



# ESUMS Going for the Gold

A Bi-Monthly a Guide to STEM, Teaching, & Learning

## About this newsletter:

This monthly newsletter is a guide to the activities and learning that your child is doing at ESUMS. Our goal is to inform you of the various activities happening at ESUMS and communicate important information about teaching and learning, including our magnet theme and instructional focuses.

Regards,

*The leadership team*

Medria Blue-Ellis, Stephanie Paris-Cooper, Amy Migliore, Shawna Johnson, Alice Coleman, Michelle Stango-McConaghy, and Kim Moore

## School-Wide Instructional Focus- Writing for the Gold

The instructional focus for the 2016-2017 school year is: COMPLEX SENTENCES!

A school-wide instructional focus does not just focus on "instruction" generally. It is the one thing that we do better than anyone else, in every classroom for every student. It's what we hold ourselves accountable for and expect our students to know and be able to do. This year, the focus is: *complex sentences* (sentence expansion and sentence patterns). By focusing our instructional goals on complex sentences, students will learn the art of styling sentences. This will in turn allow them to demonstrate knowledge and communicate clearly throughout-and beyond- their educational career.

All content area teachers -science, engineering, math, world language, and social studies, not just in English -are responsible for implementing the "school-wide instructional focus." **Hence**, all students will be prepared for college and beyond!

### What is Sentence Expansion?

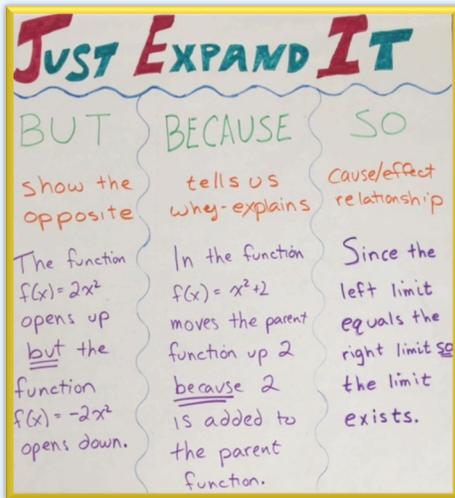
Sentence expansion is a specific method to add one or more words or phrases to a sentence to create a more complete sentence.

At ESUMS students use sentence expansion to add targeted words to sentences in order to enhance their writing and communication.

### What are Sentence Patterns?

Sentence patterns are specific arrangements of words, phrases, and clauses in a sentence.

At ESUMS students are learning sentence patterns so they can add variety to their writing to create a more polished piece. Additionally, this will allow students to produce writing that will prepare them for the collegiate level.



Classroom Anchor Chart Example

**Ways to engage your child with the school-wide instructional focus:**

- Use the words in conversations
- Ask how they are **Writing for the Gold** in class or ask your child to show you a writing sample.

**Focus Words This Month**

- **Draw conclusion words:**
  - Thus, Therefore, Hence
- Appositives

**Review Words**

- **Change of direction words:**
  - Yet, But, However, Although
- Hence
- Therefore
- No only/ but also

**Coming Up**

- Introductory phrases
- Prepositional phrases

**Rubric Snap Shot Example:** Below is an excerpt from a rubric for an essay used in Anatomy and Physiology.

Language & Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logical progression of ideas in which each new element connects to and builds on that which precedes it.</li> <li>• <b>Sentence expansion is prevalent (4 different examples).</b></li> <li>• Generally free of mistakes in grammar, word usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.</li> <li>• Effectively uses academic and content-specific vocabulary that is accurate and appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate progression of ideas in which each new element connects to and builds on that which precedes it</li> <li>• <b>Sentence expansion (3 different examples)</b></li> <li>• Contains some mistakes in grammar, word usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling, but they do not interfere with meaning</li> <li>• Uses academic content-specific vocabulary adequately and accurately</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uneven progression of ideas from beginning to end in which ideas are inconsistently or not clearly connected and/or formulaic approach.</li> <li>• <b>Sentence expansion (2 different examples)</b></li> <li>• Mistakes in grammar, word usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling are frequent and may interfere at times with meaning</li> <li>• Uses academic and content-specific vocabulary inaccurately and/or in limited ways</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elements are disjointed or disconnected and do not build in a logical sequence</li> <li>• <b>Sentence expansion (1 or no examples)</b></li> <li>• Mistakes in grammar, word usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling are so frequent that meaning is obscured.</li> <li>• Uses little to no academic and/or content-specific vocabulary</li> </ul>
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## School Culture

Prior to Thanksgiving Grades 6 and 7 participated in a Gratitude Door Contest. Students designed and decorated their homeroom's classroom door. Mr. Erazo's door came in first place and Mr. Chandlers came in second. All students did a great job!

**First Place Winner- Mr. Erazo**



**Second Place Winner- Mr. Chandler**



## What We're Reading!

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade-** *The Great Fire*

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade-** *Phineas Gage*

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade-** *Getting Away with Murder*

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade-** *Native American folklore & Legends*

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade-** *Raisin in the Sun*

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade-** *Fences, Various short stories and poetry*

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade-** *The Color Purple*

## Teacher Trainings/ Professional Developments:

- 10 staff members attended a webinar on Executive Function.
- World Language Department attended a webinar on: Teaching a Second Language for Special Education Students.
- Jackie Hennessey, High School English and AP Language Teacher attended an AP workshop.
- Mr. Rushworth attended 3 PD's on Environmental Protections- hosted by the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP).
- Mr. Smith, Mr. Romanelli, and Ms. Ferrandiz presented at a district math PD.
- Two administrators attended Title IX training.
- All staff completed mandated court reporter training.
- 2 teachers attended Cisco and Apple training.
- Toni Criscuolo, Mike Naples and Eric Maroney are serving as curriculum facilitator for the Social Studies and English Department.

## Peer Mediation

Peer Mediation is a program at ESUMS made up of students helping other students work out their conflicts. The purpose of Peer Mediation is to address potential problems proactively in an attempt to prevent further incident, which may result in suspending a student(s) from school.

The duration of the mediation varies with the subject matter and the students involved (**and is guaranteed to be shorter than a suspension!**).

All absences for mediation are excused and accommodations should be made for the student(s) to complete any materials missed while in mediation.

# Assessment

## Mathematics

Students in grades 6-12 took their first quarterly assessment the week of October 31<sup>st</sup>. These assessments happen at the end of each quarter.

\*Reminder: middle school students in advanced math classes must score 80% or above on these assessments to move to the next math level next year.

## English Language Arts

Students in grades 6-9 took the Scholastic Reading Intervention (SRI) test in October. This test helps measure students reading comprehension.

Students in grades 6-8 will take the assessment two more times this school year, once in January and again in April.

In order to promote the success of all students we are looking at student scores and giving further assessments to determine what type of intervention, if any is needed.

# Magnet Information

## **Business Partners Meeting**

On Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, ESUMS conducted its first Advisory Board meeting for the 2016-17 academic year. The purpose of the Advisory Board, which consists of business professionals and community members (see members list below), is to guide and support our educational efforts with meaningful business and community involvement. These partners will serve as valuable resources as we strive to meet the academic and professional needs of our students. In addition, partnership involvement will include "Lunch & Learn" sessions where over a lunch period, business professionals, from a variety of areas sit with high school students to discuss their profession and its necessary skills. Internships and job shadows are also opportunities open to our students. The Advisory Board is set to meet four times per year (once per quarter).

## **Advisory Board Members**

### ***Community Members***

Betsey Doane, *Former Math Professor*  
Jill Kelly, *PTO President*  
Marcus Paca, *City of New Haven Leader*

### ***Business Partners***

Lourdes Alvarez – *University of New Haven*  
Keshia Ashe – *Many Mentors*  
Erica Bradley – *INROADS*  
Arvin Chaudhary – *Nadicent Technologies*  
Christian Contreras – *Cisco Systems*  
Errol Ellis – *Metro North Railroad*  
Donald McAulay – *INROADS*  
Jay McDougall – *Presidio Network Solutions*  
Nicki Perkins & Marian Hourigan – *Connecticut Council for Education Reform*  
Sandra Ruiz – *Sandra Ruiz Enterprises*  
Kenya Soares – *C-Sharp Security*  
Elicia Spearman – *Hubbell*  
Leonard Webb – *Ethnic Online Magazine*  
Andrew Wolf – *City of New Haven, Dept. of Arts, Culture, Tourism & Int'l Trade*

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### ESUMS Shadowing

ESUMS is currently operating at full capacity and is therefore only conducting shadowing experiences for students entering grades 6 and 9 in the fall (September, 2017). We are currently scheduling shadow visits for rising 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders beginning Tuesday, January 17, 2017 through Tuesday, January 31, 2017. Below are New Haven Magnet Schools important dates and deadlines. Please visit [newhavenmagnetschools.com](http://newhavenmagnetschools.com) for additional details.

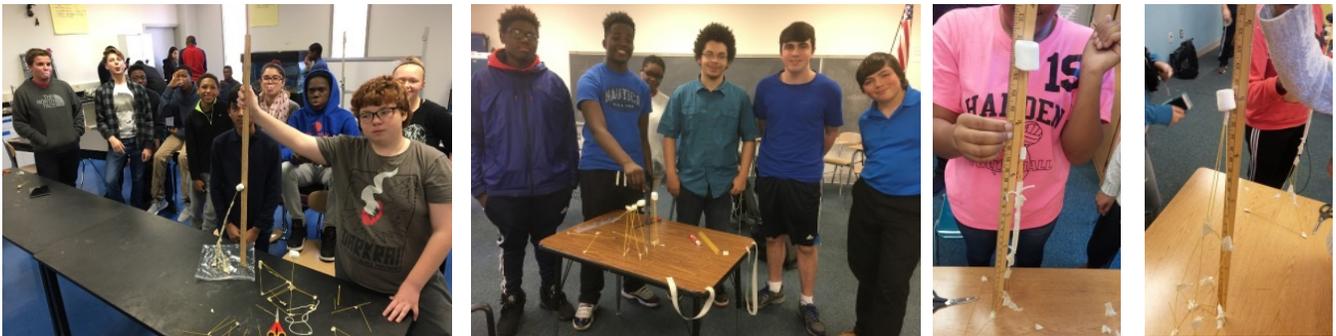
- Jan. 17-31: ESUMS Shadow visits (Call Alice S. Coleman to schedule a visit)
- Feb.1: School Choice applications available
- Feb. 1: New Haven Magnet Schools Expo @ Floyd Little Athletic Center (6PM-8PM)
- Feb. 5: New Haven Magnet Schools Expo @ John Martinez School (12N-2PM)
- Mar. 5: Application Deadline
- Apr. 3: Lottery

### UNH Partnership

Alice Coleman, *Magnet Resource Teacher* and Maya Severson, *UNH Liaison*, are working hard to strengthen our partnership with UNH. Through this effort, they are in the process of meeting with UNH professors and ESUMS teachers regarding possible collaboration projects for this academic year. It is their goal to have the collaboration between university students and ESUMS students, further enhance the quality of the projects produced. Current UNH Collaboration: they are working on pairing up UNH business/entrepreneurship and UNH science students to help ESUMS students with projects to be presented at this year's *15<sup>th</sup> Annual Skills21 Expo Fest*. *Skills21* is a nationally known leader in digital learning and recognized by the US Department of Education as an exemplary model for delivering STEM achievement. *Expo Fest*, sponsored by Skills21, is the ultimate experience for students' hard work and innovation. This high-energy event lets students showcase their innovative, cross-curricular products, services, community actions, digital media, and film programs. ESUMS will be participating in *Expo Fest* again this year as they compete to defend their title in various competition categories.

## STEM Day November 2016

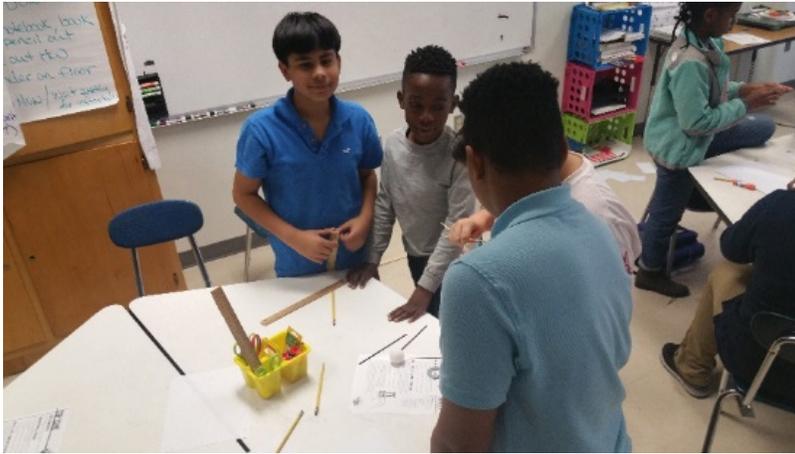
The half-day before our Thanksgiving holiday was a day of learning and fun, dedicated to STEM education. Building structures with raw spaghetti and marshmallows, pipe cleaner structures, Zip-line building, and learning the story of Phineas Gage, were a just a few of the projects featured.



High School- Marshmallow Challenge



# Middle School STEM Day Activities



6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Ms. Napoletano's class designing and creating their zip-line



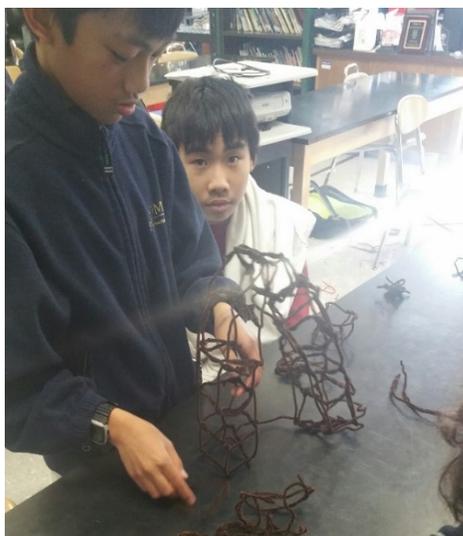
7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Ms. Blackwood

&



Ms. Streets' Homerooms



8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Mr. Rushworth's class is working on building the tallest structure out of pipe cleaners.

**November STEM Day**



**"She Started It" By Nora Poggie**

UNH Movie Screening



**High School Coronation Basketball Game and Dance**



**HBCU College Fair NYC 2016**

