ELP STEERING COMMITTEE 2019-2020

Chair: Katherine Zavodni <u>steering@hawthorne-elp.com</u>

Chair-Elect: Heather Reynolds <u>heathercreynolds@gmail.com</u>

Past Co-Chairs: Meghann Kopecky and Matt Thiese <u>meghannkop@gmail.com</u> <u>mthiese@live.com</u>

Secretary: Sandra Marsh <u>sandrasmarsh@gmail.com</u>

Treasurer: Emily Benton <u>ebenton@gmail.com</u>

SCC Representative: Lizzie Jolley <u>elsbeyjolley@gmail.com</u>

Volunteer Coordinator: Deanne Brocato <u>brocato@gmail.com</u>

New Student Coordinator: Tasha Cook Stolz <u>tasha.cook@me.com</u>

PTA Liaison: Natalie Harden <u>thehardenfamily06@yahoo.com</u>

Newsletter Editors: Kathleen Wilson <u>kathwwils@gmail.com</u> Melanie Steiner-Sherwood <u>m.steiner.sherwood@gmail.com</u>

Fundraising Chair: Lance Meister <u>Imeister@csacoustics.com</u>

Events Planning Committee: Catherine Lowe <u>catherine.lowe@gmail.com</u>

hawthorne

newsletter

letter from the principal

Dear ELP Families,

When I speak to people about Hawthorne, I always talk about our wonderful Neighborhood, Curriculum and Assessment, and Magnet ELP programs. Not everyone understands how it all fits together and works at school, but it does, and we have a very successful community.

Our ELP program, specifically, has a clear mission to provide expanded learning opportunities for all students in an environment where children can display their gifted behaviors and talent. We recognize your children's unique potential and appreciate their individuality.

Gifted students come to us from all over our district. They represent different cultural groups, family structures, and economic strata. The multidimensional qualities of our ELP students bring richness to the school.

With all our programs and in all of our classes, we endeavor to nurture students' aptitudes and traits and create opportunities for them to thrive. As the year draws to a close, I am reminded of how much we achieved in 2019, and how much we have to look forward toin 2020. Three outstanding programs under one roof equals onegreat school. We soar high, sail the distance, and work to succeed.

Sincerely,

Marian

Thanks so much to all of you—students, parents, and teachers—who participated in our postcard fundraising campaign. Over 150 postcards were mailed, and we are seeing some of the fruit of that effort! It really was just the push we needed to (almost) close the gap in our fundraising. Great job everyone!

I know we are all in the thick of holiday activities and schedules, but it's not too early to start looking ahead to spring. This year, in lieu of our Spanish winter holiday event, we will have a spring celebration with a Spanish performance, food, and festivities for our whole community of ELP families. Details will be forthcoming, so be on the lookout.

Finally, I'm excited to announce that our Steering Committee is growing! We have some new members working to serve our school community, including:

Lance Meister: Fundraising Chair Catherine Lowe: Event Planning Committee Suzy Griesel: Digital Content/Web Editor

All are welcome to attend our monthly steering committee meetings, which, beginning in January, will be held on the second Wednesday of the month in the teacher workroom from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. In particular, we hope to recruit a couple more parents to assist Lance and Catherine with event planning. If you are willing to participate in this or any other capacity, please email me at <u>steering@hawthorne-elp.com</u>.

Thanks again for all you do! Wishing all our Hawthorne ELP families a very happy holiday season!

Warmly, Katherine Zavodni ELP Steering Committee Chair 2019–20 steering@hawthorne-elp.com

SCIENCE FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you science minded or an analytical thinker? Do you know anyone who works in the field of science? Do you have access to college students working toward a degree in science? If so, please participate in our science fair and spend a couple of hours talking to students about science. Invite your science-minded friends; carpool and bring a carload of your scientist colleagues! There will be snacks, and science, and fun! Hawthorne's science fair is Thursday, January 16th, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Two-hour judging shifts usually start at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 12:30 p.m., but accommodations can be made as needed. We cannot have a successful science fair without your help. Please pencil us in on your calendar now. Thank you!

Julie Henderson, julie.henderson@slcschools.org

TEACHER FEATURE •••••••••••••

Defined by Merriam-Webster as "inherited, established, or customary pattern of thought, action, or behavior," **traditions** are often part of a religious practice. Many of us associate holiday traditions with Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, the Winter Solstice, and other celebrations. But holiday traditions also include secular customs unique to our families, such as winter hiking and skiing, volunteering, watching certain movies, baking, or visiting with friends. We asked the teachers:

What holiday traditions are important to you?

SHARLEY BRADLEY — Ist Grade

The most important tradition for me growing up, that I've tried to continue with my own children, is the tradition of making tamales. Tamales will always remind me of Christmas with my family. Tamales may seem like a simple food to make—masa dough with meat filling and steamed—but they take many hours in the kitchen. We would go to my grandma's house to make tamales and would start around 6 a.m., and it would take all day. My grandma would make the dough and my grandpa would help us stuff and wrap them in the corn husks. We would make plenty for our large family that would last through the holiday season.

AMANDA VAN METER — 4th Grade

I associate the holidays with Christmas. My holiday tradition is to go skiing, bake with family and friends, and travel to see family. This year, I am traveling to visit my relatives who live in North Carolina's Smoky Mountains. Family time is something that I hold dear. Watching my cousin and niece grow up is extremely important to me as well. So, I love to see them and, of course, shower them with plentiful gifts.



JULIE HENDERSON — 6th Grade

This time of year is our favorite. Starting in October, we celebrate losh's birthday, Halloween, Sophie's birthday, lim's birthday, Thanksgiving, and then we get ready for Christmas. In addition, the weather turns cool, the trees turn themselves inside out in brilliant colors, and then it snows! We love playing in the snow. Some of our winter traditions include snow angels, snow people, and snow fights; then we come inside and drink hot chocolate. We also love this time of year because we get to spend so much time together and with family. Another tradition we have is an advent calendar. It is a large felt tree covered in pockets. Each pocket contains a little wooden peg person painted to look like someone in our family. Every day in December we pull a new person out of the pockets on the advent calendar. We then spend the day thinking of that person, calling them, and/or doing special things that person likes. It's fun to give each person their own special day. From our family to yours, we wish you the happiest of holidays this season. Stay warm!

TEACHER FEATURE continue d • • • • • •

MAESTRA ANYELA BENNETT RODRIGUEZ — Spanish

In Venezuela, Christmas is celebrated with a number of religious and traditional customs. Christmas festivities celebrate the birth of the child Jesus. The religious celebrations begin on the 16th of December with masses said every morning until December 24th, when the religious service is held at midnight (*Misa de Gallo*).

The main celebration takes place on Christmas Eve, *Noche Buena*, as it is called in Spanish. Families get together to enjoy the traditional holiday meal: It is a family tradition to make *hallacas* together. *Hallaca* is made out of commeal and stuffed with beef, pork, chicken, raisins, capers, and olives, and then wrapped in a banana leaf. The *pan de jamón* is a long bread filled with cooked ham and raisins. The *dulce de lechoza* is a dessert made of green papaya and brown sugar.

Many homes put up a Christmas tree, but the most authentic Venezuelan custom is to display a *nacimiento* (Nativity scene). A more sophisticated *nacimiento* is the *pesebre*. This represents an entire region with mountains, hills, plains, and valleys. The central point is a replica of the manger at Bethlehem. Often, the *pesebre* becomes a real work of art. Traditionally it is the Child Jesus who brings gifts to the Venezuelan children, instead of Santa Claus, at midnight on December 24th.

Christmas is a very special tradition, but mainly for children. For adults and families, the most important celebration in the whole year takes place during New Year's Eve right at midnight, when the entire country of Venezuela gets into a party mood that can last until 6 a.m. It is very important to receive the new year with your family; this indicates that your family is going to be united the following year. If you need to choose between Christmas or New Year's Eve to be with your family, New Year's Eve is the reunion you cannot miss. The family has a dinner (the same Christmas dish) at home while being glued to the television set or a radio station, waiting to hear the live telecast of the countdown of the New Year. Other than that, there is a tradition of broadcasting New Year songs. As soon as midnight arrives, everyone cheers out loud and wishes everyone good luck and makes New Year wishes for the coming time. All cathedrals located in the main corners of every city have a tradition of ringing twelve bells in that moment.

New Year's Eve is a traditional celebration full of superstitions. Some of these include eating twelve grapes while making twelve wishes; wrapping twelve lentils in a high denomination money bill to be put it in your pocket, which is believed to bring wealth and prosperity in the new year; wearing yellow underwear, which means prosperity as well; and walking around the block with a suitcase to wish for travel in the coming year.

People shoot a lot of fireworks in their native cities, making for a beautiful light show that lasts an hour. New Year's Eve is the most important holiday in Venezuela to be celebrated among family and friends.

Here are some pictures of my family making our traditional meal with our daughter for the first time last year. Thank you so much for letting me share my traditions with all of you.











Thank you to all the families who have donated for the 2019-2020 school year! <u>Currently, 68% of our families have</u> <u>donated, and we would love to see additional donations.</u> Our postcard campaign has been successful, with many relatives and friends making tax-deductible donations to support our ELP programs. We have received over 40 donations totaling \$3,600 so far. With the end of 2019 rapidly approaching, **please considermakingyouryear-end tax-deductible donation today**.

Your donated funds are already being used to support teachers and their classrooms, field trips, teacher professional development, math competitions for older grades, publications, special events, and much more. This includes our Spanish program which is funded entirely by Hawthorne ELP families. Maestra Anyela is in each classroom every day providing a truly unique and enriching experience for our students. Please consider supporting these programs through a donation if you are able.

There are many ways to donate (see below) including shopping through AmazonSmile this holiday season. To register your Amazon account with Hawthorne as your selected charity go to https://smile.amazon.com and search for "ELP Hawthorne." With each eligible purchase, the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price to our program.

If you are not sure whether you have donated this year, please contact me and I will let you know. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns, and thanks for making our Hawthorne ELP community so great.

Emily Benton, ELP Steering Committee Treasurer treasurer@hawthorne-elp.com

2019-20 DONATION FORM

Donations to Hawthorne ELP are tax-deductible. A receipt will be issued for total annual donations of \$250 or greater. Receipts for donations less than \$250 are available on request. All donations directly benefit our children.

- Email address:
- Student(s) Name and Grade: ______

HOW TO DONATE TO HAWTHORNE ELP

CASH OR CHECK payable to Hawthorne ELP. Please include donation form and drop off at Hawthorne's main office or mail to: Emily Benton, ELP Treasurer 2849 E Millicent Dr, SLC UT 84108

PAYPAL: <u>www.paypal.me/HawthorneELP</u> or do a PayPal transfer to <u>treasurer@hawthorne-elp.com</u> Please designate the student's name and classroom in memo.

AMAZON SMILE:

If you shop using Amazon, please use https://smile.amazon.com and select "ELP Hawthorne Parent Organization" as your charity. We receive 0.5% of every eligible purchase from the Amazon Smile Foundation.

TOTAL 2019-20 DONATION: \$ _____

The Hawthorne ELP Parent Organization raises funds through voluntary donations to support programs and teachers. We raise and distribute funds for supplies for programs such as Opera for Children, Shakespeare, Good Masters and Sweet Ladies!, Spanish, and Artist- or Scientist-in-Residence. We also fund teachers' continued education, including conferences, speakers, and materials. Any donation to the organization is completely voluntary and will not affect any child's eligibility for or admission into the Hawthome ELP program. All children in the Hawthorne ELP program will be able to participate fully in Hawthorne's ELP programs and activities, regardless of whether any contribution or donation is made. The decisions about how to use the funds raised from parents and grants is directed by the Steering Committee with input from administrators, teachers, and parents. The Hawthorne ELP Parent Organization is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and not affiliated with Salt Lake City School District. The district is not soliciting or requiring payment of these funds.

were met with great enthusiasm this fall, and Julie has kindly agreed to offer a second course in the spring. Love and Logic is a behavior management style that provides parents with effective strategies to parent children from birth to adulthood.

Please look out for further announcements regarding the spring 2020 class or contact Julie to pre-register: julie.henderson@slcschools.org

VOLUNTEERING

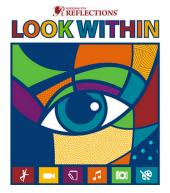
A special thanks to our many parent volunteers: your time is an investment in Hawthorne ELP that allows teachers to focus more attention on our students and create unique learning opportunities. Pease sign in at the kiosk near the front entrance every time you volunteer at the school, and report any out-of-school hours to your classroom volunteer coordinator. Documenting volunteer hours provides us with important evidence of active parent- and community involvement, which we present in grant applications and funding requests.

TRAFFIC MONITORS NEEDED

Parking lot safety continues to be a pressing concern especially during drop-off. School leadership and the School Community Council (SCC) are looking for volunteers who will monitor the school parking lot between 8 and 8:15 a.m. If you are available to help, please contact the front office for further instructions and to receive a safety vest. Regardless of whether or not you are able to volunteer, slow down and drive carefully—for the health and safety of teachers, staff, parents, and our children!

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Dec 5 – PTA meeting, 7 p.m. (1st Th/mo) Dec 9 – School Spelling Bee, 8:30 a.m. Dec 23–Jan 3 – Winter Recess Jan 6 – SCC meeting, 6:30 p.m. (1st Tue/mo) Jan 8 – SLC Region 4 PTA Reflections Event, Highland High School, 6:30 p.m. Jan 15 – ELP Steering Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. (2nd W/mo: 2/12, 3/11, 4/8, 5/13) Jan 16 – School Science and Engineering Fair Jan 20 – No School (MLK Day) Jan 28–29 – District Science and Engineering Fair Jan 31 – No School Feb 10–12 – SEP Conferences Feb 14 and 17 – No School Feb 19–20 – Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! (grade 3) Mar 6 – No School Mar 16–19 – Shakespeare Week (grades 4-6) Mar 23–27 – Spring Recess Apr 3 – ELP Spring Celebration (tentative) Apr 22 – Operas (grades K-2) Apr 24 – No School May 25 – No School (Memorial Day) May 27 – Share Fair Jun 3 – Last day of school



REFLECTIONS

A huge thank you to Hawthome PTA Reflections Co-Chairs Autumn Kieber-Emmons and Merili Carter for organizing another wonderful year of the Reflections contest. This year's theme was "Look Within" with 58 entries submitted, 52 of which were by ELP students. The PTA hosted a Gallery Stroll at Hawthorne on November 21-22 (some student work is pictured below). Hawthorne student entries that received Awards of Excellence advance to the next stage of the competition to compete within Utah Region 4. The Art Show for Region 4 will be held at Highland High School on Wednesday, Jan 8th from 6:30-7:30.

Congratulations to these Award of Excellence recipients:





<u>Photography</u> Thomas Meister Soren Anderson William Christenson Mary Stoddart Eden Garland

<u>3D Visual Arts</u> Gabriel Kieber-Emmons Eliza Larsen Thomas Wilson Alec Allen Aliya Saunders

2D Visual Arts Josie Gardiner Elise Griesel Minna Tu Annabelle Bartholomew Ruth Christenson Betty Carter Roxann Christopherson

<u>Literature</u> Robbie Reber Ella Koldewyn Ben Greene Oliver Hammond Alexa Loveday Liang

<u>Dance</u> Elisa Allen Stella Gardner Ciaran Moon

<u>Film</u> Hazel Kopecky Thiese

<u>Music</u> Paige Manning-Duncan Ian Kim

ELP Assessment and Alternatives for Elementary School

Does your ELP student have a younger sibling about to enter school? Would you like to assess their ELP eligibility? Current preschoolers and Kindergarteners are tested in March, but parents must submit an online application. The application window is open from December 9 through January 24. New this year is an assessment screener, scheduled for February 2020, which will identify students advancing to the full ELP assessment. Eligibility results will be mailed in April. If you have questions, please contact the District ELP Office at 801-578-8573 and/or attend the information meeting at 6 p.m. on January 15, 2020, in room 112-113 at the district office building on 440 E 100 S.

The ELP assessment application period for students entering second grade or above closed November I, and assessment, administered by neighborhood ELP teachers at neighborhood schools, ended the first week of December. If you missed the deadline but would like your current non-ELP student assessed for ELP eligibility, talk to your child's teacher. If your teacher believes that the current curriculum isn't meeting the student's educational needs, the teacher can recommend ELP assessment at any time.

If you have one child in ELP and one child entering a neighborhood school, and you live outside the Hawthome boundaries but would prefer both children to be at Hawthome, consider Open Enrollment. Not only does this simplify your commute and pick-up/drop-off, it also helps your children bond over shared school experiences; most importantly, it provides both children with an excellent education! In 2018, the U.S. Department of Education named Hawthome one of three 2018 National Blue Ribbon Schools in the state, and our principal, Marian Broadhead, is the 2020 Salt Lake City School District Principal of the Year. While open enrollment decisions prioritize sibling placement, acceptance is not guaranteed. Open enrollment applications must be submitted online between December 1 and February 21. Parents will be notified of enrollment status by March 31, and they must respond to open enrollment opportunities by April 15.

Did you know that Hawthorne has even more to offer? Not only is Hawthorne home to a magnet ELP track and a neighborhood school, Hawthorne is also one of only two elementary schools in the SLCSD that offers the Curriculum & Assessment Lab Program (C&A). Started by a group of teachers and parents who wanted to explore new research-based concepts in education, C&A emphasizes the cross-disciplinary integration of the <u>Curriculum</u>, and self-<u>A</u>ssessment and active participation of learners. Because C&A classrooms combine two grades, students experience multi-age learning cohorts and are with the same teacher for two years. This unique C&A characteristic contributes to an increased sense of community and continuity. Prospective students do not test into C&A but are admitted by randomized lottery; as a result, students represent a wide range of abilities and reflect the diversity of the district. To apply for C&A, choose the option "Hawthorne Elementary C&A" on the open enrollment form and submit by February 15.

Enrollment/Application	Application Window	Access & More Info
ELP assessment for current preschoolers and Kindergartners	Dec 9–Jan 24 (5pm)	Online via SLCSD ELP website https://www.slcschools.org/departments/teaching-and- learning/extended-learning-program-elp/
ELP assessment for students currently in I st grade and above	Closed Nov I	Talk to your student's teacher, who can recommend assessment outside of the assessment window
Open Enrollment	Dec I–Feb 21 (4pm)	Online via SLCSD website https://apex.slcschools.org/apex/f?p=1900:1::::::
Curriculum & Assessment C&A	Dec I–Feb I5 (4pm)	Online via SLCSD C&A website https://www.slcschools.org/departments/teaching-and- learning/curriculum-and-assessment- lab/documents/lottery-registration/english/

What's next after Hawthorne ELP?

Many Hawthorne ELP students go on to Middle school Magnet ELP in the district. We asked Hawthorne alumni to share their firsthand accounts of ELP at Clayton and Hillside Middle Schools and West High 7th and 8th grade. (Editors note: we do not have student contributors from the Glendale ELP as it is a more recently established program.)

West High ELP By Vivian Stewart, 8th grade

I have really enjoyed my time at West as an ELP student so far. The culture at West is very diverse and it is very socially immersing. Being in classes with the high school students is not a weird thing, since they are all very welcoming and open. One thing that I have really loved about being at this school is the theater program. It is amazing to be part friends. The ELP students are very of a team and feel welcomed by the other theater kids. I am so glad that it has brought me so many lasting friendships and experiences. The classes are all great, too. The teachers are very nice, and they challenge us to be our best and work hard. I can't wait to make more memories at West.

West High ELP By Ruby Bradley, 8th grade

Transitioning from Hawthorne's ELP program to West High School has been an excellent opportunity. At first, West was a bit intimidating for me because I had been at Hawthorne almost all of elementary school, but I settled in very quickly and it is now very fun, and I have learned a lot. West High has thousands of students, mostly being high schoolers, so it is a very different environment compared to Hawthorne. Regardless of there being so many students, you feel welcome and your teachers work to form a relationship with you. For students in West's ELP program most classes are with people that are your age, meaning all of your required classes only have students in your grade in them so you will always have a few familiar faces in your classes. Your electives and language classes usually have high school students, and they are very friendly towards ELP students.

At West there are many after school clubs that ELPers can participate in such as robotics, mock trial, track, and many more. These clubs are a great way to

meet new people and learn about things you find interest in. There are also many electives you can take such as art, tv broadcasting, and choir. I take art as one of my electives and I have made jewelry, paintings, sculptures, and other interesting and new projects.

Being at West has been a very good experience. I've learned a lot in my classes and have made a lot of new welcoming and usually become friends with everyone, which I feel is very similar to the environment at Hawthorne.

Clayton ELP By Eddie Coleman, 8th grade

At Clayton, the ELP program is very good. The environment is positive and supportive. Students are known to teachers which makes the students feel cared about.

Clayton offers three levels of math, and one is an accelerated program that students test into. Students in accelerated can take secondary math I as 8th graders. There is a geometry elective if you want more math, and there are separate math counts teams for 7th and 8th grade. ELP Language Arts teachers are demanding but students get a lot done. ELP students do science fair in 7th grade and history fair in 8th. Most teachers use Canvas for assignments so you can always see what's due next.

One of the best things about Clayton has been physical education. You learn to play odd sports like tchoukball, spikeball, table tennis, but also normal sports like basketball, football, soccer. They organize intramural tournaments during lunch. Lastly, school starts at 8:30 which is a little later than some other schools and gets out at 1:30 on Fridays. Overall, Clayton has been a good experience.

West High ELP By Owen Wilson, 8th grade

We have very good teachers for core classes, with a wide selection of electives to choose from. I was able to enter high school Spanish II as a 7th grader because of my Spanish instruction at Hawthorne. I also had Mr. Nickerson for 6th grade Math and entered advanced Math as a result. Coming from Hawthorne I felt well prepared to tackle the challenges of West High.

I play ultimate frisbee for the West Middle School team called the Krakens. I joined as a 6th grader to get a head start before going to West. It gave me a lot of connections with then 7th and 8th graders who I still interact with at school. There are other opportunities to get involved in sports such as with the track team and mountain biking team.

We have socials throughout the year, like afterschool field trips. They're student run and organized, they're always fun, and they're a good opportunity to make friends. We go to the trampoline park, the planetarium and ice skating, and we end each year with a big party at a nearby park.

One of my worries entering 7th grade was the challenge of making new friends with people who came from other elementary schools, but many kids came from Hawthorne, and through them and the Krakens team, I had no difficulty forming new friendships. The biggest surprise for me was the lack of interaction with the high schoolers. It was expected that I would be in school with a bunch of high school students, but for the most part I didn't interact with them. When we do interact it is friendly and minimal.

Everyone I know has enjoyed their time at West. I hope you'll join us - Once a Panther, always a Panther!

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What's next after Hawthorne ELP? continued

Here are more accounts of Middle School Magnet ELP options from Hawthorne alumni!

<u>Clayton ELP</u> By Kate Rutter, 8th grade

I am Kate Rutter, a former student from Hawthorne Elementary. I was a part of the ELP program there and loved it, and really think it helped me grow as a person and scholar. I am now attending Clayton Middle School and absolutely love it! Both the academic and social sides of this school are very enriching and fun to be a part of. I am now participating in the Magnet ELP here at Clayton and I personally believe it is an amazing learning environment, and is a great program to take part in after ELP at Hawthorne. There are many exceptional teachers at Clayton who are very experienced with students just like yours. Clayton also offers a great social environment and is very welcoming and super fun, providing students with many ways to connect with each other and form strong bonds. It is a wonderful place to go to school and I hope you choose the Cougars to continue your student's education!

<u>Hillside ELP</u> By Andrew Jeppson, 9th grade

I have two big brothers, Cameron and Micah, and we all attended Hillside's Magnet ELP (MELP) after finishing elementary school at Hawthorne. We live in the far southeastern corner of Salt Lake District, so I looked forward to attending school with friends from my neighborhood. I loved biking or walking to and from school every day with friends.

I liked being in a relatively small school of 500 kids, where all the kids were within a year of my age. The new Hillside school building was constructed just a few years ago, and it has aesthetically pleasing architecture with lots of windows and open space.

One of the most memorable and enjoyable things about Hillside is their musical play production, which they put on each spring. More than 150 kids are in the musical each year, and we spent a lot of time together, so that experience brought me many new friends. I feel like the musical helps forge a close community of students, families, and teachers.

Another thing I appreciated about Hillside was their strong music program. The orchestra and band teachers choose challenging repertoire, and their students rise to the challenge.

My brothers and I all loved being involved in student government. As student body officers, we'd put on community events, service projects and fundraisers for families in need throughout the year.

My oldest brother and I had another wonderful experience at Hillside: we took the Peer Tutor class, where we spent one class period each day in the classroom of students who have mental disabilities, helping them and getting to know them. I feel like this helped me understand people with disabilities better than I had before.

Hillside allowed us to appreciate what a wonderful education we'd gotten at Hawthorne. My MELP classes introduced me to many other kids from my neighborhood who love to learn as much as I do. My science and English teachers in my MELP classes were very capable, and I feel like my English teacher helped me improve my writing significantly. (We wrote frequent essays!) When my brothers and I attended Hillside, they had 7th and 8th grade Honors math classes, but since then they've also begun offering an Honors 7th/8th grade accelerated math class and Secondary Math I.

My brothers and I are all glad we went to Hillside MELP for middle school and we all agree that, if we had it to do all over again, we'd make the same choice.

<u>West High ELP</u> By Maxwell Majersik, 8th grade

West High School and Clayton have one very obvious difference: one is filled with high schoolers. A very legitimate worry of high school is getting bullied, and at West there seem to be a lot of older kids that would bully you. If you go to West, there will be no shoving into lockers or getting bullied by anyone outside of a little stereotypical ELP insults (All ELPers are short and nerdy). The high schoolers at West actually have an assembly where the principal warns them against bullying others, especially ELP. A large portion of students at West were in ELP and know what it's like so they sympathize with the younger kids.

Another potential problem is having to use public transport to get to school. The UTA system is very safe and reliable, without any concerns bigger than missing your stop. And once you've been using the bus for a month, it'll be easy to remember what stop you get off at. Once you get to school though, it might seem very large and unfamiliar. This feeling is grounded, but again, once you've been at school for a week, you'll kmow everything like the back of your hand. And really, you just have to know the way between your classes.

Speaking of classes, 7th grade is pretty easy. It's a step up for 6th grade and you get more homework, but there's fewer long term projects (like P.X). At West there's an A day B day schedule which means you'll have four classes one day, then have your other four classes the next day. This means that if you're assigned some math homework on Monday, it's not due until the next Wednesday, giving you more time to work on it.

Thank you to our alumni for sharing their experiences!

Find out more about Middle School Magnet ELP

SLC School District ELP Website:

https://www.slcschools.org/departments/teaching-and-learning/extended-learning-program-elp/

Parents can sign up to receive email from the District ELP office on that page.

The 7-8 ELP Parent Info meeting presentation can be viewed here:

https://www.slcschools.org/departments/teaching-and-learning/extended-learning-programelp/documents/7-8-parent-information-powerpoint/english/

The application window for Middle School Magnet ELP services for the 2020-21 school year closed November 1, with an assessment window of November 4-December 5. Eligibility letters with assessment results are mailed in mid-January.

Contact the SLC School District ELP office with any questions at 801-578-8573.

Attend a Middle School Open House to learn more:

West High School ELP Open House Jan 22nd 6:30-8:30pm, call 801-578-8500 for more information. https://west.slcschools.org/academics/extended-learning-program/ Clayton Middle School Open House Jan 28th 6-7:30pm, call 801-481-4810 for more information. https://clayton.slcschools.org/academics/programs-options/extended-learning-program-elp Hillside Middle School Open House date/time TBD, call 801-481-4828 for more information.

https://hillside.slcschools.org/academics/programs-options/extended-learning-program-elp

Glendale Middle School Open House date/time TBD, call 801-974-8319 for more information.

https://glendale.slcschools.org/academics/programs-options/extended-learning-program-elp

Shadowing

6th grade students interested in gaining firsthand experience at the Middle School magnet programs can 'shadow' a current student for a day. Contact the school of interest to schedule a shadowing date.

Would you like to contribute to the Spring issue of the ELP Newsletter? Send your ideas for content by January 2020 to the newsletter co-editors: Melanie Steiner-Sherwood <u>m.steiner.sherwood@gmail.com</u> and Kathleen Wilson <u>kathwwils@gmail.com</u>

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