

# RENAISSANCE ACADEMY PRINTING PRESS



*February 2 - 6*

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*You cannot do a kindness too soon,  
for you never know how soon  
it will be too late.*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## IMPORTANT DATES

SAGE Testing - Feb 9 - 20

Chinese New Year Celebration - Feb 18

Renaissance Spelling Bee - Feb 19

## *Celebrate* **CHINESE NEW YEAR** *with* **RENAISSANCE ACADEMY**

Join us at Renaissance Academy on Wednesday, February 18th at 7:00pm to celebrate the Year of the Goat!

Chinese Calligraphy • Face Painting • Watch the story of Chinese New Year • and more!

8:00 pm Performances by Shen Yun Performing Arts and Renaissance Academy Students



# A WORD FROM THE DEAN



## 2014-15 SAGE TESTING

Testing time is here again and we will begin with the SAGE Writing for students in 3rd - 9th grades in the next few weeks.

For your information, our testing periods this year are;

1) SAGE Writing - Monday 9th - 20th February

2) SAGE Math, Science and Language Arts (Reading, Language and Listening) - Monday 4th - 29th May

For more specific information about SAGE and student participation please re-view the 'SAGE Parent Information' section of this week's edition of the RAPP (see below). If you elect to opt your student out of SAGE testing this year please complete the Renaissance Academy Opt-out form (see below) and return it to the school office by Monday 9th February.

If you have any questions or concerns about SAGE (or anything else) please contact me at [smccappin@renacademy.org](mailto:smccappin@renacademy.org)

Have a great week!

**Stephanie McCappin**

*Dean of Students and Families*

### Student Assessment of Growth and Excellence (SAGE)

SAGE is a series of online formative and summative tests designed to measure students' understanding of Utah's Core Standards in English language arts, mathematics, and science. SAGE formative assessments are used to **monitor** student learning and provide teachers feedback that can be used to guide and improve their teaching during the current school year. The year-end SAGE summative assessment is used to **evaluate** student learning at the end of their grade level instruction. Summative assessment results can help teachers and administrators plan for future instructional activities and student supports.

State law requires all public schools (district and charter) to administer SAGE and other mandated assessments as detailed in state statute to students in grades 3-11. ([http://le.utah.gov/code/TITLE53A/htm/53A01\\_061100.htm](http://le.utah.gov/code/TITLE53A/htm/53A01_061100.htm)). These assessment results provide us with important longitudinal data about student learning. This information guides our teacher's classroom instruction and ensures that adjustments can be made for remediation or acceleration based on the individual needs of students.

State mandated summative testing is not new; however, the SAGE assessment is different from prior benchmark tests in that it goes beyond subject area content knowledge to provide important insight on students' analytical and problem solving skills. It also includes many powerful new tools to help educators effectively use student results to drive classroom instruction.

Utah state law allows parents to opt their student out of the year-end **summative** SAGE test. Opt-out requests must be submitted annually. Therefore, parents may only opt-out their student from the 2014-15 SAGE summative test at this time. Parents may not opt-out a student from the formative assessments conducted prior to the year-end summative test.

We have prepared a FAQ document regarding SAGE that contains additional details regarding the test. If you are considering opting your student out of the SAGE test for the 2014-2015 school year please be sure to read all of the FAQ before doing so to ensure you are fully informed of your options.

# RENAISSANCE ACADEMY END OF YEAR TESTING FAQ

## **Is my student required to take the SAGE test?**

No. However, Renaissance Academy is required to administer the test and is accountable for both student participation and proficiency. Here is a link to the state's participation policy.

<http://sageportal.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Portal CMS Tutorial Resource.pdf>

## **How do I opt my student out of taking the SAGE assessment?**

You must complete the Renaissance Academy 2014-15 opt-out form. This form will be posted on the school website and FEC Facebook page by Friday January 30, 2015.

## **If I opt out my student will it affect my child's grades?**

No. There is no impact on student's class grades. Likewise, extra credit or participation points are not awarded to students who take the test.

## **What repercussions are there for Renaissance Academy and/or my student if we choose to opt out of the 2014-15 SAGE assessment?**

It depends whether the student is absent from school during testing OR whether they attend school but opt-out and do not participate in the assessment. The consequences for each scenario are detailed in the state's Student Test Participation Policy. Here is a summary:

If a student is absent from school during test administration:

1. The absence will count against the school when calculating its percentage of student participation. Utah code 53A-1-1110 requires schools to have 95% participation on state mandated tests. Schools who have less than 95% participation will receive a school grade of "F".
2. The absent student does not receive a test score and is not included in the school's proficiency/achievement calculation.

If a student attends school during the test administration but opts not to participate in testing:

1. There is no impact on the school's participation percentage for the purposes of determining compliance with the 95% statutory requirement.
2. The student receives a non-proficient score (1 out of 5). The score will also be included in the school's proficiency/achievement calculations.

### **Will opting my student out of the assessment ensure that their data is not transmitted to the federal government?**

No. All students in a public school are included in the aggregate data submitted to the federal government whether or not they take the assessment. Aggregate data is state, district, school and grade level data. It does not include student level data. The state office of education has reported aggregate data to the federal government since the 1970s. Neither the new Core Standards nor the SAGE assessment changes these data collection requirements.

### **When will Renaissance administer the SAGE test?**

Testing will begin the weeks of Monday February 9 - 20 (SAGE Writing) and Monday May 4 - 29 (Math, Science, Language Arts (Reading, Language, Listening)). We have until May 29<sup>th</sup> to administer the test to students in grades 3-9. The Math, Science and Language Arts (Reading, Language, Listening) tests require one test session of approximately 90 - 135 minutes to complete. Language Arts (Writing) requires two 90-minute writing sessions.

### **How much class time is spent preparing for the SAGE assessment test?**

The SAGE test is a summative assessment. It is designed measure student proficiency of the state standards which are the foundation of teachers daily instructional planning The only specific time allocated to test preparation is the use of computer labs for practice tests. Since the format of the test now requires students to type their answers and navigate other more complex tasks to answer questions we have required all teachers to use the SAGE practice assessment tool with their students to familiarize them with the test format.

### **As a parent can I preview the SAGE test questions?**

The questions are not available publically. However, if you are interested in understanding the nature of the test you can take some training modules online. The training tests can be found at <http://sageportal.org/training-tests/>. You can access the portal with Username: guest Password: guest



## Parents-

*If you would like to **volunteer in World Language Classes**, please check out this link to see what dates and times teachers need help! Thanks for all you do to make our school great!*

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4e-a8ab2aa46-world/>

## CHESS CLUB

Chess Club will continue to take new students this week • Classes run on Tuesdays for 12 weeks, 3:10-4:30pm in the Middle School Science room • Please turn in your Parent permission forms and payment (checks made out to instructor Larry Prisbrey) to Holly Lyons in the front office •



## FEC PARENT VOLUNTEERS ROCK!

THANK YOU to all of the indispensable Renaissance volunteers this past week. Special Congratulation to Yuki Bernadi, our Smith's Marketplace Volunteer of the Week!

Yuki says she volunteers because she is glad to be a part of the school community, bring joy to the children, and get to know her daughter's classmates:

"Finding time to volunteer is a challenge for me since I have a full-time job and many other volunteer responsibilities with the youth, but looking at the children's smiles is worth all the effort I make and the crazy schedule that it creates. I spent a lot of time preparing for the school carnival at the beginning of the school year. I was happy to see many children and families come together to support the school and was glad to be a part of it. Recently I signed up to volunteer for the reading group in my daughter's class and I am looking forward to helping her and her classmates and getting to know each one of them. "

Yuki will receive a \$5 gift card donated by our neighborhood Smith's.

# MORE FROM THE **FEC** ON OUR AWESOME PARENT VOLUNTEERS :

Donna Enslen is a supportive parent volunteer that was selected as the Smith's Marketplace volunteer of the week last week, January 26-30th. The volunteer of the week is randomly chosen from school volunteers reporting to help. counter.net. Donna enjoys volunteering in the classrooms of her three kids and getting to know the other children in the class. She said, "I love that the kids recognize who I am-even if it is as 'John's Mom,' 'Adalyn's Mom' or 'Alyssa's mom.'"

Thank you Donna for contributing your time and helping to make our school great!

As volunteer of the week, Donna will receive a \$5 gift card donated by our neighborhood Smith's Marketplace in Lehi.

Be sure to track your volunteer hours. We know Renaissance volunteers don't volunteer for recognition or reward, but knowing where and how you serve can help our school in many ways, including applying for grants.

**Tip:** *Did you know you can track volunteer hours you spend watching the children of someone else while they volunteer?*

YO HAB  
LO ESPA  
NOL YOH  
ABLOES  
PANOLY  
OHABLO

## PARENTS,

If you are interested in a refresher course or just want to learn basic Spanish, here's your opportunity. UVU is hosting a class here at RA for you! Please click [here](#) to register TODAY!!

- [Spanish single class](#)
- [Spanish discount package \(2 classes\)](#)

We are also hosting Zumba!

- [Zumba single class](#)
- [Zumba discount package](#)



# HOPE



## SQUAD

**Hold on. Persuade. Empower.**

The HOPE Squad will be organizing HOPE Week during the week of February 9-13.

The HOPE Squad is a group of students who function as a peer support team at Renaissance Academy. The purpose of this group is to provide friendship, encouragement, and support for students who may be struggling. The overall goal is to improve access and availability to appropriate prevention services for vulnerable youth and individuals who may be at risk for suicide. Students who are part of Hope Squad were nominated by their peers as someone who displays naturally good listening skills and to whom students would go if they needed help during difficult times. Students do not act as a counselor, but rather are trained to refer student peers to a trusted adult for help.

To kick off this new program, the HOPE Squad will be organizing activities during Hope Week. The focus for the week is on promoting KINDNESS and SUPPORT in the Renaissance Academy community. Students in grades K-9 will participate in a Kindness Challenge where they will work toward completing as many kind acts as they can during the week. They will receive a checklist of kind acts in their homeroom class on Monday, February 9. Students are encouraged to keep the checklist at school so they do not lose it. Checklists are due to their teacher no later than Friday, February 13. Those students who turn in their checklist will receive a reward for their kind deeds.

Theme Days for Hope Week\*:

Monday, February 9 – Peace, Love, and Kindness – Wear tie dye shirts & headbands

Tuesday, February 10 – Mix it Up – Wear crazy or mismatched socks

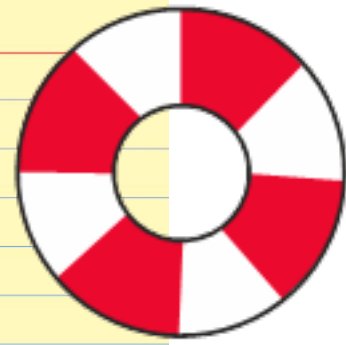
Wednesday, February 11 – Never Give Up Hope – Wear yellow for hope

Thursday, February 12 – Friendship is Magical – Wear fairy tale attire

Friday, February 13 – Friendship Day – Wear pink or red (MS must be in dress code attire for field trip)

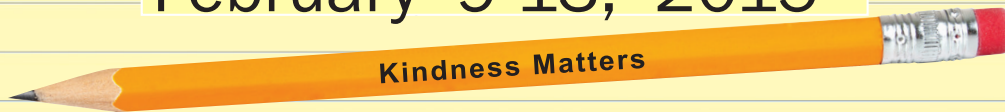
\*Unless otherwise specified above, all other articles of clothing must be dress code appropriate.





# SAVE the DATE

February 9-13, 2015



GreatKindnessChallenge.org  
A Kids for Peace Experience



Kindly Presented by  
**Dignity Health**™

## PHOENIX 200

Congratulations to our most recent group of winning 'Phoenix 200 Club' students. The following students (as well as many others) received Phoenix Tickets as part of our Phoenix 200 Club positive behavior incentive program for being great examples, going above and beyond and making a positive contribution to our school.

The Mystery Motivator this round is a field trip to the Aquarium in February (specific date is to be confirmed).

Tabitha Harvey	4
Zerrik Johnson	6
Sofia Simmons	1
Rivka Cherrington	2
Meirah Johnson	5

Athena Anderson	5
Kaycee Heaton	3
Anisten Thueson	K
Connor Schow	3
Sydney Walker	3