Peer-to-peer math help for freshmen

South HS math tutoring center

This school year ushered in a new and exciting addition to the math program at South High School. The school has implemented a new peer-to-peer tutoring program that supports freshmen with math challenges. A group of roughly 30 students, primarily upperclassmen, are providing the tutoring. These are students from upper level math classes, some who are receiving class credit and a letter grade for their help and some who volunteer. Most of the help goes to students with both algebra and geometry questions.

South Principal Aaron Bravo started the program after seeing it succeed at Palmer High School in Colorado Springs. “The two schools have similar demographics and Palmer has shown great gains in math since implementing their program,” said Bravo. “It was our hope we could replicate their model at South.”

The freshmen that participate in the math tutoring center are also enrolled in a freshman seminar class. “Freshman seminar is built to foster fundamental academic and social skills,” noted Bravo. “Above all, the class provides time during the school day for them to access the tutoring center.”

Teacher Nathan Roskop oversees the program and said

see TUTORING continued on page 2
that about one-third of South’s freshmen spend roughly 45 minutes each day in the center as part of their freshman seminar class. “The great part of this tutoring center concept as an intervention is the flexibility to meet and support students at the point where they are struggling most,” said Roskop. “We’re able to provide frequent and specific feedback on their progress, while encouraging students to self-monitor and take an active role in their learning.”

The success of the program based on early data is that already 30% of the 80-plus freshman seminar students are showing significant math growth. The goal is for students to continue to progress and show growth. Roskop is hopeful, if not enthusiastic, “We are optimistic that these students will improve in math and show growth over the next two years, growth that can be measured on school, state and national assessments.”

The student response to the tutoring center has been very positive, Roskop noted. “They appreciate the peer-to-peer connection,” noted Roskop. “One student said she enjoyed having a place to go to work on her math homework and that allowed her to get to bed earlier.”

The tutoring center is part of a math department overhaul at South according to Bravo. “We’re much more aligned than ever before and the tutoring center is just part of our efforts.”

South is looking for community members who would like to contribute to the program and strengthen its tutor base when students aren’t available. Please contact the school if you are interested.

School excellence

Fountain receives John Irwin Award...again!

For the fourth consecutive year, the Colorado Department of Education has recognized Fountain International Magnet School with the 2014 John Irwin School of Excellence Award.

“We are delighted to receive the John Irwin School of Excellence Award for the last four consecutive years,” said Fountain principal Eva Bjork. “This award is a reflection of the commitment demonstrated by the previous and current students, parents, and staff as well as the continuous support of the administration.”

The John Irwin Award is given to schools that demonstrate excellent academic achievement and exceed expectations on their performance framework indicators.
Volunteers support student achievement

HOSTS Mentors

In its first year at Corwin International Magnet School, the HOSTS (Help One Student To Succeed) mentoring program has had a significant and positive impact on both students and volunteers alike. Roughly 100 fourth through eighth grade students are provided support from volunteers. These volunteers, primarily parents of Corwin students, work with students to provide social and emotional support with the ultimate goal of improving student achievement.

The HOSTS program got its start in 1971 by a Vancouver, WA teacher who had students struggling in math and reading. At one point the program was national in its scope and when changes occurred with its organizer Corwin picked up the program and implemented it with to fit the school’s needs.

Principal Julie Shue and HOSTS Facilitator Debbie Madrill-Nelms have tied the program to Study Island, a curriculum-based supplement used to determine student challenges. When a volunteer comes into the school to work with a student, that mentoring session includes motivation and encouragement from the mentor and time spent by the student on Study Island though the use of iPods, which enhances the students exposure to new technologies.

“Volunteer mentors go through comprehensive training to help students develop resiliency and other social/emotional skills,” said Shue. “They assist students in developing monthly SMART goals and their progress toward those goals is monitored in a very data-driven way; all of which is targeted toward improved student achievement.”

Nelms said that mentors typically work with different students at each mentoring session. “Students are selected for the HOSTS mentoring program through teacher referrals for intervention,” noted Nelms. “Following each session, students go through a reflection process and mentors provide feedback. This all supports our data-driven model to support students.”

Shue and Nelms added that mentors don’t have to be Corwin parents to participate in the program. “We encourage any community member to get involved in the HOSTS program,” noted Shue. “Give us a call!”

If you’re interested in becoming a HOSTS mentor, contact the school at 549-7400.

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“Volunteer mentors go through comprehensive training to help students develop resiliency and other social/emotional skills.”

– Julie Shue, Corwin Principal

HOSTS Facilitator Debbie Madrill-Nelms
Math Credit Requirements
Pueblo City Schools Board of Education adjusted necessary math credits from 4 to 3 to graduate with a standard diploma. The Advanced Academic and Career/Technical diplomas will continue to require 4 math credits.

““This change will provide students with the flexibility to take courses that will serve them well in their chosen college and/or career path.””
– Superintendent Dr. Constance Jones

Tom and Louie’s Cupboard
Centennial and South students work in preparing meals for the annual Tom and Louie’s Cupboard program, which prepares roughly 600 Thanksgiving meals for members of the Pueblo community. Nearly 150 Pueblo City Schools students contributed to the effort.

PAA at CSU-Pueblo Math Day
Competing against high school students, Pueblo Academy of Arts finishes in 3rd place at CSU-Pueblo Math Day!
The Pueblo Academy of Arts math team consisted of Angelo Diaz, Colton Ortiz, and Emiliano Cabrera and were sponsored by Kelly Castellares, Pueblo Academy of Arts math teacher.

“To see our students not only have the confidence but the knowledge to compete against surrounding high schools was awesome! Our kids were definitely shown the excitement and importance of math.”
-Matt Vialpando
Pueblo Academy of Arts Instructional Coach
Honor concert

All City Band, Choir, and Orchestra

“Congratulations to each of our all-city performers,” said Bonnie Norton, Fine Arts Specialist. “It’s great seeing our most talented students being challenged and participating at such a high level.”

**BAND**

- **FLUTE**
  - Katelyn Joyner *Central*
  - Austin Dikeman *South*
  - Beatriz Oliva *South*
  - Kate Settipani *Centennial*
  - Ali Quintana *Central*
  - Raonak Kamal *South*
  - Cheyenne McGrath *Centennial*

- **OBOE**
  - Vladimir Acuario *East*
  - Jade Gonzales *Centennial*

- **CLARINET**
  - Morgan Kester *Centennial*
  - Andrea Serna *Central*
  - Jackie Stuller *South*
  - Carley Baker *Central*
  - Sarah Garberding *South*
  - Joseph Barber *Centennial*
  - Adrienne Walker *Central*
  - Christine Ruiz-Salcedo *East*
  - Sheyanne Bernal *East*

- **BASS CLARINET**
  - Samantha Machado *Centennial*
  - Contra bass*
  - Haley Hildebrand *East*

- **BASSOON**
  - Gerad Ortiz *South*
  - Lillian Cunha *Centennial*

- **ALTO SAX**
  - Destiny Mauro *East*
  - Levi Espinoza *South*
  - Meredith Rickwalk *Centennial*
  - Rosa Morales *East*

- **TENOR SAX**
  - Connar Brown *Centennial*
  - Nichole Romero *Central*

- **BARI SAX**
  - Myrtha Sebastian *Centennial*

- **TRUMPET**
  - Karla Rogers *South*
  - Blake Simony *East*

- **TROMBONE**
  - Nathan Gaines-Chy *Centennial*
  - Brennan Pantileo *Central*
  - Kenny Walter *East*
  - Ivan Acuario *East*
  - Alexis Martinez *Central*
  - Nic Albo *South*
  - Robert Boyer *East*

- **FRENCH HORN**
  - Alfred Crager *South*
  - Kassidee Hart *Centennial*
  - Roberta Bueno *Centennial*
  - Levi Grimlund *Centennial*
  - Elizabeth Salazar *Central*
  - Francisca Chacon *East*

- **BARITONE HORN**
  - Ryann Long-Laskins *Central*
  - Steven Kim *East*

**CHOIR**

- **SOPRANO**
  - Allison Ballotti *South*
  - Emily Barritt *South*
  - Bevian Elwell *East*
  - Collyn Calhoun *Centennial*
  - Kayla Conrad *East*
  - Jesseen Cruz *Central*
  - Kahla DeHerrera *East*
  - Destinee Gallegos *Central*
  - Bailey Garcia *East*
  - Jordan Garcia *Centennial*
  - Olivia Hayes *Centennial*
  - Rachel Jaco *Central*
  - Akelah Jones *East*
  - Cheyenne Medill *South*
  - Rachel Norick *South*
  - Katie Ogden *Centennial*
  - Olivia Oreskovich *South*
  - Mickie Reid *South*
  - Emma Robinson *Centennial*
  - Angelina Robles *Central*
  - Kristina Serna *Central*
  - Layla Shahrour *East*
  - Geneva Walls *South*

- **ALTO**
  - Sarah Audet *South*

- **BASS**
  - Brandon Garcia *East*
  - Edmund Gavato *Central*
  - Dominique Godinez *Central*
  - Levi Grimlund *Central*
  - Alex Hernandez *East*
  - Christian Jaquez *East*
  - Adam Mestas *East*
  - Alex Miller *Central*
  - Aidan Morgan *South*
  - Gerad Ortiz *South*
  - Kenny Ortiz *Central*

**ORCHESTRA**

- **VIOLIN I**
  - Robert Spangler *South*
  - Dominic Bingen *Central*
  - Kayla Conrad *East*
  - Dylan Ortiz *South*
  - Bryanna Germ *South*
  - Juanita Gallegos *Central*
  - Marissa Perez *South*

- **VIOLIN II**
  - Kade Ginn-Archuleta *South*
  - Daniel Trujillo *South*
  - Grace Morris *East*
  - Shania Myers *Central*
  - Mary Birmingham *East*
  - Cheyenne Moore *East*

- **CELLO**
  - Devin Allen *Central*
  - Enrique Perez *Central*
  - Hannah Levine *South*

- **VIOLA**
  - Janie Smith *South*
  - Andrew Martinez *South*
  - Alouise Bartholomew *South*
  - Adrienne Walker *Central*
  - Dakota Cordova *East*

- **PERCUSSION**
  - Fausto Rosales *Central*
  - Kelsey Filangi *South*
  - Daniel Jacobs *Centennial*
  - Brandon Simony *South*
  - Josiah Martinez *Centennial*
  - Dorian Apodaca *East*

*Denotes Section Leader
+Denotes Concertmaster

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PUEBLO CITY SCHOOLS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2014...on the move...5
KMG Science Grants

Congrats to Bessemer Academy for being awarded grants from KMG Electronic Chemicals. The school will utilize the grants to fund sixth through eighth grade renewable energy projects. Our thanks to KMG Electronic Chemicals for their generosity and partnership.

Explore Your Inner Aerospace Engineer

One of our many out-of-this-world programs!

www.pueblocityschools.us

Save the Date!

3rd Annual Jazz Festival
January 27, 2015
presented by Xcel Energy

Science Fair
January 30-31, 2015
presented by Black Hills Energy

PCS Spelling Bee
February 12, 2015
presented by Black Hills Energy

Please give to the Nest of Needs
A current list can be found at:
www.pueblocityschools.us/vips/nest-of-needs

Please get involved in our schools and show your support by giving to the Nest of Needs or whatever way you are comfortable.

Like us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/PCSD60

Follow us on Twitter:
@PCSD60

www.twitter.com/PCSD60

KMG

Dates to remember

Winter Break – NO SCHOOL –

2015-16 School Choice Application Window Opens
January 2015

Board of Education Meeting
January 27, 2015
February 24, 2015

SAVE THE DATE!

Volunteers in Pueblo’s Schools (VIPS)

Volunteers in Pueblo’s Schools (VIPS)

www.pueblocityschools.us