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!

Jaidon H.    1 - 2a  
Devin N.    1 - 2a  
Jackson N.    1 - 2a  
Jonnaya B.    2a - 2b  
Miguel B-F.    2a - 2b  
Chase B.    2a - 2b  
Aiden C.    2a - 2b  
Naomi S.-W.    2a - 2b  
Kelvin W.    2a - 2b  
Detoine D.    2b - 2c  
Nathaniel M.    2b - 2c  
Sydney S.    2b - 2c  
Timothy F.    2c - 3  
Leon H.    2c - 3  
Ryan K, Jr.    2c - 3  
Trenton T, Jr.    2c - 3  
Anthony C.    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!

Myles K.  Adrian R.  
Kamil F.  Miguel B-F.  
Chase B.  Jackson N.
It's hard to believe that the school year is almost over. The year has gone so fast with lots of students transitioning back to public school, graduating and moving up through the level system. We have also had a large number of new students and their families enter the program during third quarter. I would like to welcome them all and remind them that they are always welcome to contact me if there are any questions or concerns.

During fourth quarter we have lots of wonderful programs planned. In March we will be doing health screenings, compliments of the Creighton Nurses Organization. In April the 11th grade students will be taking their ACT exams. We also have the end of the year assembly to award all students for their progress this year. This is normally topped off with the end of the year carnival. As you can see, we have a lot to look forward to in the next few weeks. Take care and thanks for being a part of the Alpha School family.
Elementary
Mrs. Kerst & Mrs. Derry

Brrrr! Cold and snowy greetings from the Elementary classroom!

It has been a chilly third quarter, but a lot has been going on! We have had two more students promoted to Level 3, one to 2C, and one to 2B. In Personal Growth, our kids are busy learning new coping skills, practicing role plays, and working steadily on their contracts. We should have even more promotions soon.

We have had more students getting 100% on their spelling tests. Congratulations, nice work! Studying definitely pays off. In English and Reading, we have been busy reading JOEY PIZZA LOSES CONTROL by Jack Gantos, a book about a boy with ADHD, that's both funny and realistic. We have also been improving our writing and grammar skills. Our students enjoy "reader's theatre"; where we choose parts and read a play in class; it gives us a chance to practice our acting talents!

Maybe our biggest strides have come in math, where we have been tackling long division, and working on several-step word problems. We also continue to improve general computation skills, and work with money, time, and fractions.

Recently, the class had a contract to earn a trip to the Shrine Circus, by completing their work daily. Most of the class earned the contract. We all enjoyed the circus, and students were very well-behaved on the trip, making the Elementary teachers quite proud!

Wow-we are almost to the 4th quarter! The Elementary class is looking to end the year with even more learning, fun, and hopefully much warmer weather!

Middle School
Mr. Olson & Mr. Thomsen

This has been a busy quarter in Middle School. Seven of our students were promoted to a higher level.

In Personal Growth, students practiced relaxation techniques and improved their behavior replacement skills that they'll need when returning to public school. Our class also read STAND UP FOR YOURSELF and DON'T BEHAVE LIKE YOU LIVE IN A CAVE, books about bullying and appropriate behavior.

In Math, students are working on multiplication of fractions as well as converting mixed numbers and improper fractions. We have also done a thorough review of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and long division in order to reinforce mastery.

In Social Studies, Elementary and Middle School completed units for Black History Month, Presidents' Day, and Women's History Month.

In Science, students studied the muscular and skeletal systems of the human body. Elementary students finished their unit by tracing themselves and labeling individual bones.

Middle School students have read several novels as a class including: YOU DON'T KNOW ME, IDA B., and they are currently reading a series called BULLIES. Students also completed a classroom behavior contract for pizza and a movie that was contingent on their acceptance of staff decisions, not being aggressive to property or others, and not earning time-after-school.
JH1 - Ms. Essay & Mr. Bahr

Junior High 1 had a great third quarter! We welcomed Bowen F. from Middle School as well as two new students, Jaidon H. and Austin S. All three have been positive additions to our classroom! Our students have done phenomenal over the past nine weeks! Each week we've had 50 percent of our students meet the requirements for Honor Roll and Ms. Essay and Mr. M. Bahr are beyond proud of each and every one of them. All of our students have truly been working hard to better themselves and earn their way back to public school. This quarter's promotions include Jaidon H. from Level 1 to Level 2a, and D'Mariaun S. from Level 2a to Level 2b. Six other students are nearing the end of their level contracts and are expected to level-up at the beginning of the fourth quarter! This quarter's Classroom Contract focused on not setting up or feeding into peers. Our students chose Chinese food and a movie as their reward, and overall they did a great job achieving their goal! Ms. Essay and Mr. M. Bahr have also noticed more positive interactions taking place between our students. For example, instead of laughing at a peer who spilled his entire box of colored pencils all over the floor, his peers are taking the initiative to help him clean up the mess. For the most part they've been encouraging positive choices and building confidence in one another. Ms. Essay and Mr. M. Bahr have been thrilled about the accomplishments our students have made this quarter and are looking forward to what's in store for Junior High 1 next quarter!

JH2 - Mr. Thiemann & Mr. Weigman

The Students in Junior High 2 had a good third quarter. Several students were promoted to the next level and the others made progress on their current levels. The students started a classroom contract for a earning an afternoon to watch a movie and have a special lunch that day.

The students studied statistics and probability. They did several activities to as they focused on learning the types of data collection and displays, and they also had to analyze the data they collected. Towards the end of the quarter, the students participated in a bridge building project. They learned about different types and uses of bridges. They then designed and constructed a model of their design.

Students in Social Studies are divided into World History for seventh graders, and United States History 1 for eighth grade. For United States History 1, the eighth graders learned about the growing pains that the United States of America experienced as it tried to develop its own form of government, while also trying to manage the financial woes from separating, and fighting with Great Britain. In World History, the seventh graders learned about early Southeastern Asian cultures, the migrations of the Bantu people, and the rise of the early American civilizations. Both classes learned about the beginning of the Olympics, and discussed the possible dangers of North Korea's involvement in the 2018 Winter Olympics.
**HS1 - Mr. Harkness & Mr. Jones**

**What has been covered in English?**
In English, High School 1 students have been working on their book reports and learning about imagery, symbolism, and metaphors in movies, books, and music. Students have picked out their own books to write reports on, all while becoming better writers and improving reading skills. Students have also listened to music and watched movies to try to find hidden meanings and metaphors. Students have also found their own songs to attempt to see the imagery and symbolism used in music.

**What has been covered in Social Studies?**
Students in Mr. Harkness’s US History II course have been learning about the reactions to the Industrial Revolution, worker's rights, and political reform that happen in the early 20th Century. Student's learned about the "hands-off" policy of the 1920s that lead to economic boom, but eventual stock market crash. Students also covered World War I, the Great Depression, and have begun to learn about the beginnings of World World II. Students in Mr. Jones's US History I have been learning about the War of 1812, the new Market Economy in the United States, and the beginnings of Expansionism to the West. They have also began learning about the Transcendentalist Movement, along with the early development of the railroad and the Manifest Destiny.

**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. Myles is almost done with level-4 and ready to go back to Public School full-time. Our other level-4, Dyllan, has been enjoying Public School also. Ethan is working on being promoted from 2a to 2b. We also have a new student, Xavier. All of our students have received cool prizes for their behavioral contracts.

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!

Three quarters down, one to go! It seemed like a quick quarter thanks to some snow days and holidays. Which here in High School 2 we are not complaining!

It has been an exciting quarter as we have seen three students start transitioning back to public school! High School 2 has a total of 5 students that are in public school part-time. Those students are Kamil, Anthony, Cole H, Alec, and Dante. Keep it up! We also saw three promotions, Alec went from a level 3 to level 4. Anthony went from a level 3 to level 4 and Miguel was promoted from level 2A to 2B. Congrats!

In this third quarter for Math, Geometry students have been working on proportions and similarity and are about to start on the Pythagorean Theorem. Algebra students have been working on quadratic functions and equations along with polynomials. Pre-Algebra have been working on factors and fractions and learning about prime factorization.

For Science, Earth Science have been continuing learning about our solar system and the things that can be found in space. Biology students have been learning about plant classification and different types of animals and how they function compared to other animals. Physical Science learned about how matter changes and motion, they just finished up work and machines and started a chapter on heat.

Our goal is to get more students on level 4 by the end of this school year! Lets finish strong to this school year!

Mr. Crawford and Mrs. Howery
The Art room was busy this quarter. The Elementary and Middle School students were busy the first few weeks learning about mosaic art and weaving. Both classes did paper weaving. They carried those skills into a yarn basket weaving project.

The Junior High School students learned about Keith Haring and created a social issue project. They created posters in the style of Haring to raise awareness for the social issue they chose.

The High School students refreshed their skill of grid drawing and created a large grid painting. The last project of the quarter was a big one. All classes learned how to draw people as cartoons. They did several worksheets in preparation for a large cartoon project. They were required to draw three cartoons of people doing something. They turned out quiet well.
LITERACY AND LIVING SKILLS
WITH
MRS. RITTER AND MRS. HOUSTON

Literacy:
This quarter in Literacy we have finished working on homophones. We worked a variety of different ending punctuations. We worked a lot on commas and quotation marks. 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 play a couple of different games to learn each word and they get a reward if they can play appropriately.

Living Skills:
This quarter in Living Skills we started learning about Economics. We started the quarter learning about very basic concepts. We talked about what Economics is as a whole subject. We talked about the different economic choices we make every single day. We learned about what producers and consumers are. We learned the difference between goods and services. We learned about supply and demand and how it affects our economy. We are ending the quarter learning about what money is, what it does, and what it is worth.
Ms. McFarland & Mrs. Stevens’s Social Worker Corner

Dear Caregivers,

In light of the most recent acts of school violence, we wanted to take this opportunity to assure caregivers and students that we at Alpha take threats of violence very seriously and are determined to assess each situation individually. When staff have probable cause, they will search students. At a minimum, students will be added to the search list and upon arrival staff and/or administration will “pat search/wand” them. If your student is placed on the search list, you will receive a phone call from your student’s homeroom staff.

As a reminder, a threat is an expression of intent to physically or sexually harm someone. This expression may be spoken, written, or gestured. Threats can be expressed directly or indirectly to the victim or to others, and threats may be explicit or implied. Threats sometimes, but rarely, actually involve guns or explosive devices. A threat to harm others can be transient (ie: expression of anger or frustration that can be quickly or easily resolved) or substantive (ie: serious intent to harm others that involves a detailed plan and means).*

We believe schools should offer a balance between both physical and psychological safety. Therefore, if you or your student is feeling fearful, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of Alpha’s School Social Workers to discuss and address your concerns.

Sincerely,
Ms. McFarland and Mrs. Stevens

SAFETY TIPS FOR CAREGIVERS

Talk to Your Children
Keeping the lines of communication open with your children and teens is an important step to keeping involved in their schoolwork, friends, and activities. Initiate important discussions with your children—about violence, smoking, drugs, sex, drinking, and death—even if the topics are difficult or embarrassing. Don't wait for your children or teens to come to you.

Set Clear Rules and Limits for Your Children
Children need clearly defined rules and limits set for them so that they know what is expected of them and the consequences for not complying. When setting family rules and limits, be sure that children understand the purpose behind the rules and be consistent in enforcing them.

Know the Warning Signs
Knowing what's normal behavior for your son or daughter can help you recognize even small changes in behavior and give you an early warning that something is troubling your child. Sudden changes—from subtle to dramatic—should alert parents to potential problems.

Don’t Be Afraid to Parent; Know When to Intervene
Parents need to step in and intervene when children exhibit behavior or attitudes that could potentially harm them or others. It's okay to be concerned when you notice warning signs in a child, and it's even more appropriate to do something about those concerns. You don't have to deal with problems alone—the most effective interventions have parent, school, and health professionals working together to provide ongoing monitoring and support.

*(modified from www.nasponline.org)