

# Principal's Message

## Academy for Math, Engineering & Science

### January 2, 2018



Dear AMES Community Members,

I wish you all a Happy New Year as we begin a new year and finish up second quarter. Second quarter and the first semester officially ends on Thursday, January 11th. It will come quickly now that we are back in session and have two short weeks prior to the teachers completing grades on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Please check Aspire to see if your student has any outstanding assignments, have taken all quizzes and tests etc.

#### **AMES Admissions Application 2018-19 is now OPEN:**

The application for next year's 9<sup>th</sup> graders is now available online. The application is open until February 16, 2018. Check the front page of the AMES website for more details.

#### **AMES Orientation Dates:**

- Magna Library - January 2 @ 5:00pm
- AMES room 209 - January 9 @ 6:00pm
- AMES room 209 – January 24 @ 6:00pm

#### **Robotics Kick-off - January 6, 2018**

With the new year comes the start of the Robotics season. The official kick-off will be on January 6, 2018 with build sessions then occurring after-school and on Saturdays at AMES.

#### **Fund Raising:**

Since we started our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual AMES/PTSO/Robotics fund drive in October your generosity has resulted in AMES receiving \$8,000 in donations for Robotics towards their goal of \$20,000. We currently have a \$2,000 matching grant that is also pending. In addition, a Robotics scholarship (\$500) has been funded.

School donations have totaled \$10,270 towards a goal of \$50,000 since October.

Our Annual Campaign is critical to our school's success – here's how:

- **Your donations help us supplement our Title I program that funds a math teacher and an academic assistant. This funding is subject to the variance in the lottery and has gone down 15% in the last 5 years.**
- **Our Annual Campaign also helps cover the cost of student services such as:** College applications, Freshman House, college visits, University of Utah classes and compensation to professors, student bussing, technology (2 new laptop carts each of the last two years), payment to Granite School District for Cottonwood classes and support of students who receive fee waivers (about 33% of families this year) so that all of our kids have the same opportunities at school.

- **Finally – it helps keep the lights on!** As a public charter school high school located in Salt Lake City, we receive about 25% less in government funding than traditional district high schools. This includes NO funding for transportation, NO support for fee waiver students, and NO funding for capital outlay projects.

**Our program delivers results for kids.** This year the State Board of Education school grading system awarded AMES an “A” – this is primarily based on our students’ SAGE scores in both “proficiency” (test scores and graduation rate) and “growth.” (Made gains regardless of proficiency level). Our school has one of the highest growth rates in the entire state. You can learn more about AMES students’ achievement at <https://datagateway.schools.utah.gov/Accountability/2017/83/700/H>.

Our funding is based on the number of students in the school (500) which is a finite number that we are very close to (481 students at the time of this letter). As costs have risen we have had to eliminate programs that directly impact students. Every dollar we can raise during the school year makes it possible to sustain and grow our programs. Our goal is 100% parent support regardless of the amount of donation. All sizes of gifts are important and together they will get us to sustain the high level of student support we have been able to offer. Thank you for your support of the school and our students.

#### **Science Fair:**

AMES just completed the local Science Fair with 17 students presenting projects. All of the projects were done well and all were promoted forward to the Charter School Science Fair competition. We also had several very good projects from freshman and sophomores which is a credit to the students and Danielle Jones who coordinates our science fair class. Locally Julia St. Andre (Plastic Powerhouses), Isaac Bromley-Dulfano & Colin Pollard (Water Widget) earned First place honors, while Samuel Delgado Gomez (Lizard Lungs) was awarded third place.

Thank you,



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