

# RAPP

RENAISSANCE ACADEMY PRINTING PRESS

January 26 - 30

rappsubmissions@gmail.com

*Great thoughts speak only  
to the thoughtful mind,  
but great actions speak  
to all mankind.*

- Theodore Roosevelt



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## IMPORTANT DATES

Phoenix Basketball- Jan 27 & 29

Chinese New Year Celebration - Feb 18

Renaissance Spelling Bee - Feb 19

# 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](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?**

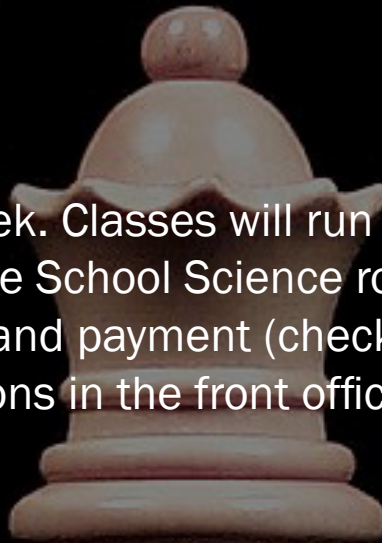
The SAGE test is a summative assessment. It is designed measure student proficiency of the state standards which are the foundation of teachers daily instructional planning The only specific time allocated to test preparation is the use of computer labs for practice tests. Since the format of the test 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

# CHESS CLUB

Chess Club starts this week. Classes will 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.



Dear Parents,

The Renaissance Spelling Bee is coming up on the 19th of February at 7:00pm! following is a list of dates when each grade will hold their classroom spelling bees (listed first) and grade level spelling bees (listed 2nd):

1st - Feb 4, Feb 6  
2nd - Jan 27, Jan 30  
3rd - Jan 30, Feb 6  
4th - Not Participating  
5th - Jan 23, Jan 30  
6th - Jan 22, Jan 29  
7th - Jan 23, Jan 23  
8th - Jan 23, Jan 23

Helpful Links:

Study Tips: <http://spellingbee.com/study-tips>

WordClub: a free resource to help deliver materials to your little speller, and information on how you can help.  
<http://www.spellingbee.com/wordclub>

The Spelling Word Lists is posted to the FEC Facebook Page, or you can request a copy from your grade level teacher. If you have any questions, please Email Mr. Scheerer, the 6th grade writing teacher at [dscheerer@renacademy.org](mailto:dscheerer@renacademy.org). There is also more information in last week's RAPP. Good luck!



# PHOENIX BASKETBALL

The Boys' and Girls' teams will take on Reagan Academy on Tuesday (4:30pm) and Lakeview Academy on Thursday (4:30pm)! Girls tip-off first and boys tip-off 1 hr later.

Come out and show your support for Phoenix Basketball!



The F.E.C. would like to send a HUGE Thank You!! to our Inspiration's Committee. Thursday's Awards Gala was a great event and their work over the last few months is greatly appreciated.

Committee Chair - Liz Harding

Committee Members -

Becky Mccune

James Guymon

Monica Schow

Sam Long

Star Berry

Tamara Halls

Veronica Rodriguez

Wendy Rupper

A huge Thanks also to Ms. Trottier and Mr. Wright for their help and support with this event.

Check out photos of the evening on the F.E.C. Facebook Page.

## WINNERS!

Congratulations to our Inspirations winners:

### VISUAL ART K-2

1. Madeline Burnah
2. Abigail Guyman
3. Haley Burnah

### PHOTOGRAPHY 6-8

1. Ainsley Barlow
2. Sarah Gull

### VISUAL ART 3-5

1. Stetson Berry
2. Annika Mecham
3. Deja Holladay

### 3D ART K-2

1. Marina Allen
2. Elizabeth Sheffield
3. Haley Burnah

### VISUAL ART 6-8

1. Emma Mecham

### 3D ART 3-5

1. Stetson Berry
2. Sydney Harding
3. Deja Holladay

### PHOTOGRAPHY K-2

1. Kallie Harding
2. Kaylee Rupper
3. Madeline Burnah

### LITERATURE K-2

1. Madeline Burnah
2. Sophie Riggs
3. Haley Burnah

### PHOTOGRAPHY 3-5

1. Zahra Johnson
2. Meirah Johnson
3. Sydney Harding

### LITERATURE 3-5

1. Jane Goebel
2. Elayna Rupper

## 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/>

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

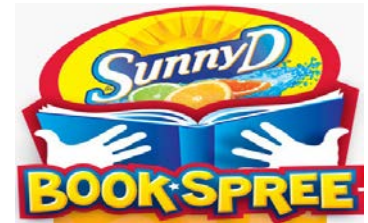
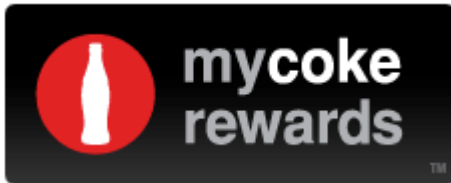
- There was a board meeting last week on Wednesday, January 21st at 7pm. Three new board members were elected.
- Minutes from past Board Meetings as well as agendas for upcoming meetings can be found at [http://renacademy.org/board\\_meetings.html](http://renacademy.org/board_meetings.html).

# Calling For LABELS

**Contests began 1/5/2015- 2/28/2015**

**Prizes will be given for top individuals with the most labels from any and all of the following products.**

Turn all labels into your student's classroom teachers. Make sure your name is included to be eligible for the contests.



Top winners will be treated to a Chick Fil A Lunch.  
All students will receive coupons from different restaurants.

Any Questions please see Mr. Wright.

*There is no new Lost and Found list this week.*

*that's a rapp!*