

Challenger News

Keeping Parents and Campuses Connected

April 2018



April at a Glance

- **April 2 (TX)**
Standardized Testing Begins
- **April 2–6**
Grade 8 D.C. Trip
- **April 2–6 (CA, UT)**
Spring Break
- **April 16–20 (ID, NV)**
Speech Festival
- **April 26–27 (PS–K)**
Teddy Bear Picnics



CHALLENGER
SCHOOL

Individual Rights: Only in America

Most of us are proud to be Americans—and with good reason. Other than the United States of America, no other nation on earth was designed with the primary purpose of promoting and protecting the rights of the individual. In this respect, our republic stands alone.

The Only Government Established to Protect Individual Rights

In all other countries, the collective rights of the nation have been established as primary, and the rights of its individual citizens as secondary. The founding fathers of the United States—revolutionaries to the core—flipped this notion, identifying and implementing the principles that *the purpose of government is to secure individual rights* and that *governments derive their powers from the consent of the governed*.

Since the American government was established to secure (not create) individual rights, it follows that these rights existed before governments. Rights are inherent to humans' rational nature. The most fundamental individual right is the right to life; all other individual rights spring from it.

Secondarily, since the power of governments comes from the consent of the governed, it follows that the governed cannot empower governments with rights that individual citizens themselves do not possess. For example, since no individual has the right to deprive another of his/her personal belief or the freedom to express it, the government does not, either.

Examining Freedom of Speech in America

Our First Amendment right to free speech is clearly stated: "Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech." Imagine, then, this scenario: A privately funded company posts a controversial position on social media. Some respondents claim to be offended by the expressed opinion, and a heated public discussion ensues. The administrators delete some of the responses. Is this a violation of the right to free speech?

The Constitution protects—from *government* interference—an individual's right to believe anything and to freely express those beliefs. In contrast, private entities are free to permit or prohibit speech on their own property and have no moral obligation to allow or promote speech that violates their sincerely held beliefs, motivations, or value systems.

continued on p. 2



Challenger encourages students to think for themselves.



Only in America, cont. from p. 1

For example, because the people have granted limited power to the government, it is constrained from prohibiting demonstrations based solely on the demonstrators' beliefs. A private publishing company, however, has no such constraint and is free to publish or not publish as it deems appropriate—it has the freedom to decline to publish any content that promotes ideas and beliefs with which it disagrees.

A common misconception about the right to free speech is that it includes freedom from criticism. A derivative effect of this belief prompts some educational entities to create “safe spaces” where certain opinions are suppressed because they make some people feel uncomfortable. Such a policy may be implemented on private property, but not on any property (such as a public school) that receives any taxpayer money. Public funds obtained from taxpayers may not be used to violate freedom of speech—a precious individual right that our government was established to protect.

The right not to be criticized or the right not to be offended does not exist in a moral society. You have the right to say what you want, but other people have the right to dislike and criticize what you say. Again, in America, government may not use the force of law to restrict the expression of your personal beliefs as long as your actions do not violate anyone else's rights.

Challenger's Commitment to Individual Rights

Challenger is committed to teaching its students to respect individual rights. This important objective is interwoven into our policies, philosophy, curriculum, and teaching and behavior management methods. We teach students to value their individuality and their inalienable rights. We promote free speech and active debate as we encourage students to think for themselves and come to their own conclusions based on their examination of facts.

Likewise, we recognize that the crucial choice of who will educate your children is always yours. We're glad you have chosen Challenger as a partner in teaching your children, and we'll continue to focus on important principles that can positively affect their learning, development, and happiness.



Spring Programs (PS–8) and So Much More!

Challenger's 2018 Spring Programs are coming in May! Visit ChallengerSchool.com to find schedules for each campus. When you come for a performance, don't miss these other exciting things:

Art Fair (K–8)

Exemplary artwork will be on display. All K–8 students have created pieces for the Art Fair, and the top projects from each class will be showcased. You won't want to miss it.

Computer Programming Fair (G1–8)

Be sure to also stop by classrooms to check out the displays of computer programming prowess. Students are designing and completing their projects during computer class. We know you will enjoy seeing what our talented students can do!

Young Author (K–8)

Students are in the process of creating their Young Author projects, which will also be on display during the week of Spring Programs.

They are developing short stories as they concentrate on enhancing their creative writing. Both students and teachers enjoy working on these rewarding projects.



Rehearsals are underway for Spring Programs. Each class will perform an entertaining program showing what they've learned this year.

In the Spotlight—AMC 8 Achievers

This past November, Challenger students in grades 5–8 participated in the American Mathematic Competition (AMC) 8, a middle school mathematics examination designed to promote the development and enhancement of problem-solving skills.

The top-performing students received special accolades for their excellent scores. Some were invited to take the next-level test, the AMC 10, and one, Jingchao L. from Berryessa (CA), qualified for the American Invitational Mathematics Examination.

Well done, Challenger mathematicians!



Forty-six Challenger students qualified to take the AMC 10 test, and Berryessa (CA) student Jingchao L. (bottom photo, second from right) advanced even further.



Important Dates for 2018–19

Mark your calendars now for our two main breaks during next school year. Challenger will not be in session during the dates listed below:

Winter Break

Dec. 24–Jan. 4 All Regions

Spring Break

March 18–22 TX*

March 25–29 ID

April 1–5 CA, UT

April 15–19 NV

*Spring break for the new Legacy campus in Plano will be March 11–15.



Follow us on Facebook



Follow us on Instagram

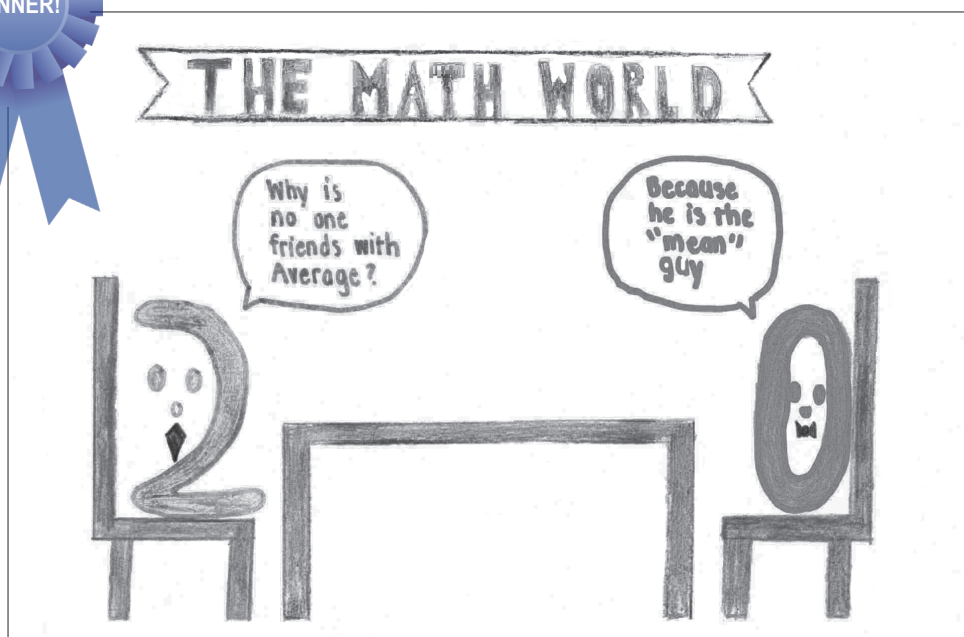
Learning Curve Contest Winner: Maggie L. of Berryessa (CA)

Congratulations to eighth grader Maggie L. of Berryessa (CA), who designed this clever comic.

We thank all students who submitted entries to the contest. Challenger School has many talented and witty artists!

Tax Number

The tax deadline is near!
Challenger's tax ID is
47-1405971.



Washington, D.C. Trip (G8)

This month, many of our Challenger eighth graders are touring exciting American historic landmarks and sites in and around Washington, D.C. This trip is a wonderful learning experience for our soon-to-be graduates!



Many Challenger eighth graders will travel to Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia this month.

Patriots' Day (K–8)

In class this month, elementary and middle school students will commemorate Patriots' Day.

This day marks the anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, the first military engagements of the Revolutionary War, which were fought on April 19, 1775.

On this date, the war began, but more importantly, a momentous idea took root—government of, by, and for the people.

Fitness Testing (G1–8)

The final testing for Challenger's physical fitness program for first through eighth graders begins this month. The results of these tests will be sent home with your child's final achievement report.

During the merit assembly at the end of the year, we will recognize those students who have achieved high standards of physical fitness.

Preschool

Adventureland

Have you heard about Challenger Adventureland? During our summer school program, children will go on imaginary trips each week as they learn phonics, numbers, and so much more.

Classes begin June 18. See your campus office for details.

Preschoolers (including those in all-day classes) need to re-enroll for summer.



Teddy Bear Picnic (PS–K)

At the end of this month, we will celebrate the arrival of spring with our Teddy Bear Picnic. Each student may bring a favorite stuffed animal guest to the picnic.



Challenger preschoolers and kindergartners enjoy bringing their favorite stuffed "friends" to school for the Teddy Bear Picnic in late April.