



Teacher Newsletter - August 25, 2022

Welcome to the 2022-2023 School Year!



Dear SMILE Teachers,

We hope you had a relaxing and fun filled summer break! We're excited to work with each SMILE teacher, whether you're returning or brand new to the program. This year is shaping up to be a great one, as we bring back in-person events like Family Math and Science Nights and the Challenge! To keep you in the loop, newsletters will be coming out every other week. Informational YouTube Shorts will be made available on alternating weeks. **For all lessons featured during the workshop, check out our Google Drive Folder: [Click Here](#)**

This quote feels appropriate as we look to the year ahead: "The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery." – Mark Van Doren.

Thank you, SMILE Teachers, for inspiring your students, your community, and us!

Important Dates to keep in mind as you plan the year and make arrangements for substitutes and transportation –

- **Between October 3 and November 18:** Hold a Fall Family Math and Science Night. See the next page for FMSN tips from LaCuKnoS! *Becca will be in contact to work out the details with you.*
- **Week of December 12:** Virtual Family Math and Science Night. *Specific date to be determined.*
- **Friday and Saturday, January 27 and 28:** Winter Teacher Workshop at OSU.
- **Tuesday and Wednesday, April 11 and 12:** Middle School Challenge at Western Oregon University (WOU) and either the Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC), or OSU.
- **Tuesday and Wednesday, April 18 and 19:** High School Challenge at WOU and either the HMSC, or OSU.
- **Elementary Challenge Dates** – *Stay tuned for dates.*
- **Thursday and Friday, May 11 and 13:** *Tentative dates and location* – Spring Teacher Workshop at HJ Andrews Research Forest.

LaCuKnoS Corner – Tips for organizing a great Family Math and Science Night

★ **Family Math & Science (or STEM or STEAM) Nights are a great opportunity to integrate several important goals. If all goes well, your family event can:**

- Strengthen connections and communication between teachers and students' families in a fun and low-stress environment (unlike a parent-teacher conference);
- Support and deepen students' interest and confidence as science (or STEM) learners through the opportunity to do and discuss fun, hands-on activities;
- Increase interest in, awareness of and recruitment for your SMILE club and the clubs at other schools in your community;
- Prompt ongoing family conversations about STEM in our lives and about STEM careers.



A picture from last year's family night in Nyssa... lots of families, lots of science talk and lots of fun!

★ **To increase these positive outcomes, here are a few tips and things to consider for your event:**

- Plan to include a wide variety of science (STEM/STEAM) activities that will appeal to a range of ages, abilities, and interests;
- Recruit student volunteers (like your SMILE club students) to participate in the event as activity leaders or activity assistants;
- Create “table questions” that prompt a thoughtful discussion about each activity and the science concepts involved. Try to get families talking together about these questions.
- Engage parents/ adults with their children in doing and discussing the activities -- think of the activities as being for families together rather than as just for students.
- Consider using LaCuKnoS and other SMILE activities that you already have supplies for and that your SMILE club students may be able to help facilitate for others.
- Consider adding opportunities to highlight STEM careers in your community and connections with other community partners who you could invite to have a table at your event.

Gearing up for SMILE

Here are some helpful tips as you get ready to recruit members.
Pick and choose the combo that works best for you!

- Personally invite students you'd like to join.
- Encourage word of mouth among SMILE members.
- Have your first meeting be an informational pizza party.
- Use your school's regular video/email announcements to plug SMILE.
- Hold a Family Math and Science Night.
- Put up recruitment flyers or posters. *Customizable recruitment and Family Math and Science Night flyers are available: [Click Here](#)*
- Speak directly with other teachers and school counselors for member recommendations.
- Let students know they can be part of a **fun**, hands-on, collaborative science club!



Check out these resources as you kick start the year –



For a SMILE timeline, incentive schedule, member applications, and more, check out the “SMILE Blast-Off” folder in Google Drive: [Click Here](#)

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