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Spectrum Academy Board Agenda

Date & Time January 17, 2018 7:00 P.M. to 7:46 P.M.
Location Spectrum Academy Pleasant Grove Campus
Members in attendance: Marney DeVroom, Dennis M. Bullard, Jana Gold, Marcy Johnson, Madi Leyba, Jason Steenblik, Nick Wright

Members Excused

Spectrum Staff Brad Nelson, Jaime Christensen, Rachel Colledge, Christina Guevara, Kaley Veater, Liz Banner, Barry Pewtress, Kristen Wilson, Krisanne Lewis, Paul Woodworth

BUSINESS DISCUSSED

Board Session

- Reviewed minutes from November 7th, 2017 Motion to approve made by Jason Steenblik seconded Madi Leyba and **unanimously approved.**
- Financial Update (Nick Wright, Brad Nelson)
 - Questions were answered, overall positive.
- Status of the NSL expansion (Brad Nelson)
 - Excavation footings done, plumbing and underground electrical done soon - next week. Block expected to be delivered February 1, overall completion date July 15th.
- Status of the PG expansion (Brad Nelson)
 - Not as well as expected. Still looking for property.
- Academic Director's Update (Jaime Christensen)
 - Clear Bag Policy move to May meeting
 - **Approval of the 2018-19 school calendar.**
 - **Motion to approve the 2018-19 school Calendar made by Marcy Johnson seconded by Jana Gold and unanimously approved.**
- C.R.E.A.T.E Director's Update (Rachel Colledge)
 - See attached
- STARS Director's Update (Christina Guevara)
 - See attached
- PG School Principal's Update (Liz Banner)
 - See attached
- NSL Secondary School Principal's Update (Rachel Colledge)
 - See attached

- NSL Elementary School Principal's Update
 - See attached
- Related Services Update (Krisanne Lewis)
 - See attached

The Board publicly thanked the Pantera Cafe' for the dinner that was served before the board meeting.

Next Board Meeting February 28, 2018 7:00pm North Salt Lake.

Motion to adjourn made by Madi Leyba, seconded by Jana Gold,, and unanimously approved.

Public Session

- No public comments at this time.



Marcy Johnson, Secretary

Board Report January 2018
Spectrum Academy North Salt Lake Secondary School/CREATE
Rachel Colledge

To thank our amazing educators, we had a holiday party catered by Café Rio.

Throughout the month staff were "snowballed." This is like a secret Santa, but rather than gifts, staff surprised one another throughout the month with kind words and Hostess Snowballs.

We had our UPIPS visit during which we learned how to continue to improve our special education processes and that our parent and student focus groups are overwhelmingly pleased with their experiences at Spectrum!

Our Assessment to Achievement visit went well as they observed our STT meeting. They were impressed with our teacher's commitment to action in helping our students understand metacognition and be comfortable in the "Learning Pit."

We held vision screenings.

The week leading up to the break was a holiday theme week. Students and educators enjoyed dressing in holiday hats, pajamas, ugly sweaters and more. You should have received our holiday ecard which is at the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18owa7hNvir4f-ATp90wRAI6h8BJ7nnyz/view?usp=sharing>

We were featured in a Ballet West video at this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/BalletWest1/videos/10155853909087881/>

Administration conducted teacher observations and can attest to the amazing creativity, student engagement, and commitment to excellence of the teachers who were observed. Educators have also been receptive to feedback and continued professional development.



STARS Board Report

January 2018

We have had a busy few months at STARS . . .

- ★ In November, I went to ALICE training. There I learned about the ALICE protocols for addressing an active shooter situation: Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Escape. I look forward to developing training with the North Salt Lake Police Department to strengthen our procedures for emergency situations. Additionally, we have several staff members from all buildings who will be serving on Spectrum's Safety Committee to identify the procedures that best serve the school as a whole as well as each individual location.
- ★ The STARS Pre-Vocational class has had several field trips out in the community to apply the skills they are learning in Ms. Robin's class. So far they have shopped at Maverik and Lee's, enjoyed lunch at Burger King, and taken the Front Runner. Next week they plan to take the Front Runner to Farmington Station. In these field trips, the students are not only working on transportation and social skills out in the community, they are applying practical skills in math, turn-taking, and community safety.
- ★ The Utah State Board of Education will be holding their annual Transition Institute on January 30-31. In preparation for Spectrum attending the institute for the 3rd year in a row, we have been working on transition-focused activities over the past school year. The efforts of the transition team have resulted in building up partnerships with state agencies, increasing awareness of transition for students and families, and improving our practice of writing comprehensive transition plans.
- ★ Our students practiced for weeks to participate in the holiday program on December 13th. With individualized support from staff, STARS students had a great time learning and performing holiday songs that they sang alongside their Elementary peers. One mom stated, "This has been such a blessing to see her so happy and smiling."
- ★ In December we had many great gifts provided to the STARS students. Fred Meyers Jewelers in Bountiful gifted every student with an adorable plush fox as a holiday gift. Students also received a puzzle from Dowdle Folk Art. And thank you to Mr. Jason Steenblik for dressing up as Santa and making the day before winter break special for all! Our students were extremely grateful for such a wonderful day.





- ★ Last week we hosted student volunteers from Juan Diego Catholic High School for the 3rd year. It has been a privilege to be a service site for the seniors of Juan Diego. Both our volunteers spent the week working in all classrooms and learning about Spectrum, autism, special education, and training alongside our staff.
- ★ Staff evaluations have been going well. Nearly all the teachers are complete and para evaluations will begin next week. Additionally, I am looking forward to receiving feedback from the building staff so that I can share my own professional development goals.

Pleasant Grove Campus Update January 2018

1. Whole school information:

- PEN

i. November and Decembers PEN was great! We had the following presentations:

1. November;

- a. Taxes for special education parents.
- b. UVU Autism Center – Laurie Bowen
- c. Rapport building
- d. Behavior management

December;

- . Admin Q&A
- a. Transition and guardianship
- b. PG Library resources

- Vivint

. Sub for Santa

Vivint provided a sub for santa for a few of our families. It was so rewarding to go pick up the presents from them and deliver them to a few of our Spectrum families in need.

i. Come and played with the kids at recess

A few of the Vivint staff members donated their time to come and play with our students at recess. They loved it!

- Winter program

. PAC

Our wonderful, amazing parent activity committee really went above and beyond to help our gym be transformed into a winter wonderland for our winter program!

i. ES/MS Staff

Our incredible elementary teachers did such an amazing job at getting our students ready for our winter program. The students all did a great job on their songs.

Our drama department put on a short play, and our choir department sang some songs as well from the middle school/ high school!

Our art department sold items for the families that they had made.

- Harry Potter Theme Staff Party

. We had a committee of very imaginative and fun staff members that helped us pull off a Harry Potter Themed Staff Party. A few highlights are written below📖.

- PAC Meeting

. We have a group of around 25 parents that faithfully show up to our PAC meetings each month! They do so much for the school, I am very grateful.

i. We have one parent that is setting up room parents for each of our elementary school classes! We will also have a few to help the MS/HS at their activities.

- Lead Christmas Dinner

. It was so fun to have my lead teachers, and office staff over to my house for a Christmas dinner. It really helped bond everyone.

- Puzzle donation from Dowdle Folk Art

. Laurie Bowen from Utah Valley University connected me with the gentlemen that owns Dowdle Folk Art puzzles. He donated a puzzle to every student in all of Spectrum for Christmas!

- ARUCC

. The Autism Resources for Utah County Council board is running well. We are getting ready for the annual balloon launch for Autism as well as the Autism conference in April.

Elementary School:

- Pizza Parties for ES/MS
- 6th grade field trip

. They went to BYU's peoples & Culture Museum and the Bean Museum. These are free admission for the students, and they learn so much!

- Polar express party

. Each year the kindergarten and first graders have a polar express party. I get to be the conductor, and I get to take them around the offices to wave at all of our staff.

- Skull candy donation to FS class
 - . Donation to one of our functional skills classes to all have their own headphones.

3. Middle School/ High School:

- Anatomy Academy

i. BYU's Anatomy Academy continues to come and teach our students in our science classes! The students love it📺!

- Knowing-Doing Gap Research

. Dr. Jon Wisco from BYU's neuropsych department met with Jaime and I to discuss support/partnering with them on a teacher training and student involvement in engaged learning. We have two teachers in the high school participating in this teacher training.

- Basketball team

. Our Varsity and JV basketball teams are in full swing. They have had a lot of fun playing, especially our NSL friends!

i. Our SBO's and their advisors set up our bus to take the team and some of our students to NSL for the game.

1. Our bus driver (and advisors) decorated the bus and had treats ready for them to make the trip. We greeted them after the game with signs and cheers!

- Robotics team

. One of our robotics teams is going to state with their robot! They have worked so hard, and are so excited.

- HS Occ

. All office staff was invited to a Day of the Dead luncheon at the café. The students practice their social skills, serving skills, as they present us with an amazing lunch.

i. Turned commons into Hogsmeade

1. The upstairs commons was turned into Hogsmeade for our HS students, the staff, and our elementary students.

a. Our ES librarian read a Harry Potter story, and then the students were able to go visit 'Honeydukes' to get some homemade candy, and envision the story by seeing a 'shrinking shack' and other items in the HS commons.

b. One of our wonderful Occ moms came and taught the occ students how to make candy. (We had some for our staff party as well!)

ii. BYU Concession Stand

Occ track to continue working at a concession stand at the home basketball games.

- Snowcoming
- . Our SBO's and their leaders created a wonderful night for our HS students at our snowcoming dance. We had a great turnout, and the students had an amazing time dancing the night away!
- HS Field Trip
- . All our HS students took tracks to that Leonardo for a field trip. They learned how to navigate public transportation, and learned many things at the Leonardo as well!

Pictures.....



















BEST SANTA EVER! THANK YOU JASON ☺!!









Harry Potter Staff Party Highlights:)

Harry Potter Winter Party:

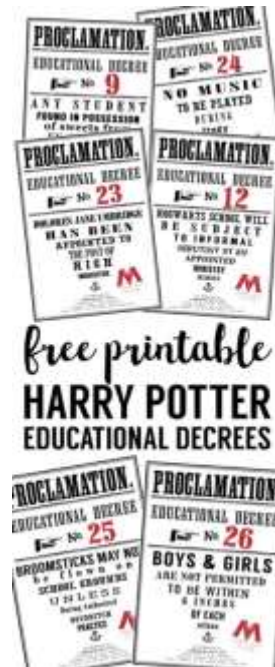
- 9 ¾ Entrance - Kaley



- Floating Candles and keys - Olivia
- Floating letters - Gloria
- Butter Beer - Occ
- Bertie Botts - Jelly Bellies on each table



- Proclamation Decrees



- Newspaper- Have you seen this wizard photos
- Azkaban pictures - dementor

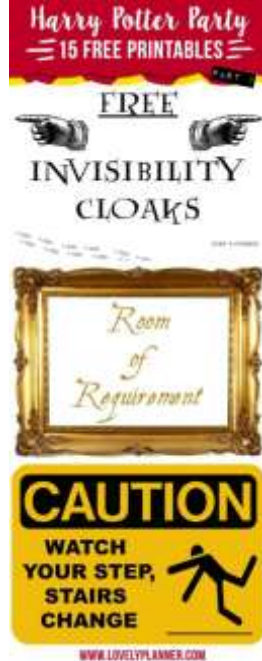


- Scarves
- Wands - Hope McArthur
- Pottermore.com - test for people to take for the house they are in
- Harry Potter Themed Dessert



<http://bitesizedbiggie.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/snitch-wings-1.pdf>

- [Group Photos - etsy stuff](#)



- Trees - send out email for Christmas trees to be donated
- Happee Birthdae Harry cake



- Toilet - ministry of magic (sign pointing to restroom)
- Wanted Posters - Kristi
- Prizes for contest - Kristi
- House Flags - made out of paper

MS Gym - Quidditch

Honeydukes Sweet Shop

- teach occ kids how to make candy
- Harry Potter Trivia

Wizard Chess - Dobbie

Pin the nose on Voldemort - Gloria

Pin the lightning strike on Harry - Gloria

Goblet of Fire Activities

Skits

- PolyJuice Potion
- Howler

Hand Sanitizer - Potions Labels - Gloria send labels

Costume contest

Ugly sweater contest (Weasley)

- We would have a Harry Potter costume contest. One contest would be Harry Potter characters and the other would be ugly sweater. The top two winners in each category would get a prize.

SPECTRUM ACADEMY NORTH SALT LAKE SECONDARY SCHOOL/CREATE

NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY 2018

Spectrum Academy North Salt Lake Secondary School/CREATE Administration:

Dr. Jaime Christensen, Director of Academics

Brad Nelson, Director of Finance and Development

Rachel Colledge, Principal Barry Pewtress, Assistant Principal

Stacy Pittersson, High School Counselor Chelsea Champi, Middle School Counselor

Krisanne Lewis, Related Services Coordinator



Important Dates

January 18th:
End of Term 2

January 19th:
Lottery

January 19th:
Teacher Work Day/No
School for Students

January 20th:
Winter Formal

A NOTE FROM ADMINISTRATION:

December was full of festive fun! Math classes went caroling, Santa stopped by, we had a student versus teachers basketball game, Spectrum students attended Ballet West's "The Nutcracker," Spectrum elementary and dance students performed in the Winter Program, and the basketball season kicked off! Even though the month was short, the experiences and learning were large!

In January, our PEN Night was inclusive of presentations by Terry Huff, Davis Technical Center, Salt Lake Community College, Planned Parenthood FLASH, The Women's Tech Council, University of Utah, and Spectrum Academy's own Audra Mayhan and Christina Guevara.

We are looking forward to the lottery, the continued basketball season, and of course courses taught throughout our building in which students are engaged and progressing.

Warm regards,
Rachel and Barry

TIS THE SEASON FOR LEARNING!



Mrs. Abbott's math class combined math with caroling!

Mrs. Rachel's science classes did a Magic Milk experiment! We discovered how changes are made in the properties of materials when they interact with each other.



By Kane Stokes, PE Teacher

In gym class we have been working on having students lead the class in stretching and exercises. This has allowed for students to develop their own "voice" along with advocating more positively for themselves. Another accomplishment for a large majority of our students is the progress, for physical fitness that has been occurring. We ha

Welcome!

Marti E. Walker, Community Relations Director at Heritage Place Senior Living Joins the CREATE Advisory Board



Marti E. Walker is a dynamic marketing professional with over 20 years of experience in sales, business development, team building and public speaking. Her diverse background and expertise led her current role as Community Relations Director at Heritage Place Senior Living, located in Bountiful, Utah.

Marti earned a BS Degree in Business Management from Utah State University in 1997. She began her professional career with a Market Research Firm. Marti's next move was to a credit union and thrived as Business Development Manager for over 13 years. Marti successfully contributed to growing the credit union from \$28 million in assets to over \$90 million when she left in 2012. Marti then made the move to a government contractor for three years on Hill Air Force Base in Ogden, Utah. In 2015, Marti found her true passion working with the elderly with Home Care and Hospice companies and now in the realm of Senior Living.

Marti's true joy is assisting older adults, and their families, as they face tough decisions and transitions in care as they approach the sunset of life. She is an advocate for seniors and works relentlessly to help her senior friends live a vibrant and meaningful life.

Marti has served her community in various capacities including, Chamber of Commerce, PTA, Kiwanis, Relay for Life and Alzheimer's Association. Marti has also owned her own marketing consulting firm, Impact Marketing.

Marti is the mother of three phenomenal children. She is passionate about finding ways to make new memories with her children and friends. In her free-time, Marti enjoys yoga, reading, golf, hiking, biking and any sport that includes SUNSHINE! Marti strives diligently to practice the philosophy of doing the right things, at the right time, for the right reasons.

Spectrum Academy Students Highlighted in Ballet West Video



Spectrum Academy dance students Skylee Schleich and Marissa Ashby have had the incredible opportunity to receive dance instruction two days a week from Ballet West instructors through our partnership with Ballet West. They and many other Spectrum Academy students had the opportunity to attend Ballet West's "The Nutcracker" this December. Spectrum instructors Kalyn Sawyer and Holly Ashby have been instrumental liaisons for the continued success of this partnership.



Spectrum Spirit Squad is Accepting Applications



Under the direction of Mrs. RuthAnn Abbott, the Spirit Squad cheers from mid-January through February. Mrs. Abbott and the front office have permission slips for students interested in sharing their school spirit!

Timberwolves Varsity Basketball



Spectrum Academy athletes not only demonstrate athleticism, but also team work, a continued commitment to sportsmanship, and genuine joy for playing the game!

Enchanted Forest

High School Winter Formal

Saturday, January 20th

6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Secondary School Gym

Prices: \$10/single or \$15/couple



No outside food or beverage permitted

Related Services

Introducing Google Chrome Read&Write

Spectrum students and families we are pleased to announce a new and exciting online program:



And the best thing about this program... you can access it at home! All you need is your Google Chrome login information. Then click the purple puzzle piece in the top right corner to open up your tool bar:



This program will allow you to do some super cool tricks that will help make homework and class assignments much easier and more enjoyable:

1. Use Hover Speech to have an article read to you



2. Use Talking Dictionary or Picture Dictionary to look up Vocabulary terms!



3. Use Speech Input/Talk2Type to create an essay using just your voice!



To find out more, you can access/search: [Google Chrome Read&Write Quick Reference Guide](#)

Or check out/search this short tutorial: [Quick Overview of Google Chrome Read&Write](#)

Thank you and Enjoy!
-Related Services Team

In the Community



The poster features a light gray background with a subtle pattern of small, colorful dots. The text is primarily in black and purple. The 'SheTech' logo is at the top, with 'womentechcouncil' below it. The event title 'Save the Date' is in a large, elegant script font, followed by 'SheTech Explorer Day 2018' and 'March 1' in bold purple. The location '@ South Towne Expo Center' is in black. Below this, there are three lines of smaller text: 'More information found at www.shetechexplorer.com', 'Registration opens in January', and 'Learn Tech, Meet Women, Accelerate the Dream'. At the bottom, there is a row of logos for partner organizations: BYU, Utah State, and Southern Utah, each with its respective name and logo.

SheTech
womentechcouncil
For High School Girls

Save the Date
SheTech Explorer Day 2018
March 1
@ South Towne Expo Center

More information found at www.shetechexplorer.com
Registration opens in January
Learn Tech, Meet Women, Accelerate the Dream

BYU
Utah State
Southern Utah

SPECTRUM academy giraffes

MONTHLY newsletter



JANUARY 11, 2018

JANUARY:

11: PARENT EMPOWERMENT NIGHT

15: M.L.K. DAY - NO SCHOOL

18: END TERM 2

19: TEACHER WORK DAY - NO SCHOOL

19: LOTTERY FOR 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR



FEBRUARY:

14: VALENTINE'S DAY

19: PRESIDENTS' DAY - NO SCHOOL

21-22: PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

(EARLY OUT DAYS)



A Message From Spectrum Academy:

We are so thrilled to have all of the students back from Winter Break! We hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season and hope you are just excited as we are to have the students back in school!

In case any of you missed the email I sent on January 3rd regarding Principal Manning, I am saddened to report that she resigned due to medical issues. I have been going into each class to tell the students and assure them that it is not serious and that I would be filling in for Mrs. Manning until further notice. I have truly enjoyed getting to know your children better. They are all so wonderful!

*-Jaime Christensen
Director of Academics*

UNDER CONSTRUCTION!



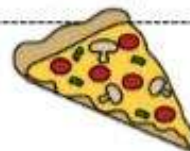
Please don't mind our dust!

We are so thrilled to be expanding AGAIN! This will bring our students more opportunities and more room for learning!



Principal's Club Pizza Party!

Congrats to our
winners! They
enjoyed some
delicious pizza on
January 8th.



3rd Grade
ROCKS



Pictures from Mrs.
Rod's 3rd grade
class!

They LOVED going to
the Nutcracker!

Looks like this class
knows how to have
fun!

Counseling Corner:

Not-So-Happy Holidays: Some Suggestions for Depression/Anxiety

Around this time of year, we tend to see spikes in internalizing symptoms potentially related to anxiety and/or depression. There are many reasons for this, such as shorter days, cold weather, poor air quality, or stress of the holidays. I would just like to share some tips and resources for dealing with some of these struggles.

Quick strategies to use at home

- **Deep breathing:** First, expel all the air from your lungs. Then slowly breathe in for about 4 full seconds, making your abdomen expand like a balloon. Then breath out slowly for 4 full seconds, expelling all of the air, and letting your abdomen deflate. Repeat this exercise several times, assessing your emotional state every 1 to 2 minutes to determine if you need to continue or if you have successfully brought your stress level down.
- **Progressive muscle relaxation:** Progressive muscle relaxation, or PMR, requires you to gradually tighten the muscles in your body and then relax them. First, find a quiet, comfortable spot. You might start with your fists; clench them as tightly as you can for about 4 seconds, then immediately relax them. Practice this on more areas of your body, including your jaw, abdomen, legs, and feet. Repeat this exercise in each area several times before moving to another area of your body. There are many great scripts out there to guide a child through this exercise. Here is a good example of one at the following URL:
<http://childrenwithanxiety.com/how-to-teach-children-progressive-muscle-relaxation.html>.

Phone Apps

- **"Virtual Hope Box":** Virtual Hope Box is a free app designed for individual in need of positive coping skills to deal with internalizing symptoms. It acts as a personalized multimedia resource for improving one's mental health and mood. The app allows the individual to add pictures from their phones as reminders of happy times, as well as provides exercises to promote relaxation and positive thinking, as well as provide distractions from negative thoughts.
- **"SafeUT":** The SafeUT crisis text and tip line is a statewide service that provides real-time crisis intervention to youth through texting and a confidential tip program. Licensed clinicians are available 24/7 to respond to incoming chats, texts, and calls to provide supportive or crisis counseling, suicide prevention, and referral services. This service is free and confidential. Check out their website at <https://healthcare.utah.edu/uni/clinical-services/safe-ut/>.

-Aubrey Cooper, NSSL School Psychologist



Save the Date

Friday, April 20, 2018

6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Viridian Event Center

8030 S. 1825 W., West Jordan

www.spectrumgala.com

Each year Spectrum Academy Parents are asked to donate items to the Silent Auction Baskets for the Gala. This year we are also looking for experiences to be donated as well. These "Experiences" will be the focus of the basket and will compliment the theme by giving the winner an opportunity to add another chapter to their Once Upon A Time story (ex. Gift Certificate for Cooking Classes, Sky Diving, Tickets to a Play, etc.). The value of the item and/or experience can be used towards your Volunteer hours. \$10 = 1 hour. Please sign up at www.spectrumgala.com and turn your donations into your students school front office with your name attached.

Tickets:

General Public: \$50 each

Spectrum Parent Discount:

Buy one get one FREE

Early Bird prices available online through Jan 31st, details at www.spectrumgala.com

Donations:

Items and/or Experiences

\$10 = 1 Volunteer Hour



Journal Entry April 21, 2018...

Once Upon A Time... I had the opportunity to attend a Charity Gala for Spectrum Academy. It was a great opportunity for me and my guest to enjoy a night out and support our favorite school. On April 20th, we arrived at the Viridian Event Center dressed in our best, ready for a great night with hopes of winning one of their legendary Silent Auction Baskets. The food was so delicious and I found out that Brio Tuscan Grille donated it all! After dinner I laughed 'til I cried when family comedian, Karen Eddington, performed her laughter ever After show. The auction competition was tough but I was victorious and brought home an amazing basket filled with everything I'll need to do something I've never done before and be able to add another chapter to my Once Upon A Time life story. What a memorable night raising thousands of dollars for the education of students with autism. Can't wait for SA Gala 2019!

-your Name Here-

Questions? Email Amy Baker abaker@spectrumcharter.org

Related Services

Spectrum Academy – January 2018



Assistive Technology

Our UAT Team has been hard at work, placing devices for communication, writing, and work skills. The first example above (also attached to the email) shows a sample of a student's writing. The first paragraph shows the student's writing without any assistance. The second paragraph shows writing as the student learned to use Google Read and Write, a program available to all our students. The third paragraph shows the student's writing, while independently using Google Read and Write. It's amazing to see what a difference these devices make!

We placed C-Pens in our middle school strats class in PG. C-Pens are electronic devices that read any text aloud. The teacher has done an amazing job of using these devices in class and teaching the students how to use them. In her most recent assignment, the students wrote persuasive speeches. They then used the C-Pens in order to read their writing aloud and present to the class. This class asked that the above "thank you" notes (second from left) be passed on to the Board.

The third picture from the left shows one of our functional skills students using his communication device, on the second day after it was placed with him. Although I know this student fairly well and have worked with him many times over the past 4 years, this boy has never initiated social interaction with me. I can barely get him to say "hi" back to me! He has some words, but is difficult to



understand, and is mostly silent at school. However, on this day, I happened to be in the classroom, taking pictures for another purpose. He grabbed my hand, pulled me over to his table, and started talking to me, using his device. He had just returned from the elementary school, and wanted to tell me that it was stinky over there!

The picture on the far right is of a student and his mother during a UATT assessment. This student was so angry and upset that he was pulled from class. Then he was given a C-Pen, and independently read a Minecraft book! In addition, he was unhappy with the volume of the pen. The volume was stuck, and no one on the team could get it to change. We gave the pen back to him, and he fixed the problem within 30 seconds!

This final set of pictures is my favorite. This student has almost no language. He is very social with adults, but does not interact with peers. We showed him how to use his communication device and let him explore. At the end of the day, I got this message from his teacher:

James responded exceptionally well to his assistive technology today! Within the first 20 minutes, he had independently typed "I feeling excited," and then played it for me enthusiastically. With minimal prompting, he excitedly ran to each of our paras and typed, "_____ is friend," with the biggest smile. He loved being able to request specific play foods, and tell us when he did or didn't like something. I honestly have never seen him exhibit such joy and enthusiasm. It was a very special moment, and it was very apparent to anyone in the room that he is thrilled to finally be able to communicate his needs and desires in a consistent manner. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication, and in making this tool accessible to him.

Laundry Baskets



Our "young" functional skills class at STARS is adorable and energetic. These cute boys are working very hard on learning to sit for circle time and for work tasks. Several strategies were tried, including rewards for remaining in their seat, but nothing had worked. Our COTA at STAS placed laundry baskets in the classroom, and everything changed! While seated in the baskets (sometimes with weighted blankets, sometimes without), these boys are now able to consistently sit for circle time and centers for up to 20 minutes!





School Based OT Collaboration Group

In September, we started an "OT collaboration group" with school-based OT's from all over the state. On January 12, our second official meeting was held at Davis School District. In attendance were OT's from all over the state, from St. George to Ogden, and everywhere in between. Representatives from USBE, the University of Utah, and Salt Lake Community College were also in attendance. Topics for this meeting included a seminar format discussion on evidence-based practice and service delivery models. Kimberly Misner, our COTA, also led a discussion about the benefits of using licensed OT assistants in the schools. Spectrum also presented under-utilized assessment tools and strategies. Attendance doubled from the previous meeting, with more participants reviewing materials and signing up for our closed online discussion group. It is exciting to see Spectrum Academy leading the way in quality and innovation in the schools in Utah!