

RENAISSANCE ACADEMY PRINTING PRESS **MIDDLE SCHOOL EDITION**

The Renaissance Academy Middle School has had a blast this year! Check out these highlights from the 2014-2015 school year, and take a look at what there is to look forward to next year!



Fieldtrips
College Visits
Drama
Socratic Seminar
Sports
Art
And More!





DRAMA

Under the direction of drama and music teacher Dorian Kinder and parent volunteers, the RA Middle School put on an impressive and entertaining production of the musical *The Little Mermaid* during Fall semester.



SCIENCE



This year EIGHT Renaissance Academy Science Fair projects advanced to the Regional Level.

Advancing to the Charter School Regional Science Fair Competition at Utah Valley University were 7th Graders: Aspen Rowley, Loni Smith, Collin Doman, Karina Mattson, Annie Broderick, Logan Myers and Marinn Larsen; 8th Graders: Miriam Seely and Shaleah Hayes; 9th Grader: Ethan Monson.

Collin Doman and Loni Smith, whose project was on the Great Utah Earthquake (yet to happen), were selected to advance to the next level at the Utah Southern Regional Science Fair at BYU.

HOPE SQUAD

This year Renaissance Academy celebrated its first annual Hope Week. Our counselor, Ms. Naddo and the Hope Squad promoted a school-wide kindness challenge that encouraged acts of kindness among students of all grades throughout the week. The Hope Squad is a peer-nominated suicide prevention team.



ART



The Art Club for 6th-9th grade has had an absolute blast this year, especially as the students bonded over shared art experiences and appreciation. This year they are learning about New Genre artists, Contemporary painters and vocabulary for art theory. They also share a lot of their favorite youtube videos - Bob Ross is a favorite.



With Mrs. Trottier, Middle School art students experience researching, experimenting and constructing environmental art. Andy Goldsworthy is a model for land art using natural materials as students investigate the resources at the Murdock Canal Trail and collaborate in teams to create a work.

FIELD TRIPS



Field trips and group projects were great learning opportunities this year! Students experienced public transit as they took the front runner up to the Salt Lake Capitol and checked out the Daughters of the Utah Pioneer Museum.

Headed by Mrs. Orr, students learned the spirit of service last December when they cleaned the school and surrounding areas, performed a variety of service projects for teachers and ran a food and coat drive.

Middle schoolers also learned about event production as they worked together to set up an elaborate haunted house for the Zombie Prom Dance. Also thanks to Mrs. Orr's initiative, students were able to attend Body Worlds at the Leonardo museum in Salt Lake City.

End of year field trips will include :
Lagoon PHYSICS day for 8th grade
Momentum Climbing gym for 7th
Celebration dinner at la Caille for 9th



COLLEGE VISITS

Ninth grade had the chance to tour the campuses of Brigham Young University and the University of Utah.



While touring BYU, 9th graders attended an Engineering Fair and took part in hands-on activities involving mechanical, water, flight, automotive, electrical and structural engineering.

Also while at BYU, they went to Museum of Art and viewed modern Provo displays, Japanese Art Deco and religious art relating to Christianity and Hinduism. Some even got to see Gutenberg Bible pages and Sanskrit documents in BYU Special Collections.



Ninth grade took the Front Runner up to the University of Utah campus, where students were given an official tour, including a chance to check out the dorms.





SOCRATIC SEMINAR

In Mr. Nielson's Sports Science Socratic Seminar students learned about US and international sports like cricket and rugby. In addition, they studied the human body, especially the cardiovascular system, pulmonary system and musculoskeletal system.

In Mr. Nielson's Coding Socratic Seminar, kids learned basic HTML, CSS and JavaScript skills as well as the fundamentals of object oriented programming.



In Ms. Lawson's Popular Music Seminar, the class spent the first week discussing different genres of music and how music affects individuals and society. Students chose their favorite artist and made a presentation to illustrate the artist's history and style. It was a fun seminar in which the kids got an opportunity to share with their peers something they're passionate about.



Mr. Luthy offered a International Relations Socratic Seminar that students loved, in which classmates established political agendas for imaginary countries in a Model United Nations-style simulation.

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

This year Middle School initiated the Phoenix Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is a leader among educational organizations and societies nationwide.

NJHS recognizes students for their outstanding accomplishments in scholarship (3.5 cumulative GPA), leadership, service, citizenship, and character. Below is a list of honorary members who will be inducted at the 9th grade celebration. Once inducted, they will become active members of NJHS.

7th Graders

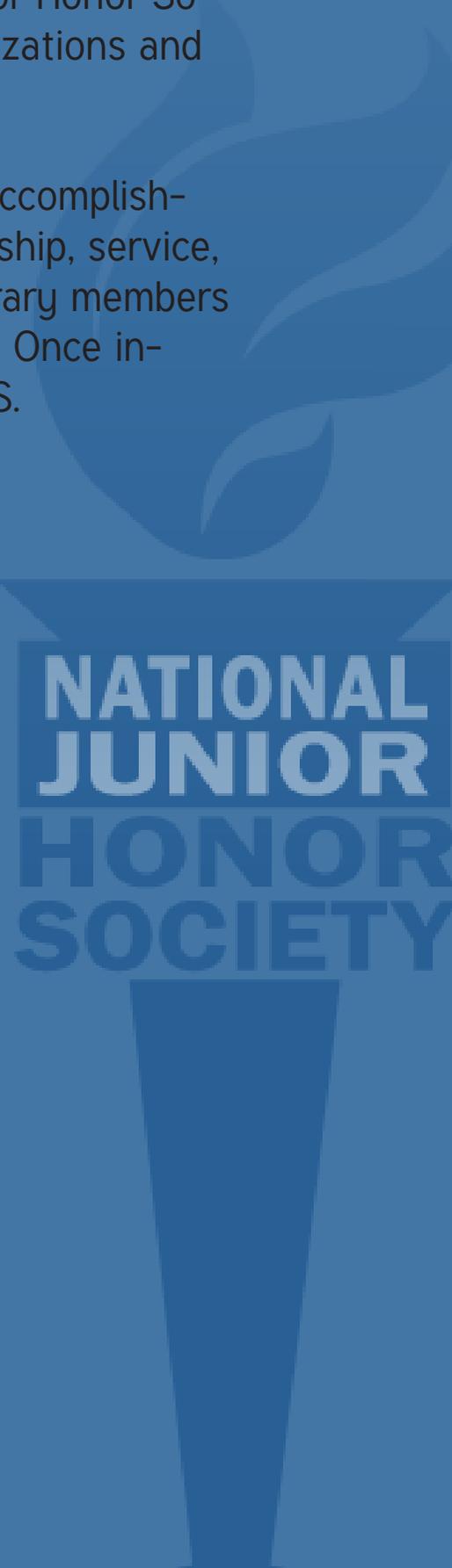
Macy Aldridge
Jonah Brown
Noah Bryan
Ryan Christensen
Alyssa Enslin
Collin Farnes
Jody Goebel
Aubree Haskell
Brynlee Jensen
Charlotte Jones
Camden Larsen
Marinn Larsen
Karina Mattson
Vanessa Mofu
Zedekai Nelson
Taylor Nicolaysen
Aaliyah Tibbett
Tristan Walker

8th Graders

Sarah Baker
Brianna Eisert
Shaleah Hayes
Josh Rodriguez
Ashley Thunnell

9th Graders

Quincy Evans
Cassidy Forsyth
Isaac Haskell
Arial Lee
Marisol Mattson
Paisley Nerenberg
Sam Walker



NATIONAL
JUNIOR
HONOR
SOCIETY

PHOENIX SPORTS

BASKETBALL



Under the spirited coaching of Mr. Luthy, the Renaissance Academy Basketball team had a great run this season. Boys and girls teams showed marked improvement from game to game. Team members in Game Day dress brought a sense of Phoenix Pride to the whole school.

SOCCER



This soccer season, Middle School Math teacher Jared Nielson rounded up a team to compete in the Utah Charter School Sports League. Our students look great on the field in Renaissance Red!



SPACE SIMULATOR AND VOYAGER CLUB

Farpoint Voyager Club is a student organization that creates experiential learning opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math. The club is sponsored by Renaissance Academy and The Space EdVentures Foundation. Students in grades 6-9 can enroll as a Farpoint cadet if their most recent report card has no grade below a C. The club is comprised of five departments: medical, engineering, instrumentation, production and cosmography. Each cadet applies to the department of most interest to them. Upon acceptance, the cadet becomes an integral part of the student-driven development of the Farpoint program.

Cadets also participate in Long Duration Missions (LDMs) with their assigned squadron. LDMs are episodic, action-packed, experiential learning adventures that take place in the Renaissance Academy's starship simulator (currently under construction). The two main educational objectives of LDMs are: 1) to solidify student mastery of Utah State Core Standards and 2) to provide a meaningful context for students to employ their knowledge, build confidence and develop leadership capability. Each squadron is evaluated during their LDM and awarded points based on performance as they compete for the coveted "Best Squadron" title.

We are excited to provide this creative, highly-engaging learning opportunity for our students for the 2015-16 school year! If your student is interested in becoming a Renaissance Academy Farpoint Cadet--please contact Victor Williamson at vwilliamson@renacademy.org.



Mr. Victor Williamson is the founder and director of Alpine School District's Christa McAuliffe Space Education Center, a founder of the Space EdVentures Foundation as well as a current sixth grade teacher at Renaissance. He has been working closely with Space EdVentures members and our director Mark Ursic to plan for and design the Farpoint Station coming to the school. Check out the website for Farpoint Station as well as Mr. Williamson's blog here: <http://farpointstation.org/>.

CATALINA ISLAND ADVENTURE TRIP 2015

This May, students from grades 6-9 look forward to the Science Adventure to California. Trip highlights will include an Ecology Safari to Catalina Island featuring hands-on science activities, snorkeling, marine-life dissections, and sleeping aboard a research vessel.

We will spark our interest in astronomy at the Griffith Observatory, see the Space Shuttle Endeavor at the California Science Center, learn about hydroelectric production at Hoover Dam, and experience the laws of physics at Magic Mountain.

Renaissance Academy looks forward to creating many more Middle School trip opportunities in the years to come.



FUTURE MIDDLE SCHOOL TRIPS

Future Middle School trip opportunities include an excursion to visit New York and Washington, D.C. next year, as well as an adventure abroad in 2017!



**PROGRAMS WE'RE EXCITED
TO OFFER IN 2015-2016:**

Academic Acceleration Program (AAP)

Art Club

Ballroom

Basketball

Chess Club

Drama (After school program)

Drill Team

HOPE Squad

NJHS (National Junior Honor Society)

Private music lessons (piano & guitar)

Soccer

Student Government