



Friends of Johnston ELP
Supporting the needs of high ability students
in the Johnston Community School District

2021-2022 FJELP Board Members

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Friends of Johnston ELP Spring 2022 Newsletter



**...from the desk of
Mandy Dummermuth
FJELP President**

Congratulations on finishing out the 2021-2022 academic year! Summer break can be a great opportunity to rest and recharge, and develop new skills and interests. A recording of our May 3rd program, Speed Spotighting Extended Learning Opportunities, is now available. Our various presenters featured clubs, activities, and resources that are accessible to students in elementary, middle school, or high school. We invite you to take a listen! See the link on page 3 of the newsletter.

We want to extend a special Thank You to our ELP teachers and staff who work so hard to serve our students! We also extend a special congratulations to the 2022 JHS Graduates! Have a great summer everyone, and we look forward to connecting in the fall!

Sincerely,
Mandy Dummermuth
Friends of Johnston Extended Learning Program President
Mom to Emma (17), Audrey (14), & Conner (13)

2021-2022 ELP Staff

| | | |
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General questions for the FJELP board?

Please contact us at admin@friendsofjohnstonelp.org

ELP Teacher Spotlight

Sue Cline

High School
ELP Teacher



How long have you been a teacher and how many years at JCSD?

I've been teaching for 36 years, the last 33 at JHS.

Why do you enjoy working with ELP students?

I enjoy the incredible diversity of my students. We all have different strengths and weaknesses, and the opportunity to help these kids blossom into themselves is the most rewarding part of my job. I really enjoy the nurturing part of the career. The academic part is important, but it's not everything; it's the growth in self-confidence and self-understanding that leads us to a happier adult life! Also, if the kid feels supported and loved, they will be more likely to find their way academically.

What is one of your favorite ELP activities for students?

I enjoy everything we do! If I create an experience that isn't enjoyable for me, I know it's not going to be enjoyable for them, and so we don't repeat those sorts of activities.

What is one of your favorite books/tv shows/podcast?

Book: *The Alienist* Podcast: *Stuff You Missed in History Class*

Share a highlight of your teaching career

Oh, boy, that's hard! I guess one of the most satisfying times was when I got to have my own sons in class each year. I worked with my youngest son every day of his high school experience, and that is really a wonderful opportunity for a parent.

What advice do you give to parents of high achieving students?

No one else can parent your child, but no parent can do everything! Build a village to support your kid as they grow and discover who they are. Don't be afraid to talk to your kid openly, if they're willing. In my experience, kids can handle almost anything if they are told the truth and given the tools to manage it.

Spring 2022 Program

Friends of Johnston ELP would like to extend a sincere **THANK YOU** to all parents, students and ELP staff that presented at our **Speed Spotighting** program on May 3rd.

Based on the almost 75 in attendance, our board thinks this is a program format that should continue in future years! [CLICK HERE](#) if you were unable to attend and want to access the recorded presentations and provided PowerPoint content.

Presenters provided 4 minute overviews on the following topics, organizations and activities: **Johnston Robotics, Book and Game recommendations, Community Ed Programming, Odyssey of the Mind, National History Day, Resources for LGBTQ+ students, Mock Trial, Drama, Speech and Debate, Technology Student Association and Academic Decathlon.**



National History Day

On April 25th, 11 students from JMS and JHS competed in the **state competition for National History Day**. NHD is a competition in which students create an in-depth, research-based project, covering a historical topic that fits the annual theme. This year's theme was: *Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences*. During the state competition, students participated in a 10 minute interview with the judges and their projects were evaluated based on their historical quality, relation to the annual theme, and clarity of their presentation. **Congratulations to the following students whose projects qualified for the National competition!**

9th graders: **Aydean Bejtovic, Andrew Bogue, Kathir Kalyanaraman, Shreyas Shrestha**
Senior Group Website

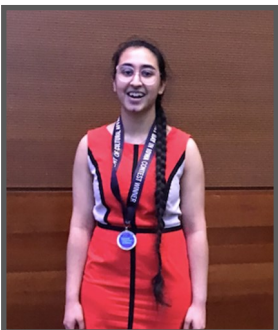


Juniors:
Eshaan Chandani, Anjali Kumar
Senior Group Documentary



Junior: **Rohan Devadas**
Senior Individual Documentary

Sophomore: **Akshara Eswar**
Senior Individual Documentary (not pictured)



Congratulations to Junior: **Anita Dinakar** whose individual website qualified as alternate for the National competition

Congratulations also goes to 8th graders **Anna Lu and Lillian Hill** who were finalists for the National competition. The **National History Day** competition will be held virtually this year in June.

High School ELP News

Join us in Congratulating the Class of 2022!

JHS honors the top 3% of the graduating class with white honor cords over their graduation gowns. In addition to these academic honors, there may be cords or other signs of distinction based upon a student's community service, blood donation, and/or student council membership. Each department also awards a medal to honor a student with outstanding achievement.

Department Awards

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Art and Design: | Fenris-Mallora Lehman, Dessa Heikes |
| Business: | Callie Studer, Brandon Ness |
| Collaborative Team: | Alan (Danny) Munoz |
| Extended Learning Program: | Elise Henrichsen |
| English: | Jenna Woodsmall, Katie Sweet |
| Family & Consumer Science: | Selma Mehmedovic, Mataya Holmes |
| French: | Sara Lastine |
| Industrial Technology: | Mackenzie Lauridsen, Sam Clausen |
| Journalism: | Newspaper- Noah Gilbert, Yearbook- Alexis Urban |
| Mathematics: | Anna Larson, Adam Ehler |
| Physical Education: | Zoey Buchan |
| Science: | Kunal Singhal |
| Social Studies: | Stephen Beaman, Emma Dummermuth |
| Spanish: | Addison Womacks |

Top 3%

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Kate Bachmann | Taylor Kauffman | Jack Rutz |
| Stephen Beaman | Beatriz La Rota | Pranav Sharma |
| Anthea Cheng | Anna Larson | Kunal Singhal |
| Dylan Coslin | Mackenzie Lauridsen | Kathryn Sweet |
| Andrew Drafahl | Samuel Lindgren | Kristin To |
| Adam Ehler | Noah Madison | Kenny Tran |
| Elijah Erickson | Karsen Mumm | Christopher Tu |
| Hayley Hanson | Andrew Nguyen | Bailey Vaughan |
| Elise Henrichsen | Katrina Nguyen | Patrick Yang |
| Jessie Huang | Alexis Pfaltzgraf | Allison Zahn |
| Abby Jenkins | Tenna Russell | |

High School ELP News



Photos from the annual Top 3% dinner at Trostel's Greenbriar. Students are able to invite a teacher or staff member of their choosing.



CHEERS to these students' outstanding high school academic careers!



High School ELP News

ELP Class Highlights

Student projects this semester ranged from reviewing math concepts to finding scholarships for college to self-study of AP Microeconomics. Students were focused and diligent almost all the time, and one day a month we have some fun together to break up the work. May features one day for "Cline Choice" activities, but we also celebrate the last day seniors are with us with "Senior Choice". This year, 3rd hour Seniors hosted a game of Slapzi, 4th hour Seniors chose to play Scattergories, and 5th hour Seniors facilitated a round-robin painting activity.

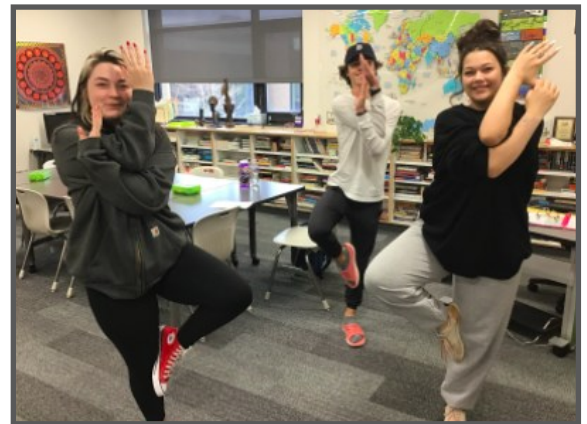


The **May "Cline Choice" Activity** was a unique scavenger hunt. Each team had to determine which team member was strongest in a particular field, and demonstrate it in a photo. A partial list of the challenge is below:

Namaste: Get a pic of the three calmest members of your team in the same yoga pose

ABC: Find the best speller. Take a pic of their favorite difficult-to-spell word written on whiteboard.

Dinner Party: Take a pic of your best waiter/waitress taking orders from your team members, like in a restaurant. Put the orders on your whiteboard and make sure that it shows in the pic.



Simone Biles: Get a pic of the most flexible person in your group demonstrating their "bendability."

Jump for Joy: Take a pic of the two happiest people in your group doing a matching jump - outside.

Organization is Key: Take a pic of the Google drive page of your most organized team member. Show us those folders!

High School ELP News

Johnston Academic Decathlon State Competition 2nd place!

Johnston Ac Dec continued their tradition of strong performance at the State meet in Mason City, March 4-5, placing 2nd against some strong competition. The team amassed a total of 31,393 points and earned 14 individual medals.

Team members and their individual awards are listed below. Congratulations, Ac Dec!

Honors

Adam Ehler: 2nd in Economics, 2nd in Essay, 3rd in Interview

Anna Larson

Dylan Coslin: 2nd in Interview

Scholastic

Elise Henrichsen: 1st in Literature, 1st in Science, 2nd in Essay, 3rd in Art

Aaron Guo: 1st in Math, 1st in Economics, 2nd in Social Science, 3rd in Speech

Harshaant Dhugga: 2nd in Math

Varsity

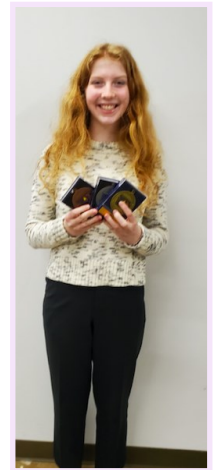
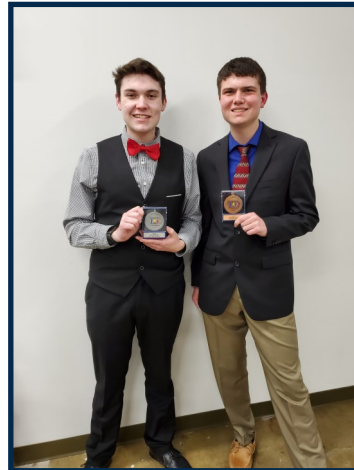
Fanuel Akakpo

Will Anderson: 2nd in Social Science

Alternates

Sruthi Vallabhajosyula:

Kristin To: 1st overall Scholastic Alternate



Johnston Middle School ELP News

The JMS ELP students ended the school year celebrating turning in their **in-depth study projects**. Projects ranged from story writing, to art portfolios, online classes, to contests, research projects to book reviews. The student projects were impressive, as always, and students had a great time directing their own learning!



Before the end of the school year, there was time for one more **McConnell Choice Activity**. This last activity focused on non-verbal communication skills. Students worked in teams to silently try to direct their blindfolded teammate to place skittles on construction paper of the corresponding color. Teams also had to work together to silently make paperclip chains while only being allowed to use one hand each. The final nonverbal task was to play a charades-type game called “Catching a Chicken” where students had to copy the actions of one student and try to guess what that student was acting out.



Summit Middle School ELP

6th Grade STEM

6th grade STEM ELP students spent the Spring learning how to create art utilizing a light box using different light colors and in Virtual Reality using Google Blocks, Tilt Brush, and Gravity Sketch. This was the final culmination of students building their knowledge of math, science, and art gained during the Math & Art course.

During studies for Physics & Design, students worked in teams to develop a variety of Rube Goldberg machines that attempted to produce the maximum energy output possible. Students developed skills in construction design, using scales for weight and math to calculate formulae, and learning how to utilize design ideas from others in group work. Students also developed knowledge of how to adapt a product and file a patent on their design. Students then presented their potential product designs for feedback looping with their peers.



7th Grade STEM

Seventh grade STEM ELP students during Lunar Robotics developed robots to use in a lunar supply and mining base. Students had to take into account the difficulties of building in and for space, the necessity of all robots working together, and to plan for contingencies. Students were able to conference with cosmologist Dr. Jason Rhodes from JPL to discuss these challenges and to learn about his journey as a STEM ELP student here in Iowa.

The seventh grade STEM ELP students learned a lot about how to effectively use different forms of logic in scientific inquiry & analysis during Forensic Science. Students could choose to cover content in genetics, epigenetics, and virus analysis of data, trigonometry in blood spatter analysis, detailed data collection in microscopic analysis of evidence, utilizing multiple data sets when using genetics in archaeology and criminal forensics, and how emerging science impacts criminal law.

Elementary ELP

Service Project

Wallace 4th graders researched animal shelters to raise money for and selected Furry Friends Pet Refuge in West Des Moines. After weeks of planning, making posters, and morning announcements, Wallace students raised over \$600 for Furry Friends! Students were proud to present the money to a representative of Furry Friends in person.



Math Olympiads

4th and 5th ELP students were among the nearly 100,000 students worldwide to compete in this year's Math Olympiads. Students participated in a series of five monthly contests consisting of 5 problems each, from November to March, and had weekly practice sessions under the supervision and coaching of the elementary ELP teachers.

The goals of Math Olympiads are:

- ♦ to teach multiple strategies for out-of-the-box problem solving
- ♦ to develop mathematical flexibility in solving those problems
- ♦ to foster mathematical creativity and ingenuity

All students were recognized with certificates for their participation. The first place students from each building earned a trophy. Patches and pins were also awarded to high scoring students.

Here are the results of our top Math Olympiad participants:

Beaver Creek Top Ten

Alex Ren
Tansi Bandaru
Irene Lin and Caelan Simon (TIED)
Brady Laursen and Dylan Williams (TIED)
Anmol Gonchigar
Liam Fulton
Grant Armitage and Yashwin Menon (TIED)



Horizon Top Ten

Logan Maresca
Noah TeKippe
Paden White
Ty Bryngelson, Cohen Burkhardt & Nolan Thorpe (TIED)
Tristan Logue
Jesh Barli
Avery Wiersen
Sophia Kaye-Moore



(Winners continued on next page)

Elementary ELP

Continued results of top Math Olympiads

Wallace Top Ten

Hayden Mitchell
Meredith Throener and Kaylee Krueger (TIED)
Finn Kongshaug
Colin MacDuffie
Linus Kohout
Reagan Holub
Viraj Moharle
Atharv Tiwari
Jackson Wurth

Timber Ridge Top Ten

Chase Sitzmann
Xavier Plante and Everly Richards (TIED)
Orion Plante
Lydia Gerke, Warren Knake, and Drake Miller (TIED)
Leo Howard
Izzy Arnold and Meredith Kathman (TIED)

Lawson Top Ten

Ella Maki
Eli Clanton, Malcolm Rock, and Emery Hall (TIED)
Dominic Strauss
Strummer Boone, Leila Nixon, Carter Ritchie, Barrett Schiesl
and Clara Sullivan (TIED)



Stock Market Game

What would you do if you were given \$100,000? Would you spend it all at once? Would you think about putting some of it in the bank? Some fourth and fifth grades at Wallace and Horizon have been learning how to invest money, so it might grow over time. Through The Stock Market Game (SMG), students have been gaining a fundamental understanding of investing.

Wallace Stock Market Game winner: Viraj Moharle +\$1,138

Horizon 5th grade 1st place team: Paavani Konda. Nolan Thorpe and Noah TeKippe

Their investment advice:

Check stocks often and sell those not doing well. Think of what is going on in the world right now and buy before you think it would be good – for example, we bought stock in Pfizer before the kid vaccine was released and we bought stocks in gas before the holidays because we know people travel then. It is good to find new companies and a variety of companies. Research the success of companies over at least a 2 year span.

Horizon 4th grade team 2nd place team:

Sophia Kaye-Moore and Avery Wierson

Their investment advice:

We found stocks that were doing well. We looked for companies that own things we watch, we do, and/or we buy. Tesla made the most.

Timber Ridge 1st Humanities Celebrating their hard work after completing research and making their own Q is for Duck books.



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