



BEAR Essentials

NORTH STAR ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

North Star Academy exists to ENGAGE and INSPIRE students to achieve their highest potential through a SAFE, CHALLENGING, and INDIVIDUALIZED learning environment.

JANUARY 31, 2018

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Last week students finished up their ELA Sage Interim assessments. This is exciting news because the data that our teachers will acquire from these assessments will help guide their instruction for the rest of the year.

Did you know that SAGE actually prepares students to take the ACT in 11th grade? SAGE provides students with the opportunity to practice high stake assessments in a non-high stakes environment. According to the Assessment and Research Department from Washington County School District, if a student takes a serious approach to the SAGE test, their scores can be a good predictor on how well they will do on the ACT. You can visit <http://assessment.washk12.org/act-estimator> and view an estimation of what a student's ACT score could be. The estimator only works for SAGE scores from the 8th grade.

Other benefits of SAGE data:

- *provide immediate information for teachers to use in creating groups for re-teaching and/or enrichment
- *help teachers in planning instruction that is based on students' strengths and/or weaknesses
- *help teachers know where their students are academically so that they can develop a personalized plan centered around each student so they can reach own potential
- *evaluate the effectiveness of prior instruction and make plans for future instruction

We are looking forward to analyzing our data so that we can continue to grow as a staff and help our students achieve excellence.

Sincerely,
Diana Seidel, M.Ed.
Assistant Director
North Star Academy

CONGRATULATIONS

NSA Geography
Bee Winner!



NSA Geography
Bee Runner-Up!



On January 24th we held our school's Geographic Bee. All of our contestants did such a great job! Congratulations to our winner, Joseph S. and to our runner up, Ian E. Joseph S. will be moving to the state qualifier test that he will take on February 1st. Good luck, Joseph!

EVENT CALENDAR

Jan. 31	Basketball Games @Hawthorne Girls 5pm - Boys 6pm
Feb. 5	Basketball Games @NSA Girls 5pm - Boys 6pm
Feb. 7	Basketball Games @Ascent WJ Girls 5pm - Boys 6pm
Feb. 12	Basketball Games @NSA Girls 5pm - Boys 6pm
Feb. 14	Basketball Games @Mountainville Girls 5pm - Boys 6pm

~January Healthy Habits~

Walking in the snow uses more muscles and burns more calories.

LAST DAY TO REGISTER ONLINE!

Open Enrollment

The electronic application for admissions into NSA is available on our website for NEW families. **Today is the final day to register.**

The lottery will be held during the second week of February, 2018.

Re-enrollment for Next School Year

Re-Enroll your student today!

Parents of current NSA students should have received an email regarding re-enrollment.

PLEASE declare your intent to return.

Today is the final day to secure your spot.

"The NSA community will increase students' happiness while learning by focusing on each individual."

2920 WEST 14000 SOUTH BLUFFDALE, UT 84065 801.302.9579



FREE TRAINING

Bluffdale City is offering a ~FREE~

Emergency Preparedness course to NSA Staff and Families.

Training classes will be held Thursdays Feb.-Mar. from 7-9:30pm with 1 Saturday Drill on March 17th.

First time participants will receive a certification kit including: hardhat, goggles, gloves, n95 dust mask, disaster medical supply starter kit, CERT manual, and pack. Pick up a flyer in the office with further details and information.

Contact Natalie Hall nhall@bluffdale.com to register.

Treat Mom TO LUNCH DAY

Mark your calendars for Feb. 21st and bring your Mom or Grandma to lunch! Parents, please let the office know in advance if you are planning to attend. Support our school lunch program by purchasing lunch. We will be serving Salisbury Steak. Payments can be made in advance and the cost is \$3 per lunch for adults.

ATTENTION

PARENTS

Did you know you can place money on your child's lunch account for them to purchase a la carte items such as milk, fruit, dessert, or vegetables even if they are having a cold lunch that day? We have been receiving these coins when paid in cash directly in the lunchroom, but in an effort to better track these items all cash will now be accepted in the office or you can pay larger amounts directly to their lunch account where the 25 cents will be deducted each time a student would like to buy one of these a la carte items to supplement their lunch.

We hope this better serves you and your child.

SEM - Kindergarten Buddies

In morning kindergarten we have fun, fabulouso fourth grade buddies. In afternoon kindergarten we have nice, gnarly ninth grade buddies.

Together, we worked on following directions, taking turns, being a good sport, and a win win attitude by learning and playing new games with our buddies.



Elementary MATH Tutoring

We are excited to offer your elementary age student a little more support in math if needed (Type 2 opportunity), all the while providing a wonderful enrichment opportunity for our middle school students (Type 3 opportunity). In addition to your classroom teachers offering after school lab, on Thursdays one of our middle school teachers, Mrs. Brenchley, is advising a group of middle school students who have applied to tutor any students needing a little more assistance with their math each Thursday beginning next week on February 8, 3- 4. Middle school students completed applications and are looking forward to helping your child be and feel successful in math.

Thursdays from 3:00 - 4:00

- ✓ Receive math tutoring from middle school students
- ✓ Get homework help
- ✓ Develop study skills
- ✓ Prepare for math tests

Located in
the Library

Kindergarten -
6th Grade

INFO BITS

Are you a square?

Have your child stand with his arms stretched out to the sides. Measure his height and his arm span (from fingertip to fingertip). If they're about the same, he's a square! Then,



let him measure other family members. Who is closest to a square in your family?

Stronger muscles

Why is it important to exercise our muscles? Ask your youngster to crumple one sheet of paper into a small ball with one hand. How do her hand and arm muscles feel? Then, she should crumple five more sheets, one at a time. How are her muscles feeling now? Explain that the more paper she crumples, the harder her muscles have to work—and the stronger they become.

Book picks

■ *Edgar Allan Poe's Pie: Math Puzzlers in Classic Poems* (J. Patrick Lewis) is a delightful twist on poetry that will challenge your youngster to solve math riddles.

■ Imagine going to Mars! Your child can do that and more by learning how humans would prepare for a voyage to the red planet in *Mission: Mars* (Pascal Lee).

Just for fun

Q: What says "Zzub, zzub"?

A: A bee flying backward!



Wonderful word problems

"We got 2 inches of snow per hour for 6 hours. Then it snowed 1 inch per hour for 3 more hours. How much snow fell altogether?" Your youngster can easily figure out the snowy answer (15 inches!) using word problem strategies like these.

Spot important words

Encourage your child to underline information she needs to solve a word problem and cross out anything irrelevant. *Example:* "At Sara's 9th birthday party, there were 4 bunches of 4 balloons. Unfortunately, 2 balloons floated away, 1 purple and 1 green. How many were left?" She'd underline "4 bunches of 4" (multiply 4×4) and "2 floated away" (subtract 2). So $(4 \times 4) - 2 = 14$ balloons. On the other hand, it doesn't matter—math-wise—how old Sara is or what color the lost balloons are.



Sketch it out

Your youngster can draw her thinking to decide how to approach a word problem. *Example:* "A school has 275 students and 15 classes, with 10 girls per class. How many boys are in the school?" She could draw 15 boxes (classrooms) and write 10 in each to represent 10 girls. She'll see that she needs to multiply to find the number of girls ($15 \times 10 = 150$) and subtract her answer from the total number of students to determine the number of boys ($275 - 150 = 125$).

Super-strong eggs

Eggs don't crack when hens sit on them. Does your child know why? The secret lies in the dome shape of the eggs, and this experiment will show him just how strong eggshells are.

Break two eggs in half (perhaps make scrambled eggs with the insides), and rinse the shells. Let your youngster set the four eggshell halves on a table, dome sides up, then place a notebook on top of them. The shells won't crack! Have him predict how many books they'll hold before they crack and then stack books on top, one at a time. How close does his prediction come?

The dome shape distributes the weight evenly all around the sides of the egg, making it easier for the shell to support the load.



X and Y mark the spot!

With this activity, your youngster can use x and y coordinates to find hidden "treasure."

1. Give each player a sheet of graph paper. Starting near the bottom left of your page, number the horizontal lines up the left side 0, 1, 2, and so on up to 20. This is your y-axis. Beginning at the same 0, number the vertical lines across the bottom to 20—this is your x-axis.



2. Each of you secretly picks one number from your x-axis and one from your y-axis and draws a tiny treasure (perhaps a star or a heart) on the intersection of those lines. So if your child chose 3 from the x-axis and 4 from the y-axis, his treasure's coordinates are (3, 4).

3. Give directions that let the other players plot your coordinates on their grids. Your youngster might tell you to start at (3, 2) and move up 2 spaces. Or he could have you begin at (8, 4) and move left 5 spaces.

4. Continue until all the treasures have been located. Add new treasures, and play again. ♣



SCIENCE LAB

DIY frost

When it's cold outside, your youngster might see frost on the windows or grass. Using a few household items, she can make her own frost and understand how it forms.

You'll need: empty can (rinsed, label removed), ice, salt, tablespoon

Here's how: Have your child fill the can half full of ice, then add 4 tbsp. salt, and stir 30 seconds. She can set the can aside and check it after 10-15 minutes.

What happens? Frost will form on the outside of the can up to the level of the ice.

Why? Salt lowers the melting point of ice, which means the salt and ice together make the outside of the can very cold—below the freezing point of water. Water vapor in the air settles (or *condenses*) on cold surfaces. So when the water vapor condenses on the can, it freezes into tiny pieces of ice, or frost. ♣



MATH CORNER

Measurement relay race

Ruler, yardstick, or measuring tape? Knowing which tool to choose is the first step in measuring accurately. Your youngster and his friends can practice with this cooperative relay race.

Have the children place measurement tools at one side of a room. On separate slips of paper, let them write different things to be measured (circumference of your head, height of the refrigerator, length of a house key). Put the slips in a bowl on the opposite side of the room.

Take turns drawing a slip, running to grab the tool that would be best for measuring the item, and racing to measure it. Your child might choose a measuring tape for his friend's head because the tape can bend. Another player might pick a ruler for a small key or a yardstick for a larger item like the fridge.

After they've used all the slips, they could come up with new items to measure and play again. ♣



PARENT TO PARENT

Let's see your work

My daughter Amy would sometimes lose points on math assignments because she forgot to show her work. She said she didn't understand why she had to write down all the steps if she could do them in her head.

I asked her to show me a problem that she didn't show her work on and got wrong. I told her I bet she'd find her mistake if she wrote out

each step. She quickly noticed that she had made a simple computation error in the first step of a two-digit multiplication problem, which threw off the other steps. She said it was no wonder her teacher thought she needed extra help with multiplication. In reality, she had just made a careless error.

Now Amy shows her work most of the time, and she's proud that her math grades are improving. ♣



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children's math and science skills.

Resources for Educators,
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