

C.S. LEWIS ACADEMY NEWS

MARCH 2010

A Message from Mr. Finch

Recently our school was highlighted among other charter schools for our Best Practices. Due to the large amount of success we are experiencing many other schools have been interested in what our secret is to success in increasing student proficiency and progress. So, I thought I would take this opportunity to share with the school community some of our best practices and share the data as well.

From 2008 to 2009 we had a dramatic increase in the Utah state CRT scores. In Math, there was a 139% gain, in Science there was a 142% gain and in Language Arts, there was a 167% gain. This equates to a whole school proficiency gain of 142%. This increase in student scores are considered substantial!

Here are some of our Secrets to Success:

- Whole-school Tier 2

instruction in Math and Language Arts

- Targeted instruction
- High Expectations
- Interactive learning, including smartboards
- After school Homework Club
- After school ELL tutoring with Imagine Learning
- Continual progress monitoring, DIBELS, DIBELS progress monitoring, SCANTRON, Morrison-McCall spelling inventory, phonemic awareness, and regular teacher collaborations regarding student performance
- Intensive Tier 3 intervention through Special Education
- Achievement Synchrony, weekly class goal setting
- Rich curriculum focused on content
- No excuses approach regarding non-proficient students, with a focus on increasing non-proficient Level 2 students to proficient.

The next four weeks are

enrollment, the school board has decided to offer two Extended-day kindergarten classes, as well as the half day option. In an effort to maintain small 1st and 2nd grade class sizes, it our goal to have three classes for both 1st and 2nd grade. The school is fortunate to be a recipient of Title 1 and Early Childhood Program funds to support these initiative at the school.

However, it is vital for our students and overall financial well-being that the school reach full enrollment. With full enrollment the school can provide more teaching assistants in the

critical times of instruction at C. S. Lewis Academy. The teachers are working very hard to ensure that your children are prepared for the end of year tests. Please make sure that your child is present and on time to school everyday. Please schedule appointments after school hours.

Finally, the areas of reading and math are critical for the future success of our students and your children. Everyday, check to make certain that your child's math homework is complete and accurate. Likewise, reading is an essential component of every academic discipline. Your child should be reading 20 minutes daily. Many parents have found success with utilizing Raz-kids.com as a way to motivate their children to read. Check with your teacher to get your log-in information.

Have a wonderful month! ☺

Parent Teacher Conferences

Third term Parent Teacher Conferences will be on March 31st and April 1st. This is the last scheduled conference of the school year. Please make an extra effort to attend these conferences. You are also encouraged to schedule a time to meet with your child's Reading and Math Study Teachers. You can schedule your conference online via the school's website:

www.cslewisacademy.net.

If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the school so we can help you schedule an appointment.

Literacy Week

Last week the PTO sponsored our annual literacy week. It was a such a successful event. Many families attended and joined in the fun at the school. The school would like to thank the PTO for all their hard work in coordinating this event.

Throughout the month of February the students worked diligently to read and record their minutes. Altogether, the students read over 132,106 minutes. That is approximately 2,202 hours of reading. What a tremendous feat! Good reading everyone!

