SPECTRUM ACADEMY
665 Cutler Drive, N.S.L., UT 84054
801-936-0318 – Fax 801-936-0568
867 South 800West, Pleasant Grove, UT 84062
801-785-9019 – Fax 801-899-1635

Spectrum Academy Board Minutes

Date & Time	September 12, 2017 7:02 P.M. to 8:10 P.M.
Location	Spectrum Academy Pleasant Grove Campus
Members in attendance:	Marney DeVroom, Dennis M. Bullard, Nick Wright, Madi Leyba, Marcy Johnson
Members Excused	Jana Gold
Spectrum Staff	Brad Nelson, Jaime Christensen, Rachel Colledge, Christina Guevara, Kaley Veater, Liz Banner, Christine Manning, Barry Pewtress, Kristen Wilson, Krisanne Lewis, Paul Woodworth

BUSINESS DISCUSSED

Board Session

- Reviewed minutes from August 8, 2017, motion to approve minutes made by Dennis Bullard seconded by Madi Leyba, and unanimously approved.

- Vote proposed acquisition of the real property adjacent to the PG campus.
    - The Board unanimously decided to not proceed because of environmental concerns.
- Background Follow up for Board members. It was determined that this item is complete.
- Financial Update (Nick Wright, Brad Nelson)
    - Budget was presented. Still need to add itemized expenses for the included grants.
    - Motion to approve the budget made by Nick Wright seconded by Madi Leyba, and unanimously approved.
    - Daniels Fund Grant was recognized.
- Status of the NSL expansion and real property acquisition (Brad Nelson)
    - We have 36 days to close. Working with Zion's Bank to close around October 16th.
- Academic Director's Update (Jaime Christensen)
    - Motion to approve of Data Governance Policy and Decision on key individuals involving data made by Dennis Bullard seconded by Nick Wright, unanimously approved.
    - Motion to approve Fee Waiver Policy made by Nick Wright seconded by Madi Leyba, unanimously approved.
- C.R.E.A.T.E Director's Update (Rachel Colledge)
    - Mentioned connecting with the University of Utah
    - See attached report
- STARS Director's Update (Christina Guevara)
    - Presented updated transition guide.
    - Presented the sprit ware order form.
    - See attached report
- PG School Principal's Update (Liz Banner)
    - Marney requested an update on the Spectrum Academy concession stand at the BYU stadium.
    - See attached report
- NSL Secondary School Principal's Update (Rachel Colledge)
    - See attached report

- NSL Elementary School Principal's Update (Christine Manning)
  - See attached report
- Related Services Update (Krisanne Lewis)
  - See attached report
- Amy Baker presented her Annual fundraising plan.
- Marney presented an article on Autism and Law Enforcement By Sentinel News Service.

  https://lasentinel.net/autism-and-law-enforcement-new-spectrum-shield-program-addresses-concerns.html
- Safety and Security Update (Marcy Johnson)
  - Nothing new

Next Meeting will be held on October 10th at the STARS campus in NSL 7:00pm

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Madi Leyba, seconded by Nick and unanimously agreed upon.

Public Session

- Opportunity for public comments:
  - None

Marcy Johnson, Secretary

North Salt Lake Secondary School/CREATE Board Report
September 12, 2017

In addition to the highlights in the North Salt Lake Secondary School Newsletter distributed September 8, 2017, the following are happenings at the Secondary School/CREATE:

This year we have launched another Advanced Placement course: AP English Language!

Under the CREATE umbrella, this term we are offering: Business Office Specialist, Database Development, Exploring Computer Science, Web Development, Computer Programming, Digital Media, Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles, Food and Nutrition I, Workplace Skills, Teen Living, Adult Roles and Financial Literacy, Child Development, Entrepreneurship: Production, Entrepreneurship: Spirit Wear and Vocation Training.

The building continues to be beautified. Our students continue to add their personal touches to our all-student art project:

We had a student who began his running training with Spectrum's Cross Country team three years ago. He just successfully completed his first half marathon!

We successfully competed in our first cross country meet at American Heritage on Saturday, September 9th. Every Spectrum runner who came to the meet successfully finished their race!

Please enjoy the update from STARS!

- Start of the Year - We held our Open House sessions on Monday August 21st and it was exciting to finally have kids in the building! There was much to do and ti would not have been done without the very MANY hands we had pitch in. Parents were happy with the facility and students were excited to get back to school.
- Constellation Club - As a staff we pooled our talents to staff our daycare. To support appropriate socialization between younger and older students, we have daycare for our older (Big Dippers) and younger (Little Dippers) students. Our selfless staff was on board from the very beginning that they wanted to be the ones to support our students with their unique needs in our before and after school program.
- Flu Clinic - Spectrum NSL will hold their annual Flu Clinic next Tuesday, September 19th
- Parent Focus Group - Tuesday, September 19th from 4:00-5:00 will be our first STARS Parent Focus Group. In these meetings, I am looking forward to getting parent feedback on many aspects of our program from lunch and transportation to programming and interventions. I hope to also generate support for a STARS Parent Action Committee for this school year.
- Spiritwear - Attached you will find the flyer for the STARS Spiritwear. We cannot wait to sport our wonderful items and to let everyone know that we have school spirit! Orders for spiritwear are due to the STARS Front Office by Friday September 22nd.
- Emergency Plans - We have been working diligently to identify safety protocols for the STARS building. With input from Liz Cheney at the Secondary School, Jaime, and the North Salt Lake Police Department, plans have been developed to address smaller incidents such as a closure of the hallways to a larger scale procedure such as a property evacuation.
- Daniels Fund Visit - On Friday September 8th, we were all very pleased to host representatives of the Daniels Fund at the Secondary School and at STARS. We were very proud to offer a tour of the STARs building and speak through the different supports and programs that we have in place for students in functional skills. Our guests were complimentary and it was a joy to continue to foster such a beneficial partnership.
- Student Programming - Now that we are in the swing of the school year, the STARS teachers have fully implemented their full instructional schedules. This includes multiple ABA sessions, social skills lessons, life skills lessons, and OT/Speech groups. We will be monitoring program effectiveness on a classroom and individual level to continue to ensure student success. STARS is lucky to have such a great teacher team - if you ever get the chance, give kudos to Hannah Johnson, (ES Teacher), Katie Hart (ES Teacher), Sandi Baker (ES Teacher), Lauren Haslam (SS Teacher), Robin Kirby (SS Teacher), and Lisa Sorensen (SS Teacher).
- Elementary Social Skills Research - The ES teachers are working with Andrea Johnson, a special education teacher, to participate in research for a social skills curriculum that incorporates sensory integration. Andrea's work is supported by the National Science Foundation. The staff will work with students to attend to technology-based lessons and generalize social skills to peers and adults. We look forward to the gains that this project will bring.

Pleasant Grove Campus Update August 2017

1. Whole school information:
   - ❖ PAC Meeting

i. We had our first parent activity meeting of the year in August. It was fun to see all of the new parents, as well as all of our familiar parents' faces. We talked about the years upcoming activities and events for this school year and had them sign up for what they are interested in.

- ❖ Back to School Nights
  i. Our back to school nights were a big success. Our teachers and other staff members worked very hard to make it a welcoming night for our families! It was so fun to welcome everyone back:).
  ii. New food for student lunches
    1. We have a new food provider for our school lunches. The provider came to our back to school night with samples of the food they would be serving, the families loved it!
      a. Although it is taking a little bit of time helping our younger students navigate the salad bar, we are having very good feedback from the students! They really like this food so much better.
- ❖ Trainings for teachers and paras
  i. We had some great trainings for our staff members this year without any expansion interruptions:). We even took a minute to go out and view the solar eclipse!
- ❖ Autos for Autism
  i. Our second annual Autos for Autism was great! Many families commented on how they loved the community feel, and love having a place that they can bring their whole families. Our parent volunteers worked so incredibly hard to make this event happen!
  ii. We don't know how much we made yet, but they are working on the numbers now so that we can let our families know.
  iii. A big thank you to our NSL admin team for coming and showing their support!
- ❖ Chalk-the-block
  i. PG is getting ready for Chalk the Block coming up this week! Our honors art students have been asked to participate by showcasing their art work at the event! It will be a great experience.
- ❖ A2A
  i. We continue to participate in our assessment to achievement initiative. Our teams are working together to have a more data driven school.

2. Elementary School:
   - ❖ BYO Testing
     i. Our elementary school teachers have been working on a lot of beginning of the year testing with their students.

   - ❖ Teacher aids
     i. We have many elementary school teachers that have our high school students as teachers aids. They work with not only their class, but work on helping our high school students understand how to work

with students younger than they are. I really feel that it helps build a true Spectrum community feeling when they are looking out for each other.

3. Middle School/ High School:
   - ❖ Student Body Officers
     i. Our student body officers began the year by having a barbeque at the school with their families. They have also worked on many different projects such as; helping with our back to school nights and putting together a fund raiser for the hurricane victims.
   - ❖ BYU Concession Stand
     i. Our occupational track students have been practicing their job skills at the BYU home football games. They have had a great turnout of support from students, staff members, and parents. It is so fun to see the skills that they have learned in the caffe come out in a real-world situation.
     ii. BYU is going to let us put our logo, and "Watch Autism at Work", on the back of our white t-shirts that are part of their work uniform. One of our parents is making the shirts for us.

Pictures……..

Teachers Return to Spectrum! Paras came later.

Fun viewing of the eclipse!

New school lunches! Look at that happy face☺.

Help for hurricane victims! PG raised $400+ dollars for the cause:).

AUTOS FOR AUTISM!!

Having fun at Autos for Autism!

BYU Concession Stand.

Ready to work!

And have a little fun……

Spectrum Academy's Voices of the Pack

SEPTEMBER 8, 2017

A Message From Administration:

It is with great pleasure that we send the September newsletter to you. Our Spectrum Academy North Salt Lake Secondary School/CREATE family has had a great start to the 2017-18 school year! Students have adjusted to the A/B schedule incredibly well. Some of the highlights of the first few weeks of school include having so many students earning Principal's Club cards that we have had two celebratory lunches! These students are Joshua Rhode, Aaron Miller, Quinton Ballard, Aiden Baldree, Jaron Shaffer, Robbie Altman, Nathan Christensen, Mackenzie Wagstaff, Erik Forsgren, Daemian Mumme, Hudson Royall, Ellie Brainard, Parker Jarman, Kyle Candland and Tristan Bouck! Congratulations Principal's Club Winners!

(continued on pg 2)

September

14-16: CHALK THE BLOCK

20-21: PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES (EARLY OUT FOR STUDENTS)

26: PICTURE DAY

28: PARENT EMPOWERMENT NIGHT

October:

19-20: FALL BREAK

26: END TERM 1

27: TEACHER WORK DAY (NO SCHOOL)

31: HALLOWEEN

Contact Information:

Front Office: 801-936-0318

Director of Academics:
Jaime Christensen
jchristensen@spectrumcharter.org

Principal: Rachel Colledge
rcolledge@spectrumcharter.org

Assistant Principals:
Kaley Veater
kveater@spectrumcharter.org

Barry Pewtress
bpewtress@spectrumcharter.org

HS Counselor:
Stacy Pettersson
spettersson@spectrumcharter.org

MS Counselor:
Chelsea Champi
cchampi@spectrumcharter.org

Picture Day!

Picture day for students will be on September 26th.

Parent Empowerment Nights

This year we will have our Parent Empowerment Nights (PEN) quarterly. They will take place on the following dates:

- September 28
- January 11
- March 1
- May 10

For more information about what Parent Empowerment Night is, plase see page 3.

A Message from Administration (cont'd)

It has also been a treat to watch our students complete our installation art piece under the guidance of our talented art teacher Ms. Andrea Anderson. Students began this project at Back-to-School. Students in art class have been painting the sky and tree. To this, the leaves that students completed at Back-to-School will be added to create the final masterpiece.

We are also thrilled to have another strong showing for our cross country team this year. We have over 50 runners! Practices have started and we are excited to start running in meets!

These are just some of the highlights from the beginning of what is sure to be an amazing school year. It is amazing to be a part of helping our students grow their knowledge and skills each day. They are truly wonderful people with whom we are honored to share this educational journey. Thank you for continuing to encourage your student's growth mindset.

First Weeks Of School Fun:

It has been a fun few weeks back from summer vacation.
Here are a few pictures:

Parent Empowerment Nights: Explained

For those of you new to Spectrum Academy (or maybe just needing a refresher) every quarter we will have a Parent Empowerment Night (PEN). We take pride in the community that comes with Spectrum Academy and this is one way that we demonstrate how much we care about our parents, stakeholders, students, and community. These nights are designed to give information to our community. We have presentations on a variety of things from staff members, outside service providers, and more. This is also a great opportunity for you to meet other members of the Spectrum Academy community.

There are a few ways in which you can participate in these nights. You can attend in person at the secondary school or you can see the presentations online a few days after the event. You receive 4 volunteer hours for attending. This can be done by going to https://my.spectrumcharter.org/login.php

Please look for more information on our upcoming Parent Empowerment Nights. We hope to see you there!

Vocational Rehabilitation Appointments:

The goal of Vocational Rehabilitation is to foster independence and self-fulfillment through employment. Vocational Rehabilitation offers vocational assessments, career planning, IEP advocacy, counseling/guidance, information/referral services, job-readiness training, work-based experience training, on-the-job training, job development, job placement and maintenance services amongst other services.

Vocational Rehabilitation will be on campus for initial intake appointments on the following dates and times: 9/12 and 9/27 at 8:00, 9:30, 11:30, 1:00 and 2:00. Please contact Lorraine Brighton at the Secondary School Front Office to schedule an appointment or send your request to vrappointmentrequests@spectrumcharter.org.

Growth Mindset:

As explained in the last newsletter, our theme for the year is Building Great Minds, which goes along with Carol Dweck's book, *Mindset*. We encourage you to use this type of thinking at home. Please see page 4 for an introduction to Growth Mindset.

We will have more tips in every newsletter. Please look for them!

A Parent's Guide to

ENCOURAGING A GROWTH MINDSET

What is a growth mindset?

Growth mindset is a concept developed by Carol Dweck, a Professor of Psychology at Stanford University. It is the belief that a person's abilities and intelligence can be developed through practice, hard work, dedication, and motivation.

What is a fixed mindset?

A **fixed mindset** is the notion that intelligence and talent alone will lead to success. People with a fixed mindset believe that these things are "fixed" and cannot be developed or improved upon. They believe that you are either born with it or not, and nothing can change that.

Why is having a growth mindset important?

Research has shown that children who have a fixed mindset are more likely to:

- Fear failure
- Give up on tasks they feel are too difficult
- Ignore feedback
- Avoid challenges
- Feel threatened by the success of others

Children who have a growth mindset are more likely to:

- Learn from their mistakes
- Be motivated to succeed
- Put forth more effort
- Take challenges head on
- Take risks
- Seek feedback
- Learn more
- Learn faster

Schoolhouse Live

A Few New Faces....

As you have noticed, we have a few new faces around here.

Jaime Christensen
Director of Academics

Rachel Colledge
Secondary School Principal

Barry Pewtress
Secondary School Assistant Principal

Kaley Veater
Secondary School Assistant Principal

Stacy Pettersson
High School Counselor

Chelsea Champi
Middle School Counselor

Spectrum Academy Faculty 2017-2018

We truly have some of the best faculty around. We thank all of our staff members for their dedication and the love that they have for each and every student that attends Spectrum Academy.

Occupational Therapy Corner

Backpack Safety: Pack it Light, Wear it Right!

Millions of children wear backpacks to school every day. Wearing a backpack the wrong way or carrying a too heavy backpack can lead to pain and injury! In fact, approximately 20,000 back-pack related injuries are treated in medical offices or emergency rooms each year. Heavy backpacks can cause spinal damage, shoulder and back injuries, and falls. Over two-thirds of students wear backpacks that are heavier than recommended or not properly adjusted.

To avoid injuries and health problems associated with backpack use, follow these recommendations:

- Weight and Size
  - A student's loaded backpack should weigh no more than 10% of their body weight. For example, a child who weighs 50 lbs., should not carry a backpack that weighs more than 5 lbs.
  - The backpack height should extend from the waist to 2 inches below the top of the shoulder blades. The backpack should not sit significantly below their waist.
  - When purchasing a backpack, have your child try it on to insure appropriate size and fit. Backpacks are available in different sizes for different ages.
- Pack it Light!
  - Place heaviest items (computers, books, etc.) in the back of the backpack closest to the child's back, medium weight items in the middle, and lighter items in the front of the pack. Use different pockets to better distribute the weight.
  - Pack sharp objects away from the child's back.
  - If the child needs to carry heavier than recommended weight, using a backpack with wheels is a good option.
  - Check the backpack every day to insure only necessary items are transported
- Wear it Right!
  - Wear backpack over both shoulders ALL the time. Backpacks should have well padded shoulder straps. Make sure straps are adjusted so the backpack sits snugly against your child's back.
  - Fasten the chest and/or waist straps to better distribute the weight and for better balance.
  - Teach your child to bend at the knees instead of the waist to pick up their back pack.

"The selection of a backpack is a family affair. By joining together as a team children will realize the importance of proper backpack wearing. It should be considered a fun family activity. The bottom line message is to have children begin to take more responsibility for their physical health."

-Dr. Karen Jacobs. Occupational therapist & Ergonomist

A Few More Announcements...

Middle School Robotics Club!
3:30-4:30 on Tuesdays.
Students can get sign up sheets at the front office.
Fee is $70.
The season starts now and goes until close to the end of the school year.

PLEASE REMEMBER:
You must remain stopped as long as the red lights flash or the stop arm is out. The only exception to this is where you are approaching the bus from the opposite direction on a road with at least two lanes in each direction. When overtaking a school bus, you may not pass when red or amber warning lights are flashing.

NeighborWorks Salt Lake | YouthWorks

YouthWorks is hiring male students, ages 16-18, for the 2017 YouthWorks Fall Crew. The pre-employment program is open to Salt Lake County students.
The crew runs September to December. The internship is from 1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.Monday-Thursday. Community builders learn landscaping/construction, life skills and civic engagement.
Students earn a $100 stipend a week.
For questions or to set up an interview, contact YW Director Jenn Sanchez at 801-539-1590 or jennifers@nwsaltlake.org.
Apply at the NWSL office, 622 W. 500 North, SLC, or online at http://www.nwsaltlake.org/our-programs/youthworks.

2017 YouthWorks Fall Crew (Males, ages 16-18)

- Interviews: August - September
- Family Orientation: 6-8 p.m. Thursday, September 14 (mandatory)
- Crew Starts: 1:30 p.m. Monday, September 18 (mandatory)
- Family Mid-Program Review: 6-8 p.m. Thursday, October 19 (mandatory)
- Graduation: 6-8 p.m. Thursday, December 10

2018 YouthWorks Winter Crew (Females, ages 16-18)

- January 16 - March 22, 2018

2018 YouthWorks Spring Crew (Males, ages 16-18)

- March 9 - June 7

2018 YouthWorks Summer Crew (Males, ages 14-16)

- June 18 - August 9

2017 USSA CROSS COUNTRY SCHEDULE

Varsity teams are made up of High School students. JV teams are Middle School students.

<u>September 9</u> American Heritage, American Fork 736 N 1100 E American Fork UT 84003 (Check in at North Pavillion)	JV: 8:00am	Varsity: 8:00am
<u>September 13</u> Freedom Academy Scera Park - 600 State St. Orem UT 84058	JV: No Race	Varsity: 4:30pm
<u>September 16</u> DaVinci Academy Big D Park, 1376 Park Blvd, Ogden, UT	JV: 9:00am	Varsity: 9:00am
<u>September 23</u> Uintah River High School Location TBA	JV: 11:00am	Varsity: 11:15am
<u>September 30</u> Spectrum Academy Mills Park 1850 S 1200 W Woods Cross	JV 8:30am	Varsity 9:30am
<u>October 7</u> City Academy Rose Park	JV: 9:00am	Varsity: 9:00am
<u>October 14</u> State Championship Meet American Heritage, South Jordan		Start Time TBA

Do you have a teenager on the autism spectrum?

Do you want to help them be more prepared for the future?

We are conducting a research study on a new program for parents and their **adolescents with ASD who are 14 or older and are planning to receive a high school diploma**. The 6-week program will provide parents with skills and resources to help their teens be more prepared for the future. An adolescent life-skills group led by an occupational therapist will be run alongside the parent program to also provide adolescents with new skills.

Maximizing Adolescent Post-Secondary Success (MAPSS)

MAPSS DAY/TIME: Thursdays 6:00 – 7:30 pm

MAPSS DATES: August 31 – October 5

MAPSS LOCATION: University of Utah Campus

If you are interested, but not available during these dates/times, please contact us because we are hoping to also schedule future groups.

Families who complete the study will receive financial compensation.

Research team:

Anne Kirby, PhD, OTR/L

Michael Himle, PhD

Marissa Diener, PhD

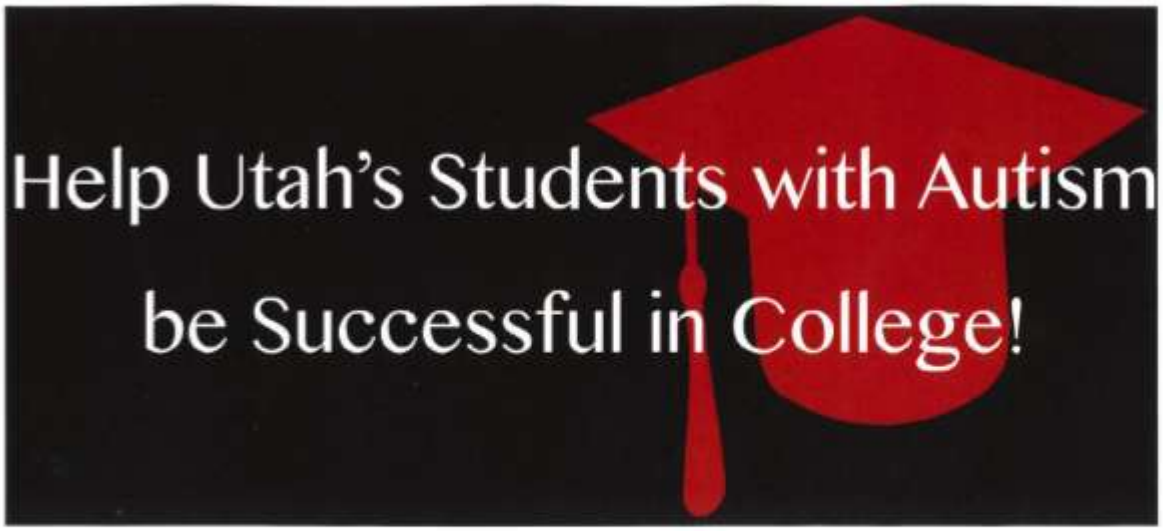
Cheryl Wright, PhD

Please contact us with any questions and to sign-up!

anne.kirby@hsc.utah.edu

(801) 581-4248

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH



The Utah Higher Education Autism Program wants to help students with ASD in college, and we need to know what programs or services would be helpful!

Who is Eligible?

- People with autism who are interested in attending college or have attended college (Ages 14+)
- Parents of students with autism (Ages 14+) who are interested in attending college or have attended college
- College faculty and staff

Participation may include:

Online Surveys

In-person Interviews

In-person Focus Groups

ANONYMOUS survey:

tinyurl.com/UHEAPsurvey

Interview sign up:

tinyurl.com/utahHEAP

Please contact us with any questions!

lauren.lasrich@utah.edu

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

This study was approved by UofU IRB on 6/26/17

SPECTRUM ACADEMY
A Community of Learners

Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

• SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL •

WHY?

100% of funds raised through these events are used to purchase additional supports for our students including Assistive Technology, Equipment and Supplies for our Athletic, Science, Math and Arts departments.

HOW?

- Through our networking efforts as a whole we can reach many giving companies, organizations and people who want to help and support you, their friends.
- Serve with other parents on our Fundraising Committee!

CONTACT

Amy Baker
Development Coordinator
801-520-6030
abakerespectrumcharter.org

AUTOS FOR AUTISM

AUGUST 26TH, 11AM-4PM
SPECTRUM ACADEMY PG CAMPUS

www.autosforautismutah.com

We will be hosting a car, truck and bike show that will include a vendor boutique, entertainment and activities for the whole family! Entertainment will include; Car Show, Jurassic Park Jeeps, Military Vehicles, Miss Utah, Comic Con, Food Trucks, Kids Carnival, Vendor Boutique, Raffle and Silent Auction.

CHALK THE BLOCK

SEPTEMBER 14-16TH, 10AM-9PM
THE SHOPS AT RIVERWOODS, PROVO

www.shopsatriverwoods.com/lifestyle/chalk-the-block

"Chalk the Block ™" Art Festival is a free three-day street painting event. More than 500 artists will spend hours painting and chalking the streets transforming the Riverwoods into a captivating, one of a kind experience. This will be an experience that you won't want to miss. Proceeds to benefit Spectrum Academy Charter School.

TURKEY TROTT

NOVEMBER 11TH 8AM-1PM
SPECTRUM ACADEMY NSL CAMPUS

www.spectrumturkeytrot.weebly.com

1 Mile FUN Run/Walk and timed 5K Race. Entertainment, activities, silent auction. Fun for everyone!

GALA

APRIL 20TH, 6:30PM-9PM
VIRIDIAN EVENT CENTER, WEST JORDAN

"ONCE UPON A TIME"

www.spectrumgala.com

A formal gala for our Sponsors, Parents, Staff and Community. Details will be posted to the website as the plot thickens ;)

Spectrum Academy Giraffes

Monthly Newsletter

August 23, 2017: Back to School!

SEPTEMBER:

4 : LABOR DAY - NO SCHOOL

20-21 : PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
(EARLY OUT FOR STUDENTS AT 1:40)

Principal's Welcome:

I am so excited to begin a new school year. We have the most amazing staff with a wealth of knowledge and experience. This is going to be a great year!

It was wonderful to see everyone at Back to School Night. We had a great turnout and everyone was so happy to meet their teachers. I love seeing the kids and getting all their sweet hugs.

I'm looking forward to a great school year!

-Christine

NEW TEACHER BIOGRAPHIES:

Kindergarten

Kayla Budge:
Hello, my name is Kayla Budge and I am the Kindergarten teacher this year. I have been part of the Spectrum family for three years now. I started my journey as a Paraprofessional in the second grade classroom from there I moved to our functional skills classroom where I spent two years. Some of my hobbies include hiking, traveling, and hanging out with my super cool science teacher husband. I love it here at Spectrum and I feel so grateful to teach such a wonderful grade this school year.

Marissa Smith:
I have been at Spectrum since January 2015. I have worked as a classroom para in the 3rd and 4th grades before making the move to Kindergarten! This is my second year teaching. I am from Logan, Utah and have lived in various places in Utah and Idaho. I received bachelors in social work from Utah State University and a master in social work from Boise State University. I am a major Utah State Aggies fan and am always excited when football season rolls around! I enjoy spending time with my family, especially my nieces and nephews.

First Grade

Jessica Covington:

Hi! I am originally from Virginia and North Carolina. I graduated from BYU in 2012 with a degree in Special Education! Since graduating, I have worked as a registered behavior technician for children and adolescents with autism. While I love working one on one and in the home, I have decided to follow my dream of teaching! I really appreciate all the work that goes into parenting and welcome any information and contact from my student's families. I myself am a mother of two young children and love spending time with them. I am married and live in North Ogden. We love outdoor activities and I am a huge advocate for learning in a natural environment. I am so excited to be here at spectrum!

Alyssa Murray:

Hi! My name is Alyssa and I recently moved to Salt Lake City from Anchorage, Alaska. I was born and raised in Tampa, Florida and love visiting my family back home. I started teaching at Spectrum Academy last March and I am so excited to begin my first full year at this incredible school! My hobbies include anything outdoorsy and artsy. I enjoy mountain biking, rock climbing, swimming, painting, fishing and yoga. I graduated from the University of South Florida with a B.S in English Education and I also have my RBT (Registered behavior Technician) certification. Teaching is truly a passion of mine. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing a child "light up" when they have discovered something new. My experience with education ranges from K-12th grade in various capacities such as; teaching, tutoring and behavior therapy. I am looking forward to a great year filled with hands on learning and exploring! "It is a beautiful thing with a career and a passion come together"

Kathie Phillips:

Hello, my name is Ms. Kathie and I am so excited to be a part of the Spectrum Academy second grade team! I am sure this will be a SUPER year full of lots of learning and new adventures. I'm going to tell you a few things about me. I have lived most of my life right here in Utah, but I was born in Wyoming and lived for a few years in Connecticut. I have been married to my wonderful husband James for 31 years. Jordan (27), Nick (25) and Katlyn (23) are my three supercool children, with Clark (7) and Chloe (5) as my sidekick grandchildren. I graduated from the University of Utah...but I will always be a Cougar! I love watching any sport live but I can't sit still long enough to watch them on T.V. When I was younger I loved to run and have ran 17 marathons including running the Boston Marathon twice. Now that I am older I love to travel and spend time with my family. I love hard work, there is no better way to end the day than fully exhausted having accomplished everything I set out to do!

Jennifer Florez:

My name is Jennifer Florez. This is my first year teaching a Spectrum Academy. I have been teaching in the public-school system for 20 years. Before that, I taught preschool for a total of about 8 years. I attended the University of Utah for 3 years, and graduated from Regis University in Denver, CO. I majored in Elementary Education, with a minor in Early Childhood Education.

I have lived in several regions of the U.S. I grew up in Utah, but have lived in Georgia, Colorado, Vermont, and Hawaii also. I am fortunate to have experienced the cultural and geographic diversity of these states.

I am married and have 3 children. I also have 3 grandchildren. My granddaughters and son live in Indiana, and I miss them very much! I also love animals, especially horses. We have many pets including 2 miniature horses and an alpaca. The most important things to me are my faith, my family, and my friends. I love children and teaching, too!

I feel very blessed to part of the Spectrum family. It is an honor to have the opportunity teach such wonderful and special children!

3rd Grade

Angie Rodriguez:

I hope you are ready for an adventurous year in the third grade! I am Mrs. Rodriguez and I will be your teacher this school year. I am ready to share this fun experience called third grade with you all. This is my second year teaching third grade at Spectrum Academy. My family moved to Utah in the summer of 2016. Before moving here I have spent time in Germany where my husband worked at the Air Force base. I have a two year old son, Justin a new baby girl, Paisley and two dogs named Beau and Cash. I am looking forward to this wonderful school year together. Our classroom and theme this year is "Ms. Rod's Round Up".

Katherine Morfitt:

I am originally from Boise, Idaho and have lived in Utah for seven years now. The majority of the time was living in Logan, going to Utah State and enjoying the various outdoor activities there. I moved to Salt Lake back in October where I took my first teaching job as a part-time resource teacher specializing in third grade.
When I am not teaching I love adventuring and sharing the tale afterwards. The best adventures are found anywhere, whether it is up in the mountains, checking out some cute local shop, or going for a drive. Most recently I have started exploring the natural wonders of Southern Utah and the Wasatch Front.

4th Grade

Jessica Blades:

Hi! My name is Jessica Blades. I'm excited to be joining the fourth grade team here at Spectrum Academy! I enjoy working with students, and helping them reach their dreams through their education. I believe every child should be valued and treated with respect. Education should empower children, and help them make a positive contribution to our world.
My husband, my two beautiful children, and I moved to the Salt Lake area this summer from California. Saying goodbye to our small, dusty desert town was made easy by the awesome lifestyle we stepped into here in Utah. We've enjoyed exploring this amazing area the past few months, and look forward to all the wonderful adventures we have to find. Feel free to recommend your favorite things to do around here! I

Laura Glass:

I recently moved to Park City, UT from Dallas, TX. My children and I are so excited to be part of the greater Salt Lake City community. We love it here!! I started my teaching career in Dallas in a 1st grade classroom. I wanted to learn as much as possible about teaching reading to struggling readers so I trained to become a dyslexia therapist. Over the years, I've worked as a dyslexia therapist, a literacy coach, and as a classroom teacher for both elementary and middle school children. I absolutely love what I do, and I'm thrilled to be part of the 4th grade team at Spectrum Academy!
I have two amazing children, Alex (11) and Zoe (8), and we've been exploring all there is to enjoy here in Utah. We've spent much of our summer hiking with our dog, Tennessee, kayaking, and swimming, and we're always looking for a new adventure!

Fifth Grade

Aimee Martin:

Hello! My name is Aimee Martin and I am ecstatic to be teaching 5th grade at Spectrum Academy! I cannot wait to begin this school year and get to know each and every one of you. Since I am new around here, let me introduce myself.

I am originally from the Tri-Cities in Washington. For those of you who may be familiar with that area, I am specifically from Kennewick. I moved to Pocatello, Idaho to complete my Bachelor's in psychology then moved to Idaho Falls for work. While working in mental health and disability services, I often supported and advocated for my clients in the educational setting. This fostered my passion for Special Education so I worked as a paraprofessional for two years: first in a resource room then an autism program. I worked towards and completed my Master's in Teaching - Special Education this past year and am thrilled to spend my first year here!

Though I tell people I moved to Idaho for school, I really moved there for the snow! I absolutely love winter and any kind of colder weather. I recently have taken up skiing and can't wait to test out the resorts here in Utah. I love the outdoors all together. On weekends you'll find me living in a tent somewhere in the mountains or simply on a day hike.

I am also a very musical person. While in school, I participated in band, choir and orchestra. I was in the color guard for Idaho State University's marching band, and at one point, I briefly taught piano lessons. Throughout this school year I intend to integrating music and movement into our classroom for both sensory and academic benefit.

Brooke Zitting:

Hello and welcome to Fifth Grade! My name is Ms. Brooke and I'll be your teacher for the next year. We'll have lot's of awesome adventures in learning and life, and I'm excited to get to know all about you! Let me tell you a little about me. I'm from Salt Lake City and have lived most of my life in Utah. I studied at Westminster in Salt Lake, as well as Boston University, before graduating at the University of Utah. I've lived the past 6 years in Southern Utah, where I worked in the SPED program and raised chickens. In my spare time I like to kayak, play the piano, and host culinary paint nights. I'm excited for my first year teaching and can't wait for all of our fun plans!

A MESSAGE FROM THE BEHAVIOR TEAM:

Welcome back to school! We are so excited to seeing the returning students and to meeting those of you that are new! Starting a new school year can be fun and exciting but it can also be overwhelming and scary. We have a few tips to help the school year start off on the right foot for students, parents, and staff.

Build Relationships: focus on the person and their needs instead of the behavior. Validate how others feel even if it seems "irrational". Offer support and genuine concern for the person.

Think Strategies: come up with strategies to help support students when they are feeling overwhelmed or frustrated. Practice using those strategies when everyone is calm and collected. Use verbal prompts to remind them to use their strategies. Role-play everyday so the strategies become a habit.
This is going to be a great year!

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CORNER:

Welcome to the 2017-2018 School Year! We are excited to see our returning students again, and are excited to meet all of our new students! Each month, our Occupational Therapy (OT) staff will include tips and information in the newsletter. We have an incredibly strong and knowledgeable OT staff who are ready to share what we are doing!

I wanted to start out the school year by talking about OT and what we do. OT's work in a variety of settings, and with all ages. Basically, we help individuals engage in "occupations" (activities) that are meaningful to them. We help individuals gain or regain function in the areas that mean the most to them. In schools, this means that we help our students access their educational program. In order to do this, we work on skills in a variety of areas, including motor skills, social skills, sensory processing skills, and visual perceptual skills. Functionally, we help students with handwriting, cutting, coordination, behavior, self-regulation, feeding, life skills, and many other areas. We see students in the classroom, in the lunchroom, and at recess.

At Spectrum Academy, all students have access to an OT through classroom groups, teacher training and consultation, and environmental modification. In addition, all students have access to sensory materials and supports. Students receive direct services through their IEP or 504 Plan. Services can be initiated by a teacher or a parent, but must address outcomes that are educationally relevant. According to federal law, a student must require OT services in order to access his or her educational program.

We are happy meet with you at any point during the school year. Our OT staff can be reached via email (contact information for your campus is listed on our website), or by calling your child's school.

Krisanne Lewis MOT, OTR/L

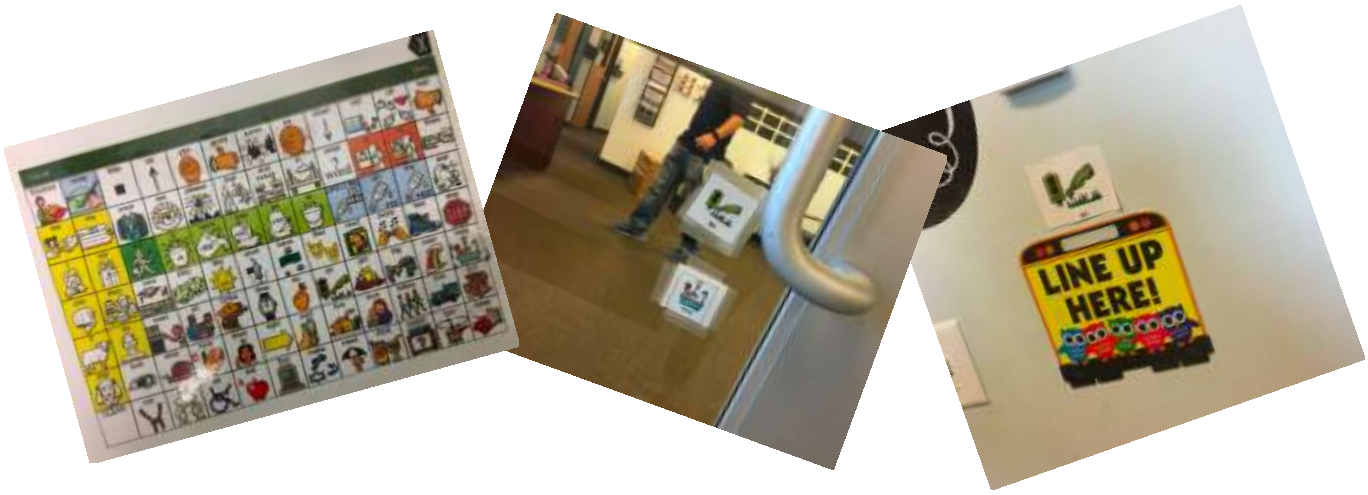
Student Services Coordinator

Spectrum Academy

Spectrum Academy Related Services

Welcome Back!!

Our initial Related Services training went well. In order to build rapport with each other, and between related services staff and teachers, we built water slides! Each team had to build a working water slide, complete with a little "person". They could only use materials that they borrowed or bartered from teachers. It was fun to watch our staff interact with teachers and paras, and come up with fun and creative "trades" ("we will cover your recess duty for one day if you give us some plastic straws"). Overall, the training was successful, and we accomplished a lot in a very short time.



Word of the Week

Our speech staff have fully implemented word of the week with our functional skills classes. In PG, the first word was "go". They posted words throughout the school to facilitate communication and recognition of those words. From our PG speech staff: "I would like to brag on our functional skills teachers for collaborating with related services and emphasizing the word of the week throughout the school and across contexts! They have done a nice job so far this year!"

UATT

We had our UATT team lead training in August. Krisanne attended and was able to network with leaders from all the districts in Utah. My favorite part was when the leaders introduced a brand new tracking form, designed to track the equipment that a student has used across their academic career. When they presented the form, it was great to see that it was almost identical to a form that we have already implemented at Spectrum! We were able to explain how we use it and talk through our processes. This was exciting, since we are the newest team in the group and are ahead of the game!
We welcomed two new members (Ariel Cook, Lauren Haslam) to our UAT Team this year. They attended the new member training with UATT Central Office on Thursday. They came back with lots of recommendations, and ready to start the year. We have our first assessments scheduled for Thursday!

Good things!

Our staff "brags":
In the DK class we taught the kiddos about mat man and had them draw their own mat man on butcher paper on the wall. We have had a lot of fun doing playground activities with all of our FS classes, working on impulsivity, response inhibition, joint attention, reciprocal play and following one step instructions. RBLM has been going great in the FS classrooms and the teachers and kiddos have given positive feed back about the experience.

Our first week of Ready Bodies, Learning Minds went really well. This week we are starting up a Letter of the Week program for the Functional Skills classes that we're excited about.

I observed a student the other day in the hallway holding a friend's hand. I was so happy to see this particular friendship develop. Over the last two years this student barely acknowledged other people in her surroundings and she now has a FRIEND!

Today I watched a para teach a student to tie his shoes. The para was patient and kind, and the student was responsive, polite, and respectful, even when frustrated. When this boy came to us mid-year last year, we were expecting the worst. The reports from his previous school told about a child who was sent home numerous times per week and had up to 60 incidents per day. The reports all talked about how difficult this child was, and parents were at their wit's end. Since starting at Spectrum, he has had one (ONE!) incident. He is so happy and has many friends here. I firmly believe that the change of placement, and a staff that supports him, likes him, and allows him to be himself have made all the difference!