



SALT LAKE CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Your Best Choice

ELP

Summer 2022

NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING ELP EXCELLENCE IN ACTION



Neighborhood ELP students at Bennion, Hawthorne (both with teacher Becky Fox), and at Meadowlark (teacher Manessa Adams) gave their students science & engineering challenges.



Some Great Debates

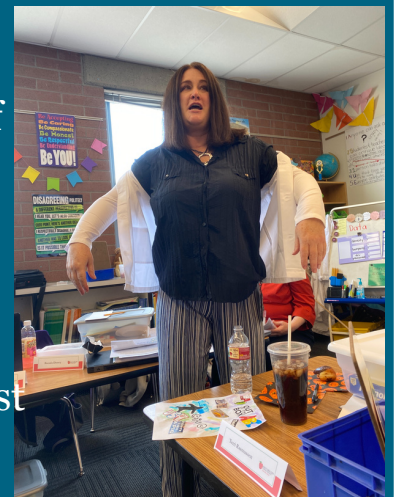
Debate is a classic of gifted & talented.

Tina Jensen, Magnet 5th/6th at Emerson, invited me to a practice debate. They were calm, articulate, and performed well at a competition the next week.

Kristi Johnson, Neighborhood ELP at Bonneville & Dilworth, gave a modern twist to debate. Her students recorded podcast-format debates trying to convince the audience their item is 'better'. Some students are pretty convincing... Reach out to her if you'd like a listen!

In May, the Neighborhood ELP teachers had a full day of learning and brainstorming the needs & next steps of Neighborhood ELP. Terri Rasmussen, NELP at Ensign & Riley, channeled her inner student scientist by putting on one of the lab coats. :)

Behind the Scenes





ELP Updates & Upcoming Calendar

WASHINGTON MELP LOCATION

It was an exciting night when the SLCSO School Board approved the expansion of the Magnet ELP program to accommodate a larger-than-normal group of students who qualify for the program.

Washington Elementary has, as a staff community, been working hard to become a certified Early Years IB school - even during the depths of the pandemic. Although that is not directly related to MELP, it speaks to the climate of the whole-school experience and the commitment to high-level rigor for their students.

I also want to acknowledge that, even though this may feel like a small step, to the ELP department it is a huge sign of the veracity and growth of ELP. Change is tough, especially for a long-standing program. This expansion is a spark towards merging the tradition of MELP with modern needs of SLCSO and our gifted students.

If you have a rising MELP 4th or 6th grader and want more information about the Washington location, reach out to the ELP Department at 801.578.8573.

22-23 Assessment Calendar

First two weeks of school:

- New to District (1, 2, 4-6) - No sign up needed, ELP automatically finds and assesses students

March (during school day):

- Universally assess every
 - Kindergarten student
 - 3rd grade student

March (Saturdays):

- Sign up Pre-K
- Sign up out-of-district

Date TBD:

- 6th grade assessment (for 23-24 7th grade placement)

Primary changes to the calendar in comparison to years prior:

- Most of our assessing happens universally, without a sign-up needed
- Because of the shift to universal format, there are no longer opt-in windows for all grades every year.

Why this change has happened:

- Provide an ELP screening opportunity to all SLCSO students twice
- Establish consistency & predictability in the assessment calendar
- Balance ELP Department's time & effort between identification & services management within ELP

● Supervisor's Note ●

To the ELP Network,

Change can be many things: good, needed, tough, or worrisome. As the new supervisor of ELP, I am a component of ELP's change. However, this is a chance to reiterate that, no matter what, we are all focused on the same thing: the best learning environment for our SLCSD students. Time will not change that focus. The exact people may change, and how we approach that goal may evolve. Although I am new to this program in this district, the first focus is the same: what it takes to help make school the best place possible for our students.

I am new to SLCSD (and Salt Lake City proper), but I am not new to working in gifted and talented. I have taught math and science advanced classes, including at an advanced academics high school. I have worked in different levels of management for programs including GEAR UP, AVID, AP & IB, and gifted & talented.

My professional drive, although not directly related to gifted and talented instruction, is applicable to our ELP department. My research is about the motivational and cognitive needs required for education professionals to engage in their professional learning to maximize their professional potential. That means that I have honed my own expertise in professional learning - including dissecting all parts of best instructional practices that would be taught within teachers' & administrators' professional learning.

I feel that my knowledge and experience in professional learning makes me a powerful collaborator with ELP caretakers. I bring perspective and knowledge to our passionate caretakers that deserve knowledge that helps them understand the decisions they are making and feel confident in those decisions.

Thank you for your trust and your time,

Dr. Alex Parsons

Supervisor, Extended Learning Programs Department