updates on TV, the [WGAL website](#) and on the [WGAL app](#).
- The York Academy will post the status of the school on our [website](#) and on our [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts.

Once again, there are a number of ways to determine if the York Academy will be delayed or closed. Please select the method that best fits your personal situation.

Upcoming Events & Activities

- January 26 at 11 a.m. – [2019-20 Open House Information Session for Interested Families](#) (please share)
- January 31 at 6 p.m. – [2019-20 Open House Information Session for Interested Families](#) (please share)
- February 5 at 6 p.m. – [PTO Meeting at the Upper School Center for Creative Expression](#)
- February 8 from 4 – 5:30 p.m. – [PTO Yogurt & Yoga Bar Event \(6–9\)](#)
- February 12 from 6 – 8 p.m. – [PTO Roller Skating Party at Roll “R” Way](#)
- February 15 – Early Dismissal & Spirit Day (Sports Day)
- February 18 – No School (Snow Make-Up Day)
- February 22 at 7 p.m. – [Knights of the Arts at the Upper School Center for Creative Expression](#)
- February 26 – Last Day of Trimester 2
- February 28 from 4 – 6 p.m. – Black History Month Celebration at the Upper School
- March 1 – Early Dismissal
- Student-Led Conferences – March 7 & 8
- March 12 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. – [Lunar Wonders presented by Night Wonders of Astronomy \(K-5\)](#)
- March 28 from 6 – 8:30 p.m. – Title 1 Parent & Family Engagement Event (K-3)

