



GRIFFIN CHRONICLE

Message from the Director

Happy April Athlos Families,

The weather is starting to warm up and our students are digging in to finish their year strong. We have had so many great occurrences just over the last three weeks. Our second-grade students were able to enjoy a field trip to Loveland Living Planet Aquarium, our staff hosted a celebration of Dr. Suess' Birthday with a pancake breakfast, Boys Volleyball kicked off last month, and Athlos' Got Talent auditions were hosted this past Friday. It is truly a blessing to be around such great students, staff, and families that make Athlos great.

Our staff is devoted to giving our students their best April and May of Education. We ask your support in prepping with your third through eighth grade students for the upcoming state RISE assessments starting on April 23rd. We've attached some FAQs about the new RISE assessment. For your students in kindergarten through second grade, it is important that they are hitting on all cylinders with class processes so they can spend their time growing and learning.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children and our future. The sky is the limit for our Griffins!

Mr. Knicely

Parent Information

Spring Break | April 15-19

Spring Break is coming up! The spring season is full of transformations. The temperature rises, opposing Mother Nature's last few months of freezing surroundings. Leaves return to the trees and flowers that wilted are now budding into lush, green, picture-perfect plants. Aside from the weather's transformations, we hope you will be safe on your family's spring break journey, whether it is a staycation or a getaway! NO SCHOOL April 15-19!

Dean of Culture | Ms. Anderson

We are pleased to announce that Ms. Morgan Anderson has been promoted to the position of Dean of Culture. Ms. Anderson will be supporting the school in creating a positive student culture through addressing classroom management support, behavioral infractions, and Performance Character celebrations. We are excited to have her join the leadership team.

Athlos Calendar | 2019-2020

Planning ahead? The official school calendar for the 2019-2020 is now available at: <https://www.athlosutah.org/2019-20-official-school-calendar/>

Junior High | 2019-2020

We are excited to offer ninth grade next year as part of Junior High here at Athlos Academy! Our sixth-grade students will be reintegrated into elementary school and will have a "transitional" year. We will be focusing on high student achievement and physical literacy. Leadership opportunities, clubs, and after school activities will be offered to our Athlos Junior High students. Please reach out to the front office or Ms. Keeling if you have any questions at 801-438-4619 or jkeeling@athlosutah.org

THIS MONTHS ISSUE:

- 1 Director's Message
- 2 Parent Information

- 3 Event Highlights
- 4 Staff Spotlight

LOOKING AHEAD

April 2	Boys Volleyball Game vs Excelsior Academy 4 pm @ Athlos
April 4	PTO Board Meeting 9 am in room 125
April 9	Netsmartz Assemblies
April 9	Boys Volleyball Game vs Spectrum Academy 4 pm @ SA
April 10	Ballet West K-5 Assembly 12:30-1:45 pm
April 10	4th Grade On Site Field Work @ Living Planet Aquarium
April 11	Boys Volleyball Game vs Monticello Academy 4 pm @ MA
April 11	School Board Meeting 6 pm
April 12	Athlos' Got Talent Assemblies 9:00 am -10:00 am & 12:45 pm -1:45 pm
April 15-19	Spring Break NO SCHOOL
April 24	1st Grade Field Work @ Hogle Zoo 8:30 am -2:00 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS**Netsmartz | April 10**

NetSmartz Workshop is an interactive, educational program of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) which provides age-appropriate resources to help teach children how to be safe both on and offline. The program is designed for children ages 5-17, parents and guardians, educators, and law enforcement. With resources such as videos, games, activity cards, and presentations, NetSmartz entertains while it educates. During the presentations, students are educated on how to recognize potential internet risks and will be engaged in a two-way conversation about on and offline risks. They will be empowered to help prevent themselves from being exploited and to report victimization to a trusted adult. The students will be divided into age-appropriate groups throughout the day for a presentation designed specifically for each age group. If you have any questions regarding the assembly, please reach out to Ms. Keeling at jkeeling@athlosutah.org

Ballet West | April 11

We are so excited for Ballet West to come to our school for an assembly with our students in kindergarten through fifth grade! This lecture/demonstration is designed to give elementary school audiences an introduction to the art of ballet as well as address key dance core-curriculum and life skills concepts. This year's presentation, titled *Ballet and The Sleeping Beauty*, includes a lecture demonstration, student participation, and a condensed performance of *The Sleeping Beauty* ballet.

Athlos' Got Talent | April 12

Athlos is hosting a talent show on April 12! We have many amazing and creative individuals in our school and can't wait to see their display of unique talents. There will be two opportunities to watch the students perform on April 12, at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. The presentation at 9:00 a.m. will have a few additional performers and will run about an hour. The 1:00 p.m. performance will run about 45 minutes. We would love for families and community members to come out and support our fantastic Athlos students!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: COACH MAXWELL

I have been with Athlos Utah since it's inception and my current position is athletic performance coach. I have a beautiful wife and two young, crazy boys. If you have ever encountered me around the school, your first thought might be, "why doesn't he smile?" I am quite aware that I need to smile more and I am working on it, yet even without me smiling I do find a lot of joy in life. I love the outdoors, I love my family, I love playing/watching sports, and I love reading. I also enjoy my job, I love guiding young people to overcome fears, accomplish tasks, and develop their own physical literacy. Because teachers don't get paid very much and I enjoy my job, I also own a real estate investing company to help bring in more income so that I can afford to teach. My company helps private individuals find greater returns on their money through rentals and flipping properties. All in all I have a passion for youth athletic development and Athlos offers a program that is second to none; that is why I am here.



Testing FAQs

Why is Utah changing assessments? The contract USBE has had with the SAGE provider expires in 2018, making it necessary to seek requests for proposals (RFP). Questar was selected by the RFP committee as the best solution to provide the Utah Standards Assessment that is required by Utah Statute 53E-4-303.

Will RISE be computer adaptive? Yes, the statute requires this test to be computer adaptive, but this assessment will be multistage adaptive rather than item adaptive like the SAGE.

How does a multistage adaptive test differ from item adaptive test? Like item adaptive, multistage testing is an algorithm-based approach to administering tests but rather than selecting individual items, groups of items are selected, building the test in stages.

What are the advantages of a multistage adaptive test? The biggest advantage for students is, they will be allowed full navigation (backward, forward, review, & revise) within each stage or test section. In addition, multistage tests can sequence test content in a logical, predictable and standardized way, allowing for full use of the item bank.



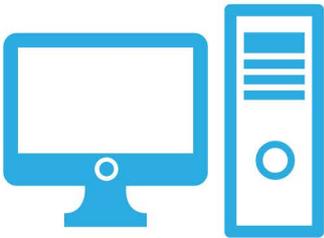
Will my students use a different interface to access the test? Yes, it will continue to be delivered on computers, but the URL associated with the test will change. Questar will provide the test through their delivery system, which is called Nextera.

Which students will participate in RISE and for which subjects? Students in grades 3-8 will participate in RISE. ELA and math will be measured in all grades, science in grades 4-8 and writing in both 5th and 8th grade

How long will the tests take? The tests should take about the same length of time as the previous test took.

Why aren't 9th and 10th grade students included in RISE? Utah statute 53E-4-304 requires USBE to select an assessment for 9th and 10th grade students that is predictive of a student's college readiness as measured by the college readiness assessment most commonly submitted to local universities. This requirement resulted in the selection of a separate assessment for the 9th and 10th grade students.

Why aren't we assessing writing in all grades anymore? The Utah State Board of Education made a policy decision to only assess writing in grades 5 and 8. Writing is still part of the Utah ELA Core and it is expected that students are being taught and assessed in those standards at the local level.



Will my students receive an individual report on their writing proficiency? Yes, the 5th and 8th grade students will receive a separate report, detailing their proficiency as measured against the writing standards of the Utah Core.

What will happen to the trend data we have been gathering over the last 5 years? USBE is working to maintain trend data for all tested subjects, including maintaining the same scale score and performance level descriptors.

Will the interim and benchmark test still be available for use by Utah teachers? Yes, Questar will provide these productivity tools for teacher use. These tests are not required and are not included in the school accountability system but can be used by English, math, and science teachers to quickly measure student learning and adjust instruction throughout the learning cycle.

