

SLCSE NEWSLETTER

September Issue 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 26

- Short Day

September 27

- Teacher Professional Development day- No School

October 1

- Parent Teacher Conference (4 – 7:30pm)

October 3

- Short day
- Parent Teacher Conference (2 – 6pm)

October 4

- First Friday (8:00 – 9:00 AM)

Contact us

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HONORING THE SCHOOL THAT SHAPED ME published this summer in West Media View Community News



I graduated this year from a school where I had spent seven years of my life. Without that public charter school, I would not be as successful as I am today.

The Salt Lake Center for Science Education (SLCSE) is not an ordinary school when compared to other high schools in the valley. The focus may be science-based, but the main rationale of the school is to “change reality.” This means challenging the norm of what can be taught and accomplished.

SLCSE has received recognition over the years for the exceptional work the school has demonstrated. Just recently SLCSE was awarded sixth place in the nation as a “School of Opportunity.”

When I first visited the school as a guest in the third grade, I saw a very new place. Literally, the building was being remodeled. The ceiling was gutted open, walls were unfinished with bags hanging over them, dust and the sound of construction permeated the air. Move forward to 2011 when I attended the sixth grade, and the school had changed very much. There was a bike shop, science fair division, and a beautiful courtyard that the students themselves maintained with animals, a pond and a garden.

I remember how nervous I was when I first came to SLCSE; I was afraid of not having friends or having trouble in school. My fears were put to rest. I garnered incredible friends and have had more academic success than I ever thought possible. One student who came to SLCSE a few years after me told me that I had helped him get over those same fears. I didn’t even know I had, but I know now that it was because of the more social attitude I had gained at SLCSE that I gained from the friends I made there.

Self confidence is something I have struggled with for a while. Looking back at the accomplishments I have earned for myself at SLCSE, I’m amazed at what I can do. It is all thanks to my teachers, without whom I would not have graduated, providing so many opportunities for me.

I argued in front of real judges as a lawyer for Mock Trial. I performed poetry in front of large crowds multiple times for Poetry Out Loud. I gave a TED Talk at my school’s first ever TEDx event. I participated in my school’s annual trip to Washington DC after a year of volunteering and fundraising. I’ve been on multiple camping trips because my school has a lot of gear and enthusiasm for the outdoors. I’ve taken multiple AP classes and never

quit because of my teachers' unwavering faith in their students. I even undertook a senior project that led to me help to start and manage *The West View Teen Newsroom* that meets at the Glendale Library.

These are just a few of the opportunities I've had at SLCSE. With every healthy risk I took, I gained more self-esteem. With that, I opened myself to more opportunities for the future – opportunities I otherwise may never have taken.

I hope more people who attend SLCSE will have a similar experience, for I consider it invaluable.

Andre Montoya, 18, is a Glendale resident who helped create and facilitate The West View Teen Newsroom for his Senior Project. He graduated from SLCSE in 2019 and is attending the University of Utah.

NEW TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



Steve Schwemmer

This year we are trying a wild and crazy experiment where we share a teacher or two across the two campuses. Steve Schwemmer starts his day at the Bryant campus and then drives over to the SLCSE campus to spend his afternoon with students in an Instrumental Music class and a Choir class. Steve is enjoying the challenge of his new teaching assignment, he is no stranger to variety having taught music in elementary, junior high and high school settings. He has also taught Utah Studies! Steve's goal this year is to construct a bridge (metaphorical) between the two school campuses, and encourage students to explore, create and respond to music.

HOME VISIT PROGRAM

We are excited to announce that SLCSE will be participating in Parent/Teacher Home Visits this year, a voluntary program in which teachers and other school staff get to know their students and families outside of the classroom. Parents and teachers come together, in a unique setting at your home or other locations of your choice, to get to know one another and talk about your student's academic future.

The intent is to build positive relationships with families and to partner together to support your student(s) educational success. Stronger relationships between us really make an impact on school success, studies show that home visits increase student academic achievement and improve parent engagement in schools. They bring teachers and families closer together and create opportunities for better communications between home and school.

Visits last about 30 minutes, and during the visit, time is taken to share our experiences, expectations, and our hopes and dreams for our children. Your student and other family members are welcome to take part. This is NOT a parent/teacher conference. This is NOT a meeting to tell you what to do as a parent or to get you to sign up for anything.

Every family is eligible for a home visit: no one is targeted for any reason. The program is entirely voluntary. You may be contacted by phone to ask if you are interested in setting up a home visit this year.

Contact us anytime with your questions 801 578 8226 or britnie.powell@slcschools.org

SENIOR CLASS



12th grade students in Mathematical Decision Making for Life created 100 cards in honor of the 330 miles run by Davina Smith from Bears Ears to the state capitol to deliver a medicine bundle to the 68th annual United Nations Conference for Civil Society. Davina Smith, executive director of SLC Air Protectors, decided to run to raise awareness about environmental and cultural issues that are part of Utah society. This is the first time the conference has been held outside of New York City. Our students generated a list of questions for visitors to consider as they decided how to use a card to speak their truth. They could write inside the card, keep it, give it away, or give it back to us.

What are things you can do everyday to take a step closer towards a civil society? What do you think a main factor should be when building a civil society?

Thank you to the Warm Springs Alliance for this opportunity. The Warm Springs Alliance, a community organization working to renovate the mineral baths and bathhouse at Warm Springs Park. warmspringsalliance.org

NINTH GRADE RETREAT

JUNIORS & SENIORS

- If you are interested in taking or retaking the ACT the next two tests take place on September 14 (late deadline registration August 30) and October 26 (register by September 20)
- Free prep class for the ACT is available at the Day Riverside Library starting September 3 (5-6:30pm)
- Seniors, make sure you have talked to a specific teacher about writing a letter of recommendation for you.
- September is National College Savings Month. At my529, that means it's time for Utah students to make their mark—and possibly earn a college scholarship in the process. Students can create an original bookmark for the 2019 my529 Make Your Mark contest for a chance at a \$1,000



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to 9th grader Lukas Mesiciek who has been named one of the Top 300 Middle School Innovators in the nation's premier

science, engineering, technology and math competition Broadcom MASTERS.

Teen Explainers

-an exciting new opportunity for high school students at the Natural History Museum of Utah

Teen Explainers will interact with guests in the Museum galleries to spark excitement and curiosity and expand guests' learning about Museum exhibits. Applicants who are selected for the Explainers program will work approximately 15 hours per month. After completing a 16-hour training apprenticeship, program teens will be eligible to become paid employees of the Museum, where they will continue training and engaging the public.

It's definitely more than a job! Teen Explainers will:

- strengthen their communication skills
- increase self-confidence
- gain a deeper understanding of science and appreciation for the natural world
- make new friends and share fun experiences with peers
- make a difference in their community
- enjoy valuable work experience that enhances future college or job applications

Ready to Apply?

nhmu.utah.edu/TeenExplainers

Applications due by September 25