

CITY ACADEMY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER APRIL 23, 2008

Important Notice About Conferences

May 6 and 7 there will be no classes so that advisors can hold SEOP conferences with advisees and their parents. During these conferences, the student will present her/his portfolio, demonstrating the highlights of their learning at City Academy for the 2007-2008 school year.


Additionally, the Student's Educational and Occupation Plan will be developed (SEOP). We will review progress from the school year and make a plan for future courses and make-up courses where/if needed.

Please call Sara in our front office to schedule your appointment. The hours on May 6 and 7 will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Bus Passes

April 26 is the Grand Opening of the new UTA FrontRunner commuter train that runs north from SLC to Pleasant View. The good news for our students? The UTA bus passes they received at registration are VALID for use on the FrontRunner!!

There may be different passes next school year, but at least through September 15, our passes are golden for trains, trax, and all buses!



Next week is Midterm already, so please communicate regularly with your students to make sure they are on track in their classes. Also, don't forget to sign up for portfolio and SEOP conferences on May 6th or 7th.

BRAVO!

City Academy is SO PROUD of the City Academy Players for their INCREDIBLE performance of Jekyll and Hyde.

The production broke records by selling out all three nights and those who had the privilege of attending the show were thoroughly impressed and entertained.

Thanks to all of the staff and students who worked so hard to put this production together. A special thanks to Bobby and Shelia Cody for the MANY hours they dedicated to create something very special with the theater students.

IMPOR-
TANT
DATES

APRIL 28
Begin CRT
Testing

MAY 1
Early release 1:20
Midterm

MAY 6/7
No School:
Portfolio
Conferences



Welcome Anne Hammond

We are very fortunate to have Anne Hammond at City Academy as our art teacher. Wade had to leave our school for personal reasons, but assures us that he will not be leaving us in thought and concern. Wade gave much to our school community and our young artists and we will certainly miss him. Anne brings a lifetime of experience as an artist and in art education. Please welcome her yourself when you get a chance.

A Note from Sonia: The National Problem of Math

Many of you may have been hearing from the media that a National Math Panel just produced a comprehensive report about math education in our country. Also, you may have heard/read that the annual gathering of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) just occurred in Salt Lake City over the past week. I want you to know that I and our math teachers are very aware of these proceedings and we participated in the NCTM conference last week.

The national panel did a vast and comprehensive review of research and confirmed the following: (1) American students have a pervasive lack of competency with fractions, decimals, and percents, and this is a major barrier to their further progress in mathematics and other learning, and (2) battles over whether it is better to teach math conceptually or to focus on math computation are misguided, and to prepare students well in mathematics conceptual understanding and computational fluency must be developed simultaneously.

At City Academy, we are already following many of the recommendations the panel gave. We realized our students' struggles with fractions, decimals, and percents and have been focusing on developing understanding and computational fluency with these numbers, particularly in math and science courses. We have made it a point since our inception as a school to provide a mathematics curriculum for our students that provides opportunities to develop conceptual understanding alongside computational fluency.

What can you do as parents? Help your children know that their effort in working to understand the mathematics they are doing matters immensely, and support them in their regular efforts. Being "good at math" is not a talent that just a few are born with. Being good at math comes from effort and perseverance. Talk with your children about math and math ideas – especially fractions, decimals, and percents – help them to understand those concepts and computations. Encourage your children to seek out any of the many opportunities we offer at City Academy to get help immediately when they are confused about any math they are trying to learn. If you have any questions please feel free to call me.