

Challenger News

Keeping Parents and Campuses Connected

September 2016



Welcome to Challenger School's 2016–2017 School Year!

We are excited to begin another year of learning and fun. To our new students, parents, and staff: welcome! And to our returnees: welcome back!

Challenger Moves to Semester System

Beginning this year at Challenger School, we are adopting a semester system to report each student's progress. Why? Because it takes time to observe the world carefully and insightfully. And it takes time to solve challenging problems independently and creatively.

In the semester system, mid-term and end-of-term grades will be reported two (rather than three) times per year. Consequently, teachers will be able to spend less time testing and more time teaching. During the semester, teachers will also reach out to parents to talk about each child's progress. And as always, parents are welcome to contact the teacher or campus administrators at any time.

By creating an environment where students can think critically and mature confidently, we will continue to foster a life-long love of learning. We're looking forward to partnering with you and helping your child develop the independent thinking skills necessary to live a life of freedom and happiness.

Facts, Fun, and Information!

This newsletter is a great resource to help you stay abreast of upcoming curriculum events and student achievements.

For K–8 students, the Classroom News insert offers academic classroom information for parents.

For preschool parents, the Fun Facts insert explains what children will be focusing on and suggests activities that you can do at home.

To stay updated and informed, keep an eye on [Facebook](#) and our website at [ChallengerSchool.com](#), and watch for the occasional notice that we'll send home!



September at a Glance

- **September 1**
Parent Workshop (PS)*
- **September 5**
Labor Day—No School
- **September 6–8**
Evening for Parents (K–G8)*
- **September 10**
Challenger Emergency Notification System Testing
- **September 14**
Washington, D.C., Parent Meeting* (G8)
- **September 23**
Student Council Elections
- **September 29–30**
Western Days (PS–K)



CHALLENGER
SCHOOL

* Parents are encouraged to attend

 Find us on
Facebook

Enrichment Classes

Be sure to take advantage of the enrichment classes offered during Extended Classtime at your campus. There is no additional charge beyond Extended Classtime tuition for many of these classes; however, some programs offering specialized content may require additional fees. A drop-in fee applies for students who are not signed up for Extended Classtime.

Classes are available for students in kindergarten through eighth grade and vary by campus. In past years, offerings have ranged from sports to drama to foreign languages and beyond. First semester classes begin soon.

Evening for Parents (K–8)

Please make plans to attend our Evening for Parents this month. This special event is designed to promote a positive working relationship between you and your child's teacher for the benefit of your child.



During the evening, you will visit your child's classroom, where teachers will present important information about your child's class and answer questions you may have. Look for an invitation with dates and times.

Eighth Grade Washington, D.C., Trip

All parents of eighth graders are invited to an informational meeting on Wednesday, September 14. You'll be able to learn about the plans for this year's trip to our nation's capital. An invitation with additional details will be coming home with your student.

Emergency Notifications— Keep Us Updated!

Earlier this year, you received a form listing contact information you've supplied to us. This form provides a way for you to update your information. (Of course, you may visit your campus office to make updates any time.)

In the event of a campus evacuation, emergency, or unexpected closure, Challenger will use an automatic notification system to inform your contacts via email, text, and automated voice messages.

For example, should Challenger need to evacuate your child's campus, an emergency notification would alert you to the evacuation and give instructions for where and how to pick up your child. As more information became available, additional notifications would go out. Your reply would let us know that you received the message.

The automatic notification system allows us to communicate far more quickly and consistently than we could with individual phone calls from staff. To ensure you receive important notifications, **please make sure your contact information is current.** We plan to perform a test of the system in early September.

New Desert Hills (NV) Campus

This fall, a new Challenger campus opened its doors! The Desert Hills campus is the fourth Challenger School in the Las Vegas, Nevada, area—bringing our current total to 25 campuses in five states.

The Desert Hills campus has started the 2016–2017 year with preschool and kindergarten classes and is poised for further expansion. We are excited to be able to offer the Challenger difference to even more families!



New Desert Hills (NV) campus



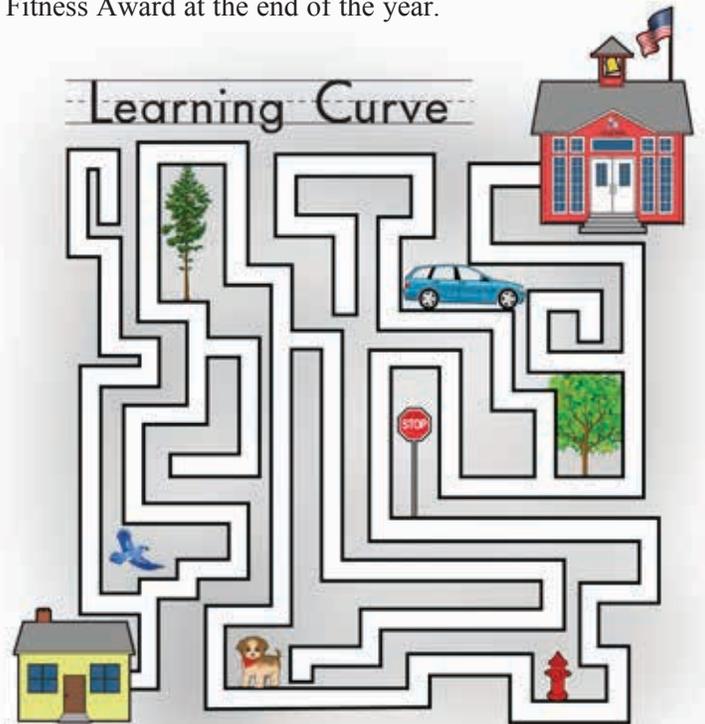
Challenger students are ready for a new year of learning and fun.

Fitness Challenge (1–8)

Students in first through eighth grade will participate this school year in the Challenger Physical Fitness Program.

Physical fitness training will start next month in five events: curl-ups, the shuttle run, the endurance run, arm strength, and the sit and reach.

Students who achieve the qualifying standards in all events during official testing will receive a Physical Fitness Award at the end of the year.



Can you find the most direct route from home to Challenger School? (Answer on back page.)

DAR Essay Contest (5–8)

Students in fifth through eighth grade will soon receive information about the national [American History Essay Contest](#) sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

This annual contest provides Challenger students the opportunity to refine their writing, research, and creativity skills.



The topic for this year’s essay is “Celebrating a Century: America’s National Parks.”

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, each essay contestant will write about one of America’s 58 national parks, describing what makes it a national treasure.

Challenger students have traditionally done very well in this contest at the local, state, and national levels.

Constitution Day and Patriot Day (K–8)

Patriot Day—September 11
Constitution Day—September 17

Challenger elementary students will commemorate these two special days with an assembly this month.

By leading our students to understand and respect man’s unalienable rights, we teach them values that will help them to think for themselves and cherish the liberties secured for them by the Founding Fathers.

Remember, full dress uniform is required for assembly days.

Student Council Elections

Students in fifth through eighth grade will vote to select the 2016–2017 student council for their campus. Those who wish to run for student council offices should request candidate applications from their teachers.



Preschool

Parent Workshop

Don't miss our Parent Workshop at 7 p.m. on September 1. Your support and implementation of Challenger's learning and behavior techniques will help maximize your child's learning and development.



Challenger preschoolers have fun while learning skills and developing self-reliance.

Beginning This Year

We are so excited to see your child's progress! New for parents, the "Beginning This Year" report will come home in early October. You will see your child's skill level at the outset of her preschool year and look ahead to all she will learn.

Logo for Home Use

If you are interested in purchasing the Terrapin Logo 4.0 program used in Challenger computer classes, you may download it from the website at www2.terrpinlogo.com.

Call your campus for a discount code you can use to save on your purchase at checkout.

Programming in Logo or Pascal is never required as homework, however.

Western Day (PS-K)

We enjoy the historic American culture of the Old West in this celebration during the month of September.

To get into a western mood, preschool students may come to school dressed as cowboys and cowgirls. Kindergartners may accessorize their uniforms with bandanas, belts, cowboy boots, and hats. (But leave the six-shooters back at the ranch, please.)

Our young cowpokes will sing campfire songs, "spin yarns," and do other activities centered around America's Old West heritage.

We reckon that students will have a rootin'-tootin' good time!



Preschoolers and kindergartners will have some boot-scootin' fun while learning about Old West culture at Western Day.

Uniform Information

Visit ScholarWear.com to see store locations and hours and to shop and place orders. California customers can call ScholarWear at (408) 973-1701; all other regions may call (801) 565-WEAR. Refer to the [School Uniform Policy](#) for details.

Answer to Learning Curve Puzzle:

