

The Northern Utah Academy for Math, Engineering and Science (NUAMES)

NUAMES is a S.T.E.M. focused school that offers an early college experience using its 4 Pillars of Education: Teaching Excellence, Focus on S.T.E.M., Small School Environment, and University Partnership. They have two campuses located in Ogden and Layton. We would like to acknowledge the amazing administration team at NUAMES:

Executive Director – Kelli Both

Student Services Coordinator – Dawn Winter

Business Administrator – Nate Taggart

Principal – Steven Davis

Assistant Principals – Brenda Casper and Mindy Nelson

It is an honor to highlight them in this month's Administrative Spotlight. Included are their signature programs that have contributed to their outstanding success:

F Blitz

The success of the students is the number one goal at NUAMES. The F Blitz is designed for students who have failing grades at mid-terms and need extra support and hands-on mentoring. This event takes place immediately after posting midterm grades, and usually requires the administrative team's involvement for the entire day. Students that have earned one or more midterm failing grade(s) are called down to meet with administration to discuss their current academic struggles. Support is offered and a follow-up meeting is set to monitor progress. The connection that is created in these meetings is simply amazing! It becomes clear to students that administration personally cares about them and their academic progress. While academics is the purpose for the meeting, most often, the discussion is centered around other life factors that are causing the struggle. The Blitz provides a way for administrators to put names with faces creating an opportunity for meaningful connections with students as well as gathering important information for "Why" the student is struggling. The success of the program is attributed to 100% graduation rate for last year and reduced the number of students with failing grades at midterm by 21%. Some positive outcomes directly related to this process are:

- 1) **Teachers** feel supported as administration is active in assisting students in reaching academic success.
- 2) **Counselors** are supported in lessening the need for credit recovery and remediation progress.
- 3) **Students** have another "meaningful adult relationship" at school.
- 4) **Parents** report deep appreciation for administration being involved in their student's education.
- 5) **NUAMES** creates a culture of caring and compassion in our community.

NUAMES Capstone

A graduation requirement for all NUAMES students is the completion of a Capstone project. The project focuses on the student's ability to complete a service project, increase their awareness, knowledge, or skills in a subject area, and to contribute positively to their families and communities. Students are assigned a mentor to help them navigate this multi-year project. Humanitarian projects, local service to their community, building robotics, computers, 3D printers, and civic volunteerism are just a few examples of student Capstone projects. The application of the skills, knowledge and abilities acquired by NUAMES students continues to be the focus of the school. NUAMES believes that the great aim of education is not just knowledge but applying that knowledge to real-life action for the betterment of humankind. NUAMES teachers and administrators can confidently state that NUAMES graduates are prepared for life after school. The students know how to be successful in a college/work environment. They know how to follow rules and to be appropriate. They also know how to break the rules and boundaries to apply creativity in solving engineering problems. Solving and systematically working through problems is at the very root of NUAMES's three-year curriculum. The students learn transferable skills that they can apply to many situations, settings, and environments to improve their lives and the lives around them.

NUAMES Awards

In fall of 2021, NUAMES was recognized as the 'Safest School District in the Nation' out of 11,389 school districts nationwide (niche.com 2021). This award considers discipline referrals, Safe School violations, and parent/student survey data. NUAMES is a Platinum Level S.T.E.M. Designated School in the State of Utah. To earn this designation, the school must undergo a rigorous and intensive S.T.E.M. audit. NUAMES also earned one of the highest scores posted on a Cognia school accreditation report. NUAMES scored 40 points above the national average and did not have a single area of deficiency. NUAMES received Charter School of the Year by the Utah Charter Network (UCN) in 2017-18. The following year, the Utah Association of Public Charter Schools (UAPCS) recognized NUAMES as the Charter School of the Year. NUAMES has earned the #1 Magnet School in the State of Utah on niche.com (2021) and has been recognized by US News and World Report as a Bronze recipient. This ranking only recognizes AP coursework, not concurrent enrollment or early college. NUAMES has been recognized by www.topschoolsintheusa.com as one of the best schools in the country. In the 2018 school year, NUAMES received an award from the Utah State Charter Board for Consistent High Growth and Performance on State Assessments.

Due to the efforts of excellent administrators, who are the core of NUAMES's success, the school is recognized for their high-achieving, student-centered approach which has been maintained for the past four years despite the rapid growth experienced by the school.