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Seoul American Middle School Receives Top Honor

The SAMS AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program recently received the "Model / Demonstration" honor, making it the only school in DoDDS Pacific to receive the award.

"I'm proud of what these educators have accomplished and our AVID program at SAMS is truly impacting students in a positive way ."

Seoul American Middle School Principal, Mr. Darrell Mood

Story Continued on Page 3

KOREA CONNECTION

Message From the Korea District Superintendent

Dear Community,

In last month's edition of the Korea Connection I discussed the four R's necessary for success in our district; relationships, rigor, relevance, and results. Our schools continue to strive to offer rigorous courses that challenge our students to meet their potential. Academic rigor is teaching, learning, and assessment which promotes student growth across the curriculum.

Academic rigor in the Korea District means providing our students with unique and challenging learning opportunities. As educators, we create learning opportunities for all students that improve critical thinking skills. Improving student achievement is about teaching rigorous content to all students and at the high school level, it is also about providing students a focus. As part of the DoDEA Community Strategic Plan, highest student achievement is our primary focus. My vision is that all students leave the DoDDS Korea schools prepared for the future challenges they face.

This month's edition focuses on the strong presence of math and science throughout our DoDDS Korea schools. I am proud to serve as the DoDDS Korea Superintendent and I look forward to our continuing successes.

Samuel D. Menniti

Mr. Sam Menniti
Korea District Superintendent

Korea Connection

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Seoul American Middle School Recognized for Stellar AVID Program!

Continued from page 1

The SAMS AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program recently received the *Model / Demonstration* honor, making it the only school in DoDDS Pacific to receive the certification. AVID is reviewed annually by the Pacific Area office and must meet the national AVID standards. Each of the last two years, SAMS was certified with the *distinction* status; this year they moved into the top status of *DoDEA Model / Demonstration* status.

Teaching effective organization is a component of the AVID program and each AVID student at SAMS keeps a common binder that is used for planning. Inquiry based instruction is also a component of the AVID program. AVID students act as role models for other students by supporting fundraising events, leading groups, following school rules, and organizing campus clean-up events. Another key point to highlight is that 100% of AVID students took the PSAT exam.

85% of the faculty is AVID certified at Seoul American Middle School. The school offers five foreign languages, and all 8th grade students currently take Algebra 1 or Geometry and a foreign language of their choice. Every 7th grade student at SAMS is enrolled in a foreign language and all 6th grade students take AVID as their course of rigor. When asked about the AVID program, Principal Darrell Mood commented, “I’m proud of what these educators have accomplished and our AVID program at SAMS is truly impacting students in a positive way!”

Left: *Educators at Seoul American Middle School review the findings of the recent AVID review conducted by the DoDDS Pacific Director’s Office.*

KOREA CONNECTION

Professional Development: Focusing on Continuous Improvement in our Schools

DoDDS Korea Administrators and District Educational Liaisons recently met for their ongoing professional development to cover differentied instruction and how school principals can perform effective classroom walk-throughs. A key component of the professional development sessions includes collaboration between the District Educational Liaisons to ensure school principals can bring what they have learned back to their schools for implementation. Topics such as technology integration, modifications for special education students, and best practices in teaching were woven into the two days of professional development meetings.

***Above:* Mrs. Georgia Watters, Assistant Principal, and Mrs. Marie Cullen, Principal, OAHS.**

Above: *Mrs. Joyce Diggs, Assistant Principal, SAES.*

***Left:* Mr. Sam Menniti, DoDDS Korea Superintendent, and Mr. C W, Elementary math Coach, discuss how to differentiate math instruction.**

Korea District Announces Nomination for DoDEA Principal of the Year

We are pleased to announce the nomination of Mrs. Donna Kacmarski as the DoDDS Korea candidate for the DoDEA elementary principal of the year. Each year, the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) proudly joins the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) in recognizing National Distinguished Principals of the Year for Elementary and Middle Level. The National Distinguished Principals Program was established in 1984 as an annual event to honor exemplary elementary and middle school principals who set the pace, character, and quality of the education children receive during their early school years.

Mrs. Kacmarski currently serves as the principal of Seoul American Elementary School. She was born in Portsmouth, Virginia and after graduating from high school, Mrs. Kacmarski attended James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education.

Mrs. Kacmarski's first teaching assignment was as a fourth grade teacher at L. L. Beazley School in Prince George, Virginia. In 1992, Mrs. Kacmarski received a Masters of Education degree in School Administration from the University of Alaska, Southeast in Juneau, Alaska. Mrs. Kacmarski began her career with the Department of Defense Dependents Schools in 1993 while her family was stationed in Panama. Her first teaching assignment was as a sixth grade teacher at Curundu Elementary School. After teaching four years in Panama, Mrs. Kacmarski was transferred to Taegu American School in Korea where she taught third grade.

In August 2000, Mrs. Kacmarski was promoted to Assistant Principal at Taegu American School. With the opening of a new elementary school on Camp Humphreys in August 2003, Mrs. Kacmarski was promoted to Principal at Humphreys American Elementary School. In August 2006, she became Principal of Seoul American Elementary School.

Mrs. Kacmarski is married and has three sons who are DoDDS graduates. Her leisure activities include exercising, reading, and spending time with family and friends.

Mrs. Kacmarski will travel to Washington, DC, to participate in a two-day recognition program sponsored by the National Association of Distinguished Principals.

KOREA CONNECTION

Spotlight on Science!

C.T. Joy Middle School 8th Graders are excited about Science

Although there are only three 8th graders in Mr. H's science class this year, each one is always hard at work discovering how science has meaning in their lives. L Q says, "I have the most fun with our hands-on experiments. We have been doing so many of them this year and it has helped us understand science better." J O says, "Love the experiments and the opportunity Mr. H gives us to complete scientific research assignments." And J.D. S says, "I have never had the opportunity to do science like this. I guess it is important to have a teacher who is excited about it." Being excited about learning is what Mr. H is all about and that translates into success for his students.

J O, L Q, and J.D. S use a protocol to extract DNA.

KOREA CONNECTION

Spotlight on Math !

Circle Plot Theorem

N S, Classroom Teacher

Daegu American School, 3rd / 4th Multiage

My students struggle to internalize multiplication facts, and I am always interested in learning new ways in which they can explore them. When C W and B T, the DoDDS Korea Elementary Math Coaches, presented our school's math initiative participants with a way to graph multiplication patterns on a circle, I was fascinated, and my students were too!

We've spent about three weeks studying the patterns created by the ones digits when you list multiples of a specific number. My third graders began using repeated addition or hundreds charts to find the multiples of numbers zero through twelve. They identified six distinct patterns, then wondered if other numbers would have one of the six patterns or if others would emerge. They soon discovered that there were only six patterns, and began thinking about ways to predict which pattern a number might have without having to first find its multiples. One of my students noticed that there appeared to be palindromes in the pattern.

Because we were looking at larger numbers, students used thousand charts (extended hundred charts), calculators, repeated addition, and even Microsoft Excel formulas to find multiples. We're currently testing several of our theories about numbers and their patterns, but have tentatively decided that the pattern a number's multiples will make depends only on the ones digit of that number, and we're calling it our Circle Plot Theorem. My students find being mathematicians exciting, and will even choose to continue working during recess and other free periods.

KOREA CONNECTION

Spotlight on Math !

The Language of Mathematics

Can a Multiage Age Group of First and Second Graders Connect Reading and Mathematics?

B T

Elementary Math Coach

Take a look inside two elementary classrooms and see how teachers from Daegu American School are implementing the **Korea District Elementary Math Initiative.** The classroom visit began in Mrs. J S's multiage classroom filled with 1st and 2nd grade students. First, I would like to shout "Kudos" to her! It was quite exciting to see a room rich with math displays, math bulletin boards, math vocabulary words, and student math work throughout!

During a collaboration session with her, I was informed that the students would be working on the Number and Operations Standard, focusing specifically on subtraction with renaming and regrouping. I wanted to assess the students' prior knowledge of essential vocabulary terms before moving on to the procedural steps of subtraction. The primary focus of the District Math Initiative is reading in mathematics. Therefore, I chose one of the vocabulary strategies posted on Blackboard (District Math Initiative) by C W, lead math coach, called the List Group and Label (LGL) to model how to link reading strategies to teach abstract knowledge in mathematics.

To motivate the students and assess their prior knowledge before the lesson, we began with a brief discussion of *how* to organize information. The students grouped math vocabulary words on the board, according to common characteristics, while the other students were encouraged to closely observe their peer's thinking, which lead to whole group discussion.

***Left:* B T, Elementary math Coach, works with J S's multiage class.**

***Right:* J S, Multiage teacher at Daegu, is passionate about teaching math to her first and second grade students.**

KOREA CONNECTION

Spotlight on Math !

Continued from page 8

The Language of Mathematics

Can a Multiage Age Group of First and Second Graders Connect Reading and Mathematics?

B T

Elementary Math Coach

In the course of observing and listening to the students during this activity, I was able to determine that my instructional focus would be on the following terms: minus, minuend, subtrahend, number line, rename, and regroup. The concepts of these vocabulary words were made clear with the use of the number line displayed in a prominent position in Mrs. S's room. The number line helped students make a visual connection between the vocabulary and the concepts they represent. It also allowed them to clarify and explain their thinking using the language of mathematics. The classroom discourse allowed students to describe the basic rules and steps for subtracting with regrouping.

On-going assessment was used throughout the lesson. Once students had a grasp of the mathematical concepts being presented, I knew when to provide successful experiences with the mechanics of regrouping. Students understood the connections between the vocabulary and symbols used with subtraction. It was an awesome experience to observe students making connections manipulative to verbal to written translations in mathematics!

Military Child Education Coalition

Parent-to-Parent Community Training Opportunity for Parents of School Age Children

The seminar will begin with an overview session of transition issues and resources which impact parents of school age children. This one hour overview will be followed with breakout sessions focused on more specific issues and strategies according to the age of the students. Breakout sessions will include:

- Organization, Communication and Involvement: Keys to Success in Elementary School
- Chart Your Course for Success in High School and Beyond
- Chart Your Course: The College Admission and Financial Aid Process

DATES: Seoul Schools-March 17th, Humphreys (to include OSAN Schools)-March 18th, Daegu-March 19th. **Please contact your school for the location and time of your area's scheduled seminar.**

Humphreys American Elementary School

Counting the Way to the 100th Day

Contributions by DH, Information Specialist

February 13th was the 100th day of school at Humphreys American Elementary School. Primary students celebrated with a variety of activities designed to deepen their understanding of number sense. As stated in the DoDEA Math Standards, students will "understand numbers, ways of representing numbers, relationships among numbers and number systems." (For details on DoDEA standards see www.dodea.edu/curriculum/standards.cfm).

Students participated in a variety of activities including counting by ones, twos, fives, and tens, grouping objects into tens and hundreds, creating art with groups of 100 objects, and reading stories which use the number 100. While having fun, students learned about place value, the foundation of our number system, and regrouping objects; a basic concept critical for all mathematical operations. Thanks to the HAES teachers, our students are developing strong basic mathematical knowledge to build on throughout their school years.

Above: Students in Mrs. H's class enjoyed reading a lot of stories about the 100th day. O H, J F, S S, and S B show some of the books they've been reading.

Above: Mrs. Ms students M R and M P group objects to make one hundred. These grouping skills help students when solving many types of math problems. (Photo by J. M, 2/3 Multiage Teacher)

Osan American Elementary School

Contributions by M H

Math and Science at OAES

Sixth graders at Osan American Elementary have been working on unique projects for math and science. Mrs. C's class is making Lunar Rovers. After studying about rovers and the moon, students worked together to form machines from simple materials. The rover had to be able to move with the help of balloon power (a deflating balloon). Students then tested their projects in the gym and decided which models worked best for maximum distance and weight capacity.

Early Spring Baseball ruled in Mr. C's room. The class used ALL STAR baseball concepts for developing theoretical probabilities and percentages. Students had to look up stats on players and then calculate and show percentages on a template. Degrees, percents, and long division were also required to play a game where students matched their player against others.

Daegu American School

Contributions by Corinne Vail

Exploring Energy!

Mrs. M's fifth grade students, at Daegu, explored potential and kinetic energy during a science lab. The students were looking for relationships between the height of the ramp and the distance the marble traveled. They then took those results and shared what this meant in terms of the marble's kinetic and potential energy. The fifth graders pictured here are L B and B W.

Science: Creating Models of Cells

6th Grade Scientists in Mr. R's class had to come up with clever ways to make a model of a plant or animal cell. Results were absolutely amazing as some groups chose themes using candy, vegetables, fruits and common objects in a suspension of clear corn syrup. They also made picture guide keys to identify the organelles (parts) of a cell.

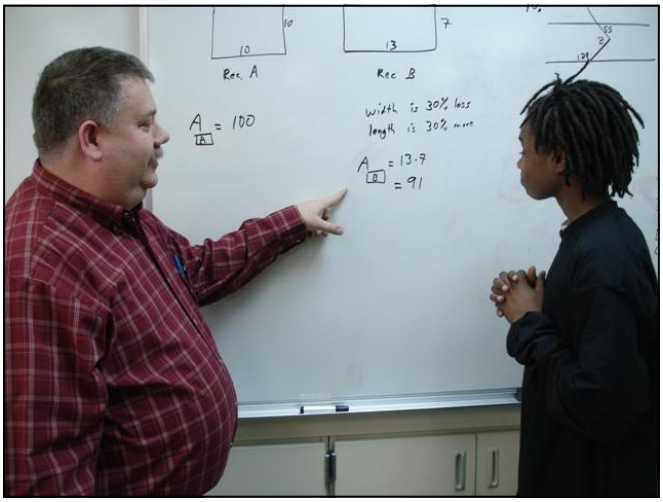
Left: B I, R M, and A S with their model of a cell.

Articles Contributed by RH

Osan American High School

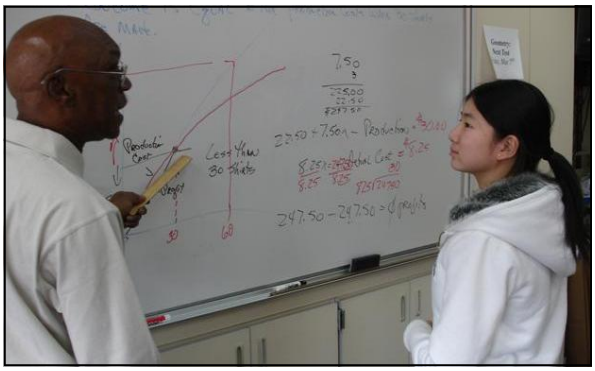
Math S.A.T. Prep

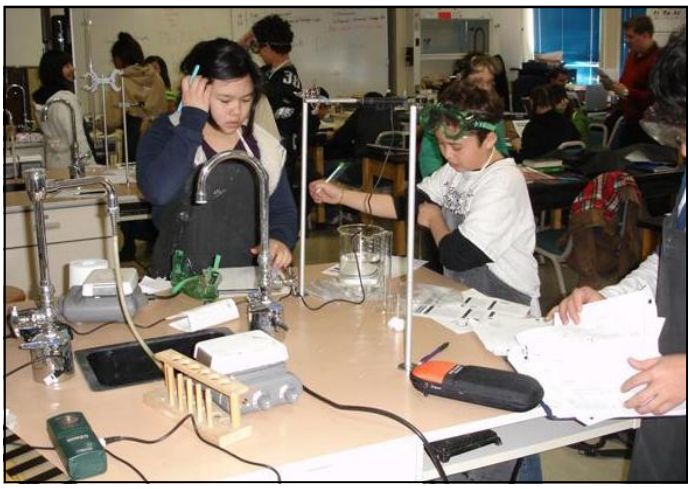
OAHS student M C knows what it takes to be successful on the Scholastic Aptitude Test. That is why he is one of the school's many students who have signed up for the S.A.T. preparation class with a focus on improving knowledge and skills assessed on this important exam. The course teacher, Mr. J C, spends quality "one on one" instruction time with his students as he provides much needed test taking strategies to the students. The Math S.A.T. Prep class is one of the many approaches the school is taking to prepare students for college and to improve test scores.



OAHS Laboratories: Labor of Love

February 14th means more than valentine cards, chocolate candy and red hearts at OAHS. February is a time when both math and science classes are involved in a wide variety of activities within the laboratories. Laboratories provide opportunities for students to demonstrate the concepts and skills they learn within the normal classroom setting while practicing real world problem-solving.





Above: *Mr. J W provides additional instruction during Math lab.*

Left: *Osan students utilize hands-on science activities to understand science concepts.*

KOREA CONNECTION

Seoul American Elementary School

Contributions by K Y

Using Math Skills to Celebrate 100 Days of School

Students in Ms. K S's first grade classroom celebrated the 100th Day of School on February 14th with counting, sorting, charting and graphing various items. M S, A Y and S R show off their 100 items—stripes! A Q checks his charting and graphing.

From Script Revisions to Stage: It's Not as Easy as it Seems

Ms. P M's fourth grade class studied the book "*Henry's Freedom Box*" by Ellen Levine. The class decided to take their study one step further by recreating the book from the point of view of different characters in the story. Prior to the performance, G C, C Y, F P and M B discuss revisions to their script.

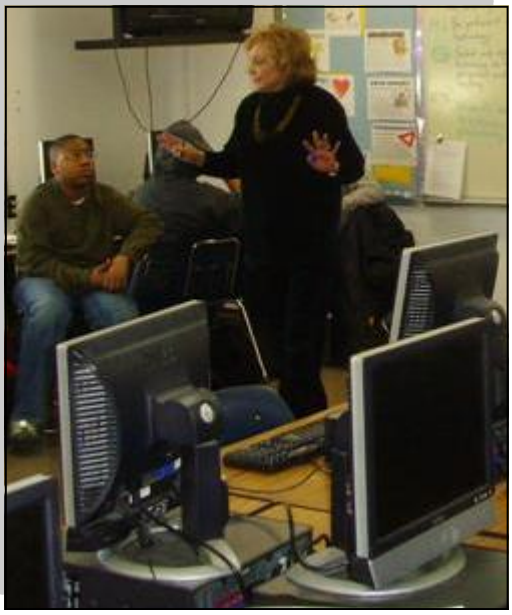
Visit the Seoul American Elementary Internet Site!

www.seoul-es.pac.dodea.edu

Seoul American Middle School

Contributions by P K & S M

Ready for High School?



On Feb. 12 and 13, A M the counselor at Seoul American High School visited 8th grade students taking Pathways to Careers.

Ms. M shared with the students all the different classes they can take at the high school and information on what colleges will expect from them in the future. Ms. M also discussed the necessary steps in making a smooth transition into the high school.

KAIAC (Korean American Interscholastic Activities Conference) Orchestra Festival

Seoul American Middle School string students, along with students from five International schools, participated in the KAIAC (Korean American Interscholastic Activities Conference) Orchestra Festival on Tuesday, February 19, 2008. Students spent the entire day in rehearsals under the direction of the various teachers from the participating schools, culminating in a performance for the community at Seoul American High School.

Seoul American High School

Contributions by BM

Engineer Day at SAHS

Three 9th Graders (A H, A S and L W) take notes as visiting IMCOM Engineer J K explains the summer programs available through S.A.M.E. (Society of American Military Engineers) during the Engineers Day presentations at SAHS.

Seoul Students Prepare for Trip to Japan

The Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS) is a primary scientific research program sponsored by the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines to inspire high school students to seek and conduct rigorous scientific research. The annual Far East JSHS will take place in Tsukuba City, Japan during the week of March 24th and will include seven Seoul American High School Students. Students are selected based on the scientific value and quality of their individual primary scientific research. Research is presented in two formats, oral presentation and poster presentation with sixteen students in the Pacific selected to present their research in an oral presentation. SAHS will have 3 oral presenters, C C, J D and N R. The remaining four students, E C, M C, S M and P S will make poster presentations. Congratulations to these seven students for their hard work and selection to Far East JSHS.

CT Joy ES/MS

Chinhae, South Korea

Junior Science and Humanities Symposium

Eighth graders, L Q and J O from Mr. H's Science class, will be attending the Junior Science and Humanities symposium at Tsukuba City, Japan from 23-27 March 2008. The symposium will be attended by DoDDS students from every school in the DoDDS Pacific District. The Junior Science and Humanities Symposia (JSHS) Program promotes original research and experimentation in the sciences, engineering, and mathematics at the high school level and publicly recognizes students for outstanding achievement. By connecting talented students, their teachers, and research professionals at affiliated symposia and by rewarding research excellence, JSHS aims to widen the pool of trained talent prepared to conduct research and development vital to our nation. Our students have submitted their research paper and abstract called "Dream Study" to the Pacific District. In order to conduct their research, they surveyed children and adults here at Fleet Activities Chinhae, to find out what types of dreams we have, and other pertinent information about our dreams. Tsukuba City is like the "Silicon Valley" of Japan. This is where major Japanese companies have their research and development laboratories. Our students will have the opportunity to tour these facilities and learn about how science is applied.

Korea District ▪ Unit 15549 ▪ APO AP 96205-5549

Korea District Snapshots