

Challenger News

Keeping Parents and Campuses Connected

February 2018



February at a Glance

- **February 13–14 (PS)**
Valentine Fun Day
- **February 14 (K–8)**
Valentine Parties
- **February 16**
Founders Assembly
- **February 19**
Presidents' Day—No School
- **February 20 (K–8)**
Science Fairs Begin*



CHALLENGER
SCHOOL

* Parents are encouraged to attend.

Individual Rights: Setting Up Students for Success

At Challenger School, we have two rules for our students: we expect them to 1) actively participate in the learning process and 2) respect individual rights. A poster displayed in every Challenger classroom illustrates these expectations. There is no need for a detailed list of dos and don'ts; if students respect themselves and others, everything falls into place. Consequently, Challenger students have the freedom they need to learn and to pursue their goals.



Understanding Individual Rights

A right is the freedom to act without the permission of others *as long as your actions don't violate the rights of another*. Man's "unalienable rights," as enumerated in the Declaration of Independence, include "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Rights are not bestowed. They are inherent to being human.

Misconceptions about Individual Rights

People often mistakenly call privileges "rights." They may say you have the "right" to a job, a home, or an education. But you don't have a right to be handed any of those things. What you have is the right to *pursue* them—the right to work for them and to earn them.

How Respecting Individual Rights Cultivates Success

Consider this example: students, in reality, do not have the "right" to have friends. What they do have is the right to earn friendships by acting in a way that enriches their own and others' lives.

The distinction is important and has practical effects. If a student had a "right" to have friends, then teachers—the authority figures in this example—would be obligated to try to force or coerce other children into being his friends. The result would be a social interaction that is both unproductive and destructive. If other children are forced to befriend him, he loses all incentive to do the hard work of attracting willing, genuine friends. He learns instead that whenever he encounters someone who doesn't want to be his friend, he can just tattle to the teacher, who will coerce his classmate to accept (or pretend to accept) the complaining student as his "friend."

continued on p. 2



Rights, cont. from p. 1

When individual rights are properly respected, as they are at Challenger School, a student who wants friends is motivated to behave in a way that draws others to him and inspires them to want to be his friends.

At Challenger, we respect our students' individual rights and their freedom of association. We never coerce friendships. Unfortunately, outside of Challenger's walls, in society at large, authority figures often pressure children to accept everyone, including their ill-behaved and destructive peers. These teachers and other authority figures tell students that it is "nice" and "kind" to accept everyone without judgment. The results are predictably tragic. As students come to see that there are no consequences for poor behavior, conscientious students can lose motivation to be well-behaved and productive, and badly-behaved students have less incentive to improve their conduct.

A respect for individual rights is also the reason Challenger does not:

- Force students to share their lunches or personal school supplies with others.
- Require students to write valentines for every classmate or compel them to invite everyone in the class to their birthday parties.
- Punish a whole class by canceling recess because a few individuals misbehaved.

Instead, we:

- Guide students to understand the actions that may attract or repel friends.
- Help students to recognize how their behavior affects others.
- Teach students to manage themselves in ways that add benefit to their lives.

Challenger School respects and defends individual rights because we want to live free from coercion and create an environment in which students can learn and thrive. This is such an important objective of our school that it is incorporated in our policies, teaching philosophy, curriculum content, and behavior management methods.

Not only do we deliver exceptional academics, but we also demonstrate to students that they do not have to succumb to peer pressure or common sentiments to pursue their own happiness.

Presidents' Day

There will be no school on Presidents' Day, Monday, February 19. In conjunction with the occasion, Challenger campuses will hold spirit assemblies the previous week to remember American heritage and our nation's founders.



Challenger School will hold a special Founders Assembly this month.



Comic Contest

Attention students in grades 2–8:

Are you artistic? Are you witty and clever?
Are you good at creating things on
your computer?

If you answered "yes" to one or more of
these questions, submit an entry to the Learning
Curve Contest! Are you up to the challenge?

Please email your entry (scan or file) to
Marketing@ChallengerSchool.com by
March 2, 2018. The winning entry will
appear here in the
April newsletter.

Include the following:

- Your full name
- Your grade
- Your campus

We can't wait to see your submissions!



Standardized Testing (K–8)

Challenger School will be conducting standardized testing in late March (most regions) and early April (Texas). We administer these tests to provide benchmarks of your child's academic success.

Our students have a history of performing very well on national standardized tests, and we are confident that this year they will continue to prove the benefit of a Challenger education!



Challenger students will take the Iowa Assessments in a few weeks.

Valentine Fun (PS–5)

Valentine's Day is recognized as a day to send tokens of appreciation to those who are important to us. At Challenger, we have Valentine activities to celebrate the day. Students may bring valentine cards for their classmates if they wish.

Note: Please do not send food, toys, or gifts with your child. Treats will be furnished by Challenger.



Challenger students will learn about the origins of Valentine's Day customs this month.

Spring Break

Though winter may have a firm grip at this time of year, spring is coming! In March and April, Challenger campuses will take time off for Spring Break. Please make arrangements for child care during this time. Here are the dates to keep in mind for each region:

Texas	March 12–16
Idaho and Nevada	March 26–30
California and Utah	April 2–6



Learning Curve



Speech Festival (K–G8)

Students are gearing up for the upcoming Speech Festival, which will take place in March and April. (See Parent Calendar for specific dates for your region.)

From their first days at Challenger, students learn to express their ideas clearly. They memorize valuable, inspiring poetry and meaningful selections while learning to speak logically and convincingly.

The Speech Festival is a wonderful opportunity for students to exhibit their mastery of the art of oratory. They are fearless and brilliant in conveying their ideas to others, a skill which will continue to serve them well throughout life.





Tax Number

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

Open Houses for Prospective Challenger Parents

Prospective Challenger parents will continue to have opportunities to visit Challenger campuses in the coming weeks. Please tell friends interested in enrolling their children at Challenger about these upcoming Open Houses.

Many Open Houses are held during the school day so that parents can see the fun, learning, and excitement for themselves. All regions will hold Open Houses on the dates below. Specific times for each region are listed online at ChallengerSchool.com.

Thursday, February 1

Friday, February 9

Monday, February 12

Saturday, February 24

Tuesday, February 27

Wednesday, March 7



Preschool

Enrollment Considerations

In Challenger preschool, your child is in a stimulating learning environment. Our curriculum is fun-filled with phonics, math, science, activities, music, and thinking skills in all our programs. Students and teachers are excited to come to school each day.

To maximize your child's preschool experience, consider an all-day program, where she'll get even more of the learning she loves!



Challenger students are taught to rely on the strength of their own minds.

Heard It in the Halls

Traverse Mountain (UT) campus—When Elementary Program Director Mrs. Hone stepped in to teach a fourth grade lesson on equivalent fractions, she posed the question, "Which would you rather have: $\frac{1}{2}$ of a cookie or $\frac{8}{16}$ of a cookie?"

After several students concluded that the fractions represented the same amount, Joseph offered thoughtfully, "I'd rather have half a cookie because if you really cut a cookie into 16 pieces, you would lose so many crumbs that it wouldn't end up as big!"

