Soaring to New Levels
Throughout the first quarter, many Alpha students have been promoted to the next level by working daily on their contracts and skills.
Congratulations to these students for their hard work and dedication!

Desmond G.    1 - 2a  
Ethan S.    1 - 2a  
Isaiah E.    1 - 2a  
Sydney S.    1 - 2a  
Crystasia C.    2a - 2b  
Detoine D.    2a - 2b  
Elijah W.    2a - 2b  
Jeremy J.    2b - 2c  
Ryan K, Jr.    2b - 2c  
Timothy F.    2b - 2c  
Cole H.    3 - 4

Students of the Week
In order to achieve student of the week, students are required to maintain perfect attendance, have their skill card signed daily, make their daily goal, and have no time outs or time after school.
Congratulations to those who have made it!

Adrian R.    Dana L.  
Detoine D.    Jacob H.  
Jacoley W.    Naomi S.-W.
I would like to start by welcoming everyone to a new and exciting year at Alpha School. We have a number of new students in the program and would especially like to welcome them and their families and to let them know that if they have any questions or concerns to please feel free to contact the staff at Alpha School.

Next, I would like to welcome our five new staff members. Mr. Sweet accepted a positions as an Intervention Specialist. Mr. Sweet is responsible for South Time Out on the top floor and works primarily with Junior and Senior High students. I would also like to welcome our new teacher, Mr. Weigman who teaches Social Sciences to Middle and Junior High students. He and his teaching partner Ms. Essay have many fun and exciting projects planned for the year. I would also like to acknowledge our three new Educational Program Specialist. Mrs. Houston assists in teaching Literacy and Living Skills with Mrs. Ritter to all grade levels. Mr. Price is assisting down in the art room with Ms. Husen. It’s a messy job but someone has to do it. Matt Bahr originally worked at Alpha as an Intervention Specialist. Matt returned this year to work in the classroom with Middle and Junior High school students. They are all a great addition to the program.

I am looking forward to the rest of the school year and hope that you are too. We have a number of students currently in transition and several who will soon begin the journey back to public school. The staff have been working diligently to develop and implement academic and behavioral curriculum which will enable each of your students to successfully move through the program. I would like to encourage each of you to take the opportunity to participate in the Parent/Teacher Conferences and monthly Care Giver Night to see and hear the great things your son or daughter is doing. I would like to thank each of you for being a part of the program, and wish you a great school year.
Welcome to the new school year!

The first quarter has flown by for the Elementary class. We have had 3 new students this year, and we have also had several level promotions (with some students very close to promotion). Working hard on student level contracts is paying off!

Speaking of contracts, our students have been working on our "blurt bean" classroom contract. The goal is to reduce talking out, or "blurtting", and each student can earn up to twelve beans daily for not talking out in class---so far students have earned (as a class) a movie and pizza, game room fun, and goodie bags.

We have been working hard on academics: in Math, students are becoming experts on multiplication and division facts, and have our "power problems" each day, as well as as "word problem Wednesday". In English, we have been reading the book, JOEY PIZZA SWALLOWS THE KEY as well as using interactive notebooks to help students with grammar and vocabulary. Four square writing has helped students become better writers. The Middle School students who come to us for an hour each day, have been doing much the same.

In Personal Growth, our students are working on learning appropriate replacement skills, how to resolve conflicts, and use relaxation techniques. We have also been reading a book that helps students learn to think positively, rather than negatively, when stressful situations arise.

We rounded out first quarter with our annual trip to Vala’s Pumpkin Patch, which was a lot of fun, and we had a beautiful day for it! See you next quarter for more fun and progress in the Elementary class!

It is hard to believe that the first quarter is coming to a close. It has been a busy first quarter, with students working on their level contracts. We’ve had several promotions: one student to Level c, another to Level b, and one more to Level 2a. It’s great to see students progressing through the Alpha Program on their way back to public school.

In Personal Growth students work on their contracts, practicing their role plays, developing replacement skills and demonstrating relaxation techniques. We stress the importance of using these skills on a daily basis at Alpha, at public school and at home.

In Math, students focused those skills required to establish a strong foundation in math. Our class completed units in addition and subtraction with regrouping, single and multiple digit multiplication, and decimals. We are currently working on division.

The solar system and space travel are our focus in Science. Students completed reports on individual planets. Our culminating activity was our field trip to the UNO Planetarium.
JH1 - Ms. Essay & Mr. Weigman

Junior High 1 had a great first quarter! We welcomed three new students; Kenney, Ethan, and Ja'Vondre'. Ethan was promoted to Level 2a and Jayson completed 50 percent of his Level 3 contract and is looking forward to his first public school visit! At the beginning of the quarter our class was able to go outside to view the solar eclipse. Although it was a cloudy day, once we put our glasses on we could make out the eclipse through the clouds. We've been working on our classroom contract which is focusing on avoiding negative peer interactions. Those that are able to successfully complete this contract will earn an afternoon to watch a movie and have a pizza party! To finish up the quarter we've begun talking about kindness and respect in Personal Growth. Our students stated one kind thing they've done for another person and then decorated a fall-themed leaf to help decorate our "Falling Into Kindness" bulletin board. Ms. Essay and Mr. Weigman are proud of the accomplishments our students have made this quarter and we're looking forward to what the second quarter has in store for Junior High 1!

JH2 - Mr. Thiemann & Mr. Bahr

The students in Junior High 2 have had a good quarter. A couple students have been promoted to the next level, and several others are close. All the students have been doing great on completing relaxations appropriately. When we discuss conflict resolution, they all have input during class.

The students have worked hard to improve their math skills. They worked on basic skills: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They completed a unit on greatest common factors and least common multiples. They have now moved on to fractions where they are increasing fractions to equivalent values and reducing to the lowest terms.

In science they have been studying different types of charts for recording information. They then studied the customary and metric systems, and completed several activities on measurement. Next, they moved onto Newton's three laws of motion and formulas for calculating average speed. They are now designing a rollercoaster that will have a loop and spirals. They will build a model of their rollercoaster to test if their designs work.

Newton's Second Law of Motion

In other words...

How much an object accelerates depends on the mass of the object and how much force is applied to it. The equation for this is:
Force = mass x acceleration
F=ma
HS1 - Mr. Harkness & Mr. Jones

What has been covered in English?

In English, High School 1 students have spent time learning how to write short stories and have listened to a couple really fun short stories. The last story we listened to was, THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY.

Students in High School 1 English class are also learning how to write argumentative essays and how to research information to write informative essays.

What has been covered in Social Studies?

Students in Mr. Harkness’s US History II course have been learning about the Reconstruction of the United States after the Civil War, the Western Expansion of the United States, the Industrial Revolution, and last, the growth of major cities in the United States.

Students in Mr. Jones’s World Geography course have been learning about main geography terms and information that is important to understanding the world around them. Students have learned about directions, latitude and longitude, the 5 themes of Geography, and have began learning about the countries of the different continents on Earth. Right now, the Geography students are studying North America and its countries, regions, cultures, and politics.

Progress of Students on level contracts and Personal Growth

High School 1 has had a ton of success with our individual students being promoted to higher levels. All of our students are working very hard on their level contracts, but a few have had some special accomplishments. Several are very close to completing their level contracts. Brian is on his petition to become 2b. Cole H. has reached the mountain top and been promoted to Level-4! Congrats Cole!

Many of our students have been making great gains in Personal Growth class also. We have worked on successfully completing cool-downs, guided imagery meditation practices, and passive relaxation techniques. Many of our students have successfully completed role playing situations to give them tools to be successful in stressful situations.

HS2 - Mr. Crawford & Mrs. Howery

Greetings from High School 2!

We have had a beautiful start to this school year and are already seeing some great progress from our students. We have most of our students on either level 3 and level 4! Level 4 is our highest level and the level that is needed to start transitioning to Public School.

Students in the High School 2 classroom have Math, Science, Health, PE, and Personal Growth. For our 12th graders, they have been working on real life purchases and how to apply discounts. We will continue to work on how financing works and developing a budget. The 11th graders worked on angles and postulates.

For Science the students are learning about the different types maps of the earth. We just began studying global warming and the effects. Students also went over the different climates of the world and how certain living things can only live in a specific environment. Students also got to experience the Solar Eclipse earlier this year.

Our goal for this next quarter is to see more students promoted and see them start transitioning to public school. Three of our students have the opportunity to graduate at the end of the semester! We hope this trend continues and look forward to the upcoming quarter!

Mr. Crawford and Mrs. Howery
Elementary- The Elementary students started out the year by reviewing the Elements of Art. They learned how to draw different lines, shapes, forms, and patterns. After they reviewed the Elements of Art they learned about a street artist named Keith Haring. They created a piece of artwork inspired by the artist. Next, they learned how to use a circle maker to create Pop Art style emojis. They finished off the quarter by creating large paper mache pumpkins.

Middle, JH1, JH2- The Middle school and Junior High rooms reviewed the Elements of Art and then used what they learned to create 2, 6 section sketches. Next, they reviewed color mixing and created a piece of abstract art. Next, they created Pop Art emojis and Chalk Dragon eyes. They finished off the quarter by creating paper mache creatures out of wire, a bottle, newspaper, foil and tape.

HS1, HS2- The High school classrooms started out the year by reviewing the elements and principles of art. Their first big project was drawing their names using objects as the letter. I was really impressed at how well they turned out. Next, they created 2, 6 sections sketches using their knowledge of the principles and elements of art. After that they learned how to draw cakes and pies using perspective. They finished out the quarter by making paper mache food.
Living Skills:

This quarter in Literacy we have worked on different parts of speech. We have worked on nouns, verbs, adverbs, and pronouns. We have done a few different plays this quarter working on reading out loud and working together as a class. We have also worked on vocabulary throughout the quarter. In Literacy, we played a couple of different games to learn each word and they got a reward if they can play appropriately.

Literacy:

This quarter in Living Skills we learned about different study skills. We also learned about budgeting. We took some time learning about bank accounts, money management, and even learned how to write checks. We also learned about nutrition and all the different things that go into proper nutrition. We are currently learning about different career choices. All the different things that go into picking the right career and how to fill out a job application.
Fall Greetings from Alpha School Social Workers!

With the cold and flu season approaching, we wanted to provide you with a helpful tool to know when is “sick too sick for school”! Attendance is important, but so is your students' health, please keep in mind these important details when considering keeping your student home when they are feeling ill. If your student misses three days of school in a row, a doctors note will need to be provided to excuse their absences. Please let us know if there are any barriers to meeting your student's medical needs that we can help address.