

Challenger News

Keeping Parents and Campuses Connected

January 2018



January at a Glance

- **January 2**
Priority Enrollment Begins
- **January 8**
Parent Previews Begin
- **January 12**
First Semester Ends
- **January 15**
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—
No School
- **January 16**
Open Enrollment Begins
- **January 25–26 (PS–K)**
Small World Days



CHALLENGER
SCHOOL

What Does the Future Look Like for Your Child?

As we turn the corner to 2018, 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, 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.

The 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. (If we do not offer a parent preview for the program your child will be entering, please stop by the office to visit a classroom.)

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!

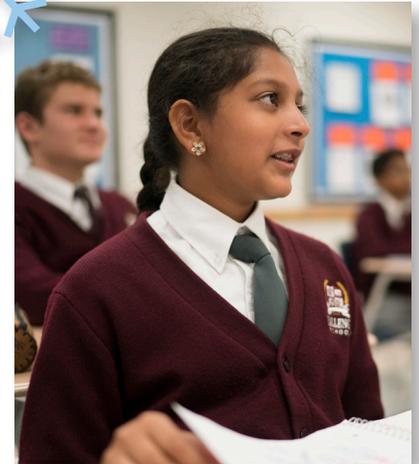
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Future, cont. from p. 1

Our curriculum has been carefully designed to maximize student success. Teachers use curriculum guides that describe what students have learned in previous grades and what they'll be taught in the grades that follow. As students encounter new concepts, teachers help them connect the new learning to things they already know.

For example, when kindergarten teachers read the book *Heidi* with their students, they purposefully guide students to not only use their phonics skills to read challenging words but they also refer back to their study of the water cycle in science and their discussions of land formations in geography. This conceptual approach helps students draw vivid mental pictures and better understand the Swiss Alps and the book in general. Because learning is supported across subjects (and grades as well), 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 she excels when compared to her non-Challenger peers in her exceptional abilities to read, reason, comprehend, and communicate. Let us help your child reach her 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 2018–2019 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 continues to grow and improve!

We will soon be opening a campus in the Dallas area. Our Legacy campus will open in fall 2018, and we anticipate expanding enrollment rapidly in the region.



Additionally, several of our campuses have received updates or improvements to their playgrounds, buildings, or grounds. We continue to maintain and upgrade our campuses in all regions to provide top-notch facilities for our Challenger families.

Open Houses for Prospective Challenger Parents

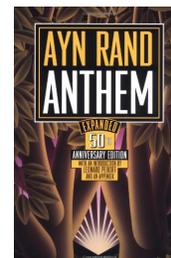
In the coming weeks, prospective Challenger parents will have several opportunities to visit Challenger campuses to learn more about our powerful programs.



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.

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 20–23.



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.

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.



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

HAPPY
New Year!

Tax Number

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



Heard It in the Halls



Avery Ranch (TX) campus—Five-year-old Tanish and Preschool Director Margaret were playing with playdough. He asked her to lift up a cookie cutter that was stuck down inside the dough. When Miss Margaret pulled it out, Tanish remarked, “Wow, Miss Margaret, have you been working on your small motor skills?”

She laughed and replied, “Yes, Tanish, have you?”

“Yes,” he answered confidently, “my small muscles are very strong!”

Pond Springs (TX) campus—After the kindergarten class learned about the special tool that Thomas Jefferson invented to pick apples from the top of the apple tree, Jackson exclaimed, “That’s great! Thomas Jefferson was thinking for himself. He saw a challenge and figured out what to do!”

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.

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, students will receive additional practice pages to help them learn 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 penmanship practice page to see what your child is learning and to keep track of his progress!

