

Challenger News

Keeping Parents and Campuses Connected

January 2017



January at a Glance

- **January 3**
Priority Enrollment Begins
- **January 9 (CA, ID, NV, UT)**
K Parent Previews Begin
- **January 9 (TX)**
K-1 Parent Previews Begin
- **January 13**
First Semester Ends
- **January 16**
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—
No School
- **January 17**
Open Enrollment Begins
- **January 26-27 (PS-K)**
Small World Days



CHALLENGER
S C H O O L

What Does the Future Look Like for Your Child?

As we turn the corner to 2017, we are excited about the progress students have already shown, and we eagerly anticipate the achievements they'll attain in the months ahead. A Challenger education is a priceless investment!

In January, students have the opportunity to visit classrooms to see for themselves the exciting lessons and concepts coming up in the next grade level. We do this in order to show your child the great learning experiences ahead. The concepts your child has learned this year will be strengthened and connected to new ideas as he transitions to a new grade.

During Student Previews this week, four-year-old through seventh grade students will, for a portion of a school day, join a class in the grade ahead of them. In kindergarten classrooms, preschoolers may engage in phonics drills, mental math, or reading practice. Third graders who visit fourth grade classes may participate in sentence diagramming or computational math exercises. Visitors to middle school rooms may join in discussions of U.S. history or learn about geometry proofs. In every class, students will get a feel for the interesting things they'll be learning and the fun they'll have in the next grade.

Next week, we encourage parents of four-year-old students to attend the kindergarten Parent Preview, which is a wonderful opportunity for *you* to see how much our kindergartners love learning to become self-reliant, productive achievers.* Our students are our finest treasures, and we're excited to present them in action! We host these previews because we want to show you how committed we are to helping your child transition seamlessly from preschool to kindergarten.

Throughout our entire curriculum, each grade level at Challenger builds on previous learning, and every subject is connected through our conceptual approach. And through our engaging teaching methods, our students enjoy learning and gain confidence.



Challenger students are achievers!

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*Texas campuses will also offer a Parent Preview for grade 1.

Future, cont. from p. 1

Our curriculum has been carefully designed to maximize student success by connecting concepts both horizontally and vertically. Teachers know exactly what students have learned in previous grades and what they'll be taught in the grades that follow, and they reinforce ideas across subjects. Because learning is supported across subjects and grades, students can more quickly and effectively internalize the material, which prepares them for future learning. Consequently, students are able to advance academically at an accelerated pace.

Our standardized test results indicate that the longer a student stays with Challenger, the more he excels when compared to his non-Challenger peers in his exceptional abilities to read, reason, comprehend, and communicate. Let us help your child reach his full potential.



Priority Enrollment This Month

Current students must reapply every year before open enrollment begins to ensure priority consideration.

Current Challenger students and their siblings have an opportunity to apply for the 2017–2018 school year before enrollment opens to the public. An application packet will be sent home this month with your enrolled child.



Development News

Challenger School is coming to the Dallas area!

We anticipate breaking ground on our Legacy campus this spring and are excited to be able to offer the Challenger difference to even more families in Texas.



Additionally, our Saratoga (CA) campus is scheduled to have its playground updated with new equipment and synthetic grass this coming summer. We are continually working to improve our facilities to provide the best learning environment for our students.

Achievement Reports (K–8)

You will receive a report of your child's academic progress this month. Our students have accomplished much already this year and are continuing to learn and achieve.

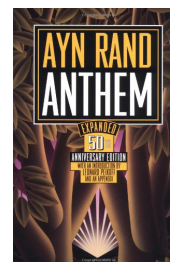
Open Houses for Prospective Challenger Parents

In the coming weeks, prospective Challenger parents will have several opportunities to visit Challenger campuses to learn more about our powerful programs.

For specific dates and times in your area, visit our website at ChallengerSchool.com, and spread the word to your friends who are interested in enrolling their children at Challenger.



Anthem Essays (8)



Eighth graders will participate again this year in the Ayn Rand Institute's *Anthem* Essay Contest.

After studying the novel, students are assigned to complete the essay independently. A copy of each essay will be submitted to the national contest for judging.

Small World Day (PS-K)

This month, Challenger preschoolers and kindergartners will be learning about other lands and peoples. They will explore and share traditions, songs, dances, and stories.

On Small World Day, parents may send preschool students to school wearing clothing that is representative of their family's heritage or country of origin. Kindergarten students will wear the Challenger uniform, but they may add a scarf, vest, pendant, or other accessory representing their ancestry or one of the nations they have studied. (Please be sure to consider safety when planning attire.)

We encourage children to bring photographs, books, or other items about their ancestry or heritage for this in-class curriculum event. Please mark pieces carefully with your name and phone number so we can make sure they are returned to you afterward.



Note: This is an in-class curriculum activity. We will provide a snack for the festivities, so please do not send treats with your child.

Cold Weather Wear

During these winter months, please make sure that your child is prepared to go out for recess every day.

Depending on where you live, your child may need boots, gloves or mittens, and a hat in addition to a coat. Make sure to mark all items with your child's name in case anything gets misplaced.



Learning Curve



Science Fair (K-8)

In preparation for next month's Science Fair, students will be conducting experiments using the scientific method. A few short weeks from now, they'll be displaying the results of their investigations. Our clever Challenger students would love to have you stop by to peruse their exhibits and discuss their projects with them.

The fair will feature ingenious and thought-provoking experiments and inventions. Science Fairs will be held February 21-24.



Challenger students are conducting investigations and experiments in preparation for the Science Fair.

Tax Number

For those who need it
for their tax returns,
Challenger's tax ID is
47-1405971.



Heard It in the Halls

Boise Bloom (ID) campus—While the Program Director observed 4-year-old Olivia practicing her penmanship, she remarked, “Olivia, you appear to really enjoy writing!”

Smiling, Olivia responded, “My teacher told me to think about skiing down the mountain when I make the letter Z.”

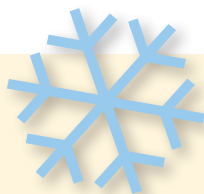
“Looks like that tip is working,” replied the Director. “You are practicing forming letters from the top down.”

“Well,” confessed Olivia, giggling, “sometimes I accidentally take the chairlift up!”



Farmington (UT) campus—First grader Kash's mom shared, “Last month, he brought me a note (which I had written) from his ‘Elf on the Shelf’ and told me with a frown, ‘This elf didn’t use any punctuation!’”

Preschool



Enrollment Considerations

Are morning classes always better for preschoolers? We've noticed that preschool and kindergarten children who attend half-day afternoon classes sometimes perform better academically than those who attend morning classes!

Some children are full of energy in the morning and by afternoon are quite receptive to settling down to learn, sing, and play with friends and teachers. This leaves parents free for their own afternoon activities. Traffic is often more friendly in the afternoons, too.

Children who may be accustomed to napping in the afternoon can easily adjust to an afternoon schedule by going to bed earlier or rising later in the morning.

Whether you choose morning or afternoon classes, we provide many wonderful learning opportunities and a great deal of fun for your child.

Previews of Kindergarten

To prepare parents for the transition from preschool to kindergarten, classroom previews occur this month. Please come to meet our kindergarten teachers and watch the kindergarten activities.

We will send invitations indicating times, dates, and locations.

New Penmanship Practice Pages (All-Day 4-Year-Olds)

At Challenger, we focus on hand strength and coordination to make the transition to penmanship easy. Beginning this month, to further develop penmanship skills, we are excited to add practice in learning Challenger manuscript.

Each day, all-day 4-year-olds will participate in activities that will teach “posture power” (the correct posture and positioning for good penmanship), pencil grip, and strokes for proper writing and letter formation.

Watch for each new penmanship practice page to see what your child is learning and to keep track of her progress!

