February 2023

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- 2/3  FEC Monthly Meeting 8am in Arabic room
- 2/6-10  Friendship/HOPE Week
- 2/6-10  Pizza Pie Cafe Spirit Week (Highland)
- 2/10  MS Winter Formal 5:30-9:00 pm
- 2/7-23  Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory Spirit Event (online orders only)
- 2/13-16  Winter SEPs
- 2/14  Valentine’s Day Celebrations
- 2/16  Kindergarten field trip - Museum of Natural Curiosity
- 2/17  Teacher Comp Day (No school)
- 2/20  President’s Day (No school)
- 2/22  5th Grade field trip - Utah State Capitol
- 2/22  2nd Grade field trip - Scera Theater
- 2/24  “Be Safe” Assemblies
- 2/27  4th Grade field trip - Natural History Museum

**IMPORTANT LINKS**

- February Breakfast Menu
- February Lunch Menu
- RA School Calendar
- Kindergarten AM/PM Friday Schedule

Renaissance Academy Printing Press
**2023-24 RETURNING STUDENT ENROLLMENT – NOW OPEN**

We have begun our re-enrollment and lottery registration process for the 2023-2024 school year. If you plan for your children to attend Renaissance next year, please confirm their returning student enrollment ASAP. Re-enrollment of your student will ensure that their spot is not released and offered to a new applicant through the lottery in March. If you do not plan to return next year, please also complete the process so that we know how many open positions we have available to new students next year.

How to register your child as a ‘returning student’ for 2023-2024:
1. 2023-2024 Renaissance Lottery
2. Create a new user profile
3. Enter your child's name and confirm plans for 2023-2024 (returning/not returning)
4. Complete ‘returning student’ enrollment for each of your children who currently attend Renaissance
5. Enter any younger/other siblings who you would like to attend next year as ‘new students into the lottery system

**2023-24 NEW STUDENT LOTTERY – FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2023**

We plan to run our 2023-2024 new student lottery on Friday, March 3rd. Don’t forget to make sure all younger/other ‘new student’ siblings are entered into our lottery system before this date. School tours can be scheduled through the office for new families.

**JR. ACADEMY (FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN) – BACK IN 2023-2024**

We plan to offer Jr. Academy our fee-based full-day kindergarten program again next year. We have not yet determined the teacher of the program. All information about Jr. Academy can be found online.

**FRIENDSHIP & HOPE WEEK – FEBRUARY 6-10**

**Theme:** Save the Day by Being Kind & by Being Yourself

**Explanation:** During Friendship & Hope Week, students will focus on being kind and supportive to all students here at Renaissance Academy. During lunch, MS student Hope Squad members will be sharing uplifting & hopeful messages to encourage school-wide kindness and inclusivity.

**Daily Themes & Dress:**
Monday 2/6 “Spread Hope through Kindness” – Students may wear yellow to spread hope and kindness. Tuesday 2/7 “Save the Day by Being Kind” – Students may wear their favorite superhero t-shirts and accessories (please no superhero costumes with capes).
Wednesday 2/8 “Peace, Love & Kindness” – Students may wear 60’s & 70’s decade clothing. Thursday 2/9 “Playful Pajama Day” – Students may wear pajamas to school. Friday 2/10 “Be You” – Students may wear free dress, unique accessories, and hairstyles that are special to them.

*Daily Friendship and Hope week activities will take place during lunch*

**WINTER PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES (SEPS) – FEBRUARY 10-16**

Winter SEPS will be held this month. Many teachers have already sent out sign-up sheets. Please take a moment to meet with your children’s teachers to review their progress, achievement, goals, and behavior at school so far this semester. Thank you for supporting your children and our teachers.

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**SCHOOL EMAILS THROUGH ASPIRE**

We are having some problems with parents not receiving school emails sent through Aspire. Please make sure you White List/Safe Sender Renaissance-noreply@usoe-dcs.org to ensure you receive school communications sent through Aspire. Please also check your SPAM/junk folders.

**REMINDER: STUDENTS SHOULD NOT BE RECEIVING DOORDASH**

Parents, please remind your students they are expected to bring home lunch or purchase school lunch. We have had several middle school students regularly ordering DoorDash to be delivered to the school recently. The office staff should not be receiving and distributing DoorDash orders for RA students.

**WINTER FORMAL DANCE – FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10 FROM 5:30-9:00PM**

The MS Winter Formal Dance will be held on Friday, February 10th. Tickets are $5 and can be purchased from Mr. Funk during 6th-9th lunch. Reach out to Mr. Funk with any questions.

**When** – Friday, February 10th  
**Where** – Renaissance Academy Gym  
**Who** – 6th–9th grade students  
**Dress Code** – Best dress  
**Tickets** – $5  
**What** – A formal dinner will be provided with instruction on dining etiquette. This will be then followed by dance instruction and a dance. Tickets will be required for entry.

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**CARPOOL REMINDER**

Please take a moment to review our RA carpool procedures as we move into the second half of the school year. We appreciate all RA families who treat our traffic staff with respect and gratitude during the cold winter months (and all year), and patiently wait as they move through the carpool to keep all of our students and staff safe.

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**READING REMINDER**

We have many RA students who are strong and accomplished readers, but we also have many ‘up and coming’ readers who are struggling and need regular and consistent practice to develop vital reading fluency and comprehension skills needed for life. We have implemented a new elementary reading program where our students in K-5 are reading in small groups with our aides and teachers everyday for 30-45 minutes targeting specific skills to help each student achieve their goals. This is not enough. Please make time every day to read with your child. This will help them to develop a love of books and the desire to read independently for enjoyment. Reading practice can look like many things – Story time, letter/sound practice, taking turns reading alternative lines/paragraphs/pages, independent reading, leveled readers, reading along to an audio book etc. Feel free to reach out to our classroom teachers or Tracy Scott, our school reading specialist if you need any tips, tricks or ideas for activities that will help your child learn to read.

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**REMINDER: STUDENTS SHOULD NOT BE RECEIVING DOORDASH**

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SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMPS @ UVU
Utah Valley University is putting together some basketball camps this summer for grades 3-12 (girls and boys). Kids will be coached by Mark, Madsen, a two-time NBA champion and former Lakers assistant along with the college basketball players and other coaches. Click here for more information on this exciting opportunity!

FIELD TRIPS - DONATIONS NEEDED
This year we have many exciting field trips scheduled for our students. We hope to allow all students to participate in at least 3x off-campus field trip experiences. Our goal is that students will experience different/new field trips each year that are associated with grade level curriculum. Our RA field trips are funded by parent donations. We ask all RA families to donate $40 per student to help us make these experiential learning opportunities a reality for our students. We understand this donation may not be possible for all of our families, hence any donation is always appreciated.

Our 2022-2023 field trip plans are outlined below. We still need significant funds to complete our scheduled field trips this year. We hate to cancel field trips, but will need to do so if we do not receive the donations necessary to cover associated costs. If you are in a position to do so, please help us make these field trips a reality for our students. Field trip donations can be made in the office (cash or check only) or online at http://renacademy.org/online-payments (see k-6 donations, ‘field trip' or ‘misc donation' and label as ‘1st grade field trip donation etc). Thank you for your generosity and support of our RA field trip program.

FIELD TRIPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Trip</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field Trip 1</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>The Capitol (May)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Trip 2</td>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>Planetarium (Apr)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Trip 3</td>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>Hogle Zoo (Jan)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Trip 4</td>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>Discovery Gateway Museum (Nov)</td>
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Approx. cost

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
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<td>$3,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

|
| Approx. cost | $1,840 |
| Donations received 2/1 | $1,840 |
| Donations needed 2/1 | $1,840 |

SPELLING BEE - THURSDAY, MARCH 2 AT 6:00PM
Students in grades 2nd-8th are invited to participate in the Spelling Bee. All students must qualify to compete in the school spelling Bee on March 2nd. Students can qualify by participating in their class and grade spelling bees taking place at school. The top three spellers from each grade will be invited to participate in the school Bee on March 2nd at 6pm. All teachers should have sent home the grade level spelling bee lists. If you have not received the spelling list, please email your child's teacher directly.

SPECTRUM ART DESIGN CONTEST
Calling All Artists! Enter the 2023 Spirit Gear Design Contest. Pick up a form from the front office and return it by February 3 at 8:00 am. Click here for an entry form.

INSPIRATIONS ART EXHIBITION - THURSDAY, MARCH 16
The Inspirations Art Exhibition is returning to STEAM Night on March 16th. This year's theme is "Hero." Students need to submit any Inspirations entries to the office on either March 3rd or March 10th. Winners will be announced during STEAM Night. Click here for more information.

FEC PRESIDENCY
Brittany Taylor, FEC President britt.taylor20@gmail.com
Sherise Robertson, Vice President of Committees sheriser@gmail.com
Mica Hauley, VP of Fundraising hauleyhighlife@gmail.com
Jenny Buck, VP of Classrooms chichen212@gmail.com
Shannon Topham, Treasurer shannon.devida@gmail.com
Brooklyn Watson, Secretary brooklynwatson@gmail.com
**RA HAPPENINGS**

These are some of our HOPE Squad officers who were celebrating another “behind the scenes” staff member that is the “glue that holds RA together.”

Kimberly Martin with the True Life Counseling center came and spoke to our HOPE Squad members about the importance of also taking good care of your mental health!

We had a “Be Successful” assembly on January 20th. The guest speaker was Olympic bobsledder Jeremy Holm! He talked about having a champion mindset, not giving up, trying new things, and helping others along the way. That is our definition of success!

Mrs. Howell’s 3rd grade class learning about clouds, the water cycle and states of matter!

Ms. Peterson’s 2nd grade class made Chinese dragons to celebrate Chinese New Year!

They also went to the Bean Museum!
RA HAPPENINGS

Ms. Sun’s 4th grade class had a Chinese New Year celebration with parent volunteers. They had fun festive activities such as paper cutting, Chinese toy making, chopstick races, Chinese games and more!

WORLD LANGUAGE SPOTLIGHT

SPANISH

1ST AND 2ND GRADE
The 1st and 2nd grade students have been focusing on opposite words en español. Please look out for their classwork coming home daily! Sra. Beebe has recently incorporated 5 min of Spanish story book reading into her daily class routine. If you would like to borrow any books in Spanish to practice or read at home, just ASK. We have MANY!!! Our school library also has books in Spanish!

3RD AND 4TH GRADE
3rd and 4th grade has been mastering SPELLING in español spelling four syllable tricky words with ease in Sra. Beebe’s class. They are doing great! They are becoming experts at talking about their family members. They are also reading short stories in class weekly. Sra. Beebe has recently incorporated 5 min of Spanish story book reading into her daily class routine. If you would like to borrow any books in Spanish to practice or read at home, just ASK. We have MANY!!! Our school library also has books in Spanish!

Upcoming field trip for Middle School Spanish students: Españolandia @ BYU Thursday 4/20/23. Please look forward to more information coming soon. We are in need of several parent volunteers to accompany us on this trip to BYU. If you would be interested in coming, please reach out to Sra. Cobiella or Sra. Beebe! Spanish speakers are preferred but not required as Españolandia is an immersive Spanish language experience where only Spanish is spoken! Thank you for your willingness to help support our program!

ARABIC

1ST AND 2ND GRADE
1st and 2nd Arabic students have been learning adjectives and opposites this month, and using these words to form short sentences in Arabic. We are working on being more fluent in asking and answering questions in Arabic as well as learning a lot of new fun songs. Please keep an eye for all the fun projects they bring back home from Arabic class and their daily writing practice.

3RD AND 4TH GRADE
3rd and 4th grade has been mastering SPELLING in Arabic; we are working on writing sentences and not just words. They are doing great! They are becoming experts at talking about themselves, their family members, and their city. They are also using adjectives to describe their surroundings. I am so proud of them!

5TH GRADE
5th graders are learning to tell the time in Arabic and they are so excited to master this skill! They are also enjoying co-creating Arabic stories with me in class and retelling them. They are learning so much and their language comprehension ability is significantly improving. We are also working on mastering our Arabic writing and utilizing all the words we know to have a fluent conversation. They are doing great!

MIDDLE SCHOOL
MS students are challenging themselves to talk about different and more diverse topics in Arabic. We are learning a lot of new vocabulary and working on our accuracy in writing. Way to go MS students!
WORLD LANGUAGE SPOTLIGHT

CHINESE

1ST GRADE

Students are experiencing different things to celebrate the Chinese New Year. For example, traditional painting, ink blowing painting, making red envelopes, Chinese fan dance, making the monster of Nian, Chinese New Year party, and wearing traditional clothes.

3RD GRADE

4TH GRADE

4th grade DLI students made firecrackers and dragon masks. They also DIY their own red envelopes with lucky money. With parents’ help, students also tried many fun festival activities such as paper cutting, Chinese toy making, chopsticks race, Chinese games etc.

6TH GRADE

To celebrate Chinese New year, the 6th grade DLI students wrote the good luck sign, ‘Fu.’

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

HEATHER BOOTH, 6TH GRADE ELA & WRITING

Where are you from? I’m from Utah and grew up in Highland Utah.

Tell us about your family: I have 5 children and 1 year twin grandsons. My children are all best friends with each other and do everything together.

What is a fun fact about yourself? My first word was grandma and I spent every weekend with her learning how to be a kind human.

What is your favorite thing about teaching? My favorite thing about teaching is watching my students gain confidence in themselves when they share their unique insights about their connection with the things going on in the world.

YANYAN QIU, 6TH GRADE CHINESE IMMERSION

Where are you from? I was born in Ningbo, China. We have the oldest library in China called Tianyi Pavilion, which has a collection that went back to the 11th century of the Confucian classics.

Tell us about your family: There are four people in my family. My mom, my dad, my little sister and me. We have a poodle called Porter.

What is a fun fact about yourself? I like to play the Guzheng, a Chinese traditional plucked zither, with the Utah Chinese Folk Orchestra.

What is your favorite thing about teaching? I like the process of organizing complex and new materials into teachable units. It’s creative work.

VICTOR WILLIAMSON, 6TH GRADE MATH

Where are you from? I’m from Rapid City South Dakota. I moved to Utah to attend BYU in 1983 and stayed ever since.

What is a fun fact about yourself? I’m the founder of the Christa McAuliffe Space Center in the Alpine School District. This is my 40th year in education as both a teacher and administrator. Teaching keeps you young and on your toes and that’s what I appreciate.

What is your favorite thing about teaching? The students, parents, and staff here at Renaissance are wonderful to work with and that alone keeps me from the front porch rocking chair.

PEGGY TAYLOR, 6TH GRADE SCIENCE & WRITING

Where are you from? I was born in Sacramento, California and lived in Northern California for 57 years.

Tell us about your family: I have 6 adult children, all are married with children. My husband and I have 21 grandchildren and a little Yorkie that requires as much work as a grandchild!

What is a fun fact about yourself? In 2010 I went with NASA scientists to the Mojave Desert to do experiments with the scientists as they collected data to go to Mars. They were using desert conditions to mimic the conditions on Mars. And here we are, getting ready to send humans to Mars in 2025. I feel like I invested a tiny bit of time to help humans get to the moon.

What is your favorite thing about teaching? There are several things I love about teaching if I could lump them into one: 1) the students, 2) organizing fun activities to help these students think outside the box, 3) providing a safe place for children to learn.
CHELSEA SMITH, MS MATH
Where are you from? I am from the small town/village of Shelby, Michigan, located about fifteen minutes from Lake Michigan and ten minutes from the beautiful Silver Lake Sand Dunes.
Tell us about your family: I come from a family of six, and am blessed to have both of my parents in my life and happily married. I am one of four daughters in my family.
What is a fun fact about yourself? I am a bit obsessed with reading, and have 285 books (and counting) in my home library (not including Kindle books or audiobooks). When I am not spending time with family, friends, or my pets, it is highly likely I am reading or listening to an audiobook. At any given time, I am reading/listening to and tracking about eight books (I tend to struggle with only reading one book at once).
What is your favorite thing about teaching? My favorite thing about teaching is connecting with my students. They more my students and I learn about each other, the easier it is to learn and enjoy exploring math together. I am very passionate about math and love helping my students make connections between all of the various math concepts and the real-world, as well as the different strategies they use to solve similar problems.

JESSY FEVEREYAR, MS LANGUAGE ARTS
Where are you from? Park City, UT
Tell us about your family: I have been married to my husband Tom (sometimes seen bringing me a Swig) for 18 years. My kids Thomas (6th grade) and Macy (4th grade) go to RA, and they keep me busy!
What is a fun fact about yourself? I read over 100 books each year, and love trying to bring that into my instruction style and see my students respond and love history.
What is your favorite thing about teaching? Being a teacher never gets old and it is never boring. It’s a new challenge every single day and it requires you to be on your toes and adapt constantly, I love that challenge. Planning new lessons, finding new ways to present material and constantly improving my instruction for my students. History should be fun, interesting, and enjoyable, and I love trying to bring that into my instruction style and see my students respond and love history.

CAMDEN ROBINSON, MS SOCIAL STUDIES
Where are you from? I was born and raised in Phoenix, AZ.
Tell us about your family: My mom is from Alaska so I spent my summers as a teen gutting fish in my grandparents’ processing plant with all my cousins. It was actually so fun!!! We also have our impatient Landlord, a long haired fluffy cat, who prefers to be called Ozymandias.
What is a fun fact about yourself? I always name my pets after historical figures.
What is your favorite thing about teaching? One of my favorite things is when a student nails something for the first time or says something so witty and intelligent that we all are laughing together. Both bring me so much joy!

WENDY (DI) WU, MS CHINESE TEACHER
Where are you from? I am from mainland China. My hometown is called Harbin. There are currently more than 10 million people living in that city. I was born and raised there until I went to college in Beijing.
Tell us about your family: My parents are still living in Harbin. I am an only child.
What is a fun fact about yourself? I used to work in a big online game company in Beijing before she moved to the U.S. I am very good at playing video games.
What is your favorite thing about teaching? My favorite thing about teaching is the moment when a student understands something they have been struggling with. It’s so exciting to see the moment when it clicks.

MICAH GOMEZ, MS SCIENCE
Where are you from? I grew up in the middle of nowhere Arkansas. My hometown had less than 800 people. There were 0 stop signs, 0 gas stations, 0 stop lights, 0 grocery stores. Nothing but fields everywhere. I went to college in Arkansas 5 hours from where I grew up.
Tell us about your family: I got married in 2021 to Jose. We adopted our child, Luna the puppy in December of 2022. I am the youngest of 3 girls. My two older sisters are very creative and artistic, very right-brained. I am the polar opposite. Very logical, and left-brained.
What is a fun fact about yourself? I love to be outside, swim, hike, bike, etc.
What is your favorite thing about teaching? My favorite thing about teaching is the moment when a student understands something they have been struggling with. It’s so exciting to see the moment when it clicks.

KATHY GARDNER, MS CTE, DIGITAL LITERACY, YEARBOOK
Where are you from? I was born and raised in Phoenix, AZ.
Tell us about your family: I have 4 kids: 3 that attend RA currently and husband who works at the U of U hospital in rehab.
What is a fun fact about yourself? My mom is from Alaska so I spent my summers as a teen gutting fish in my grandparents’ processing plant with all my cousins. It was actually so fun!!!
What is your favorite thing about teaching? I feel a sense of accomplishment when I see my students make progress in my class.
We have just finished our MOY (middle of year) DIBELS assessments for reading and math. The students are starting to recover from the COVID years and things feel more normal. That being said, the students are behind and need a lot of extra support this year. We are doing all we can to help them with their studies here at school. You can also help them at home, especially with their reading skills.

You will get a report on how your student is doing with their reading at SEPs. Whether they are soaring or struggling, making sure your student reads at home for 20 minutes every day is crucial. You should have them read to you at least twice a week to be sure that they are reading books that are just right for them (not missing more than 5 words on a chapter book page).

If they cannot yet read, read to them. Ask them about the pictures and what they think will happen next. Students who can read should also be quizzed about the books they are reading. A little help with reading at home will go a long way in getting everyone reading at their best.
# Renaissance Academy

## February 2023

### Lunch Menu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Menu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td>Pancakes PBJ Sandwich, Salad/Fruit Bar, Milk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td>Pizza PBJ Sandwich, Salad/Fruit Bar, Milk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>BBQ Pork Sandwich, PBJ Sandwich, Salad/Fruit Bar, Milk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td>Orange Chicken PBJ Sandwich, Salad/Fruit Bar, Milk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
<td>Sack Lunch PBJ Sandwich, Carrots/Fruit, Milk &amp; Treat</td>
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</tbody>
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### Breakfast Menu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Menu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td>Breakfast Cookie, Cereal, Fruit, Milk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td>Cereal Bar, Cereal, Fruit, Milk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>Pancake on a Stick, Cereal, Fruit, Milk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td>Breakfast Tornado, Cereal, Fruit, Milk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
<td>Breakfast Variety, Cereal, Fruit, Milk</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Notes
- A La Cart: Milk $0.50
- Online Payments: https://secureinstantpayments.com/sip?ID=21717
- School lunches are ordered a week in advance. By the end of the day, under each Monday in the school-wide calendar, there should be a title event that says School Lunch Order Form with the order survey that you can copy and paste to your web browser to fill out. This will serve as an additional access point to get to the order form in case you don’t receive the email that’s sent out through Aspire every Monday to order school lunch.

*Menu is subject to change without notice*