

IDAHO DISTANCE EDUCATION ACADEMY

Planting the seeds of tomorrow, **TODAY.**

October 2011

Northern Region Newsletter

Issue 2



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Important Dates:

October 21, 2011
IDFY Chapter Mtg

October 31, 2011
Monthly Progress
Due

October 31, 2011
Halloween

From Jason Bransford, I-DEA Director

Dear I-DEA Families,
I hope that each of you are enjoying schooling with I-DEA. Playing a key role in your child's education is rewarding, so I hope each of you can feel the pleasure of this great investment in your children. In the last few years, Idaho has been flooded with virtual schools. Some are statewide, others are run by local school districts. This trend will likely continue in the coming years, so I thought it would be useful to outline what makes I-DEA different than other virtual schools in Idaho.

Curricular Choice- I-DEA is the only virtual school that offers a variety of research-based curricular options. This is because I-DEA is not sponsored by a publishing company and can freely choose the most effective curricular programs without loyalty to any one company. Student performance has shown that this is a very effective approach to curriculum selection.

Instructional Support- I-DEA offers Instructional Support to supplement instruction in elective courses. Our students have developed countless skills as a result of this opportunity.

Low Student/Teacher Ratios- Many virtual schools have well over 200 students assigned to one teacher. In I-DEA, the most students that can be assigned to a teacher is 75. This allows more individualized attention, and the feedback we receive regularly is that parents and students feel like they actually know their teacher well.

Resource Centers- We have 3 resource centers around Idaho to serve students face-to-face as much as possible. We recognize the value in having an office in each part of the state where parents and students can come to meet with teachers, get tutoring, and get the support they need to be successful.

Dual Credit Reimbursement – We are the only virtual school that reimburses for dual credit college courses for high school students. This program has grown substantially each year. The more people understand this program, the more it continues to grow. Students who fully utilize this program during their junior and senior years can save over \$18,000 in college costs by the time they graduate high school. Over 50% of I-DEA graduates have taken Dual

Credit courses. This speaks highly of I-DEA high school students!

High Academic Achievement- As I mentioned in my last email that went out to all I-DEA families, we were the only statewide virtual school to meet Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) academic targets set forth in No Child Left Behind legislation. This speaks to the success of what our families do each day, and to the educational programs offered at I-DEA.

Enrollment- We are happy to focus on quality or quantity. Rather than setting goals for enrollment growth, I-DEA is happy to stay the same size and focus on increasing student academic achievement each year. We rely almost entirely on word of mouth referrals for new enrollment. This allows I-DEA to focus our limited resources on educational programs, rather than a large marketing budget.

Thank you again for all your hard work in making I-DEA a place where students are successful and people love to bring their friends!

Sincerely,
Jason Bransford

Parent to Parent by Karen Ashenbrenner, Community Coordinator

Outings, Events and RSVP

As Community Coordinator I plan and coordinate Outings and Events for I-DEA families, such as the Back to School Outing and the Science Day Event. Both were successful and a lot of fun! I enjoyed meeting new parents and students, as well as re connecting with returning parents and their children!

Outings and Events are a great way to expose your children to a variety of subject matter that support home schooling endeavors. It is my goal to make every Outing and Event an enjoyable, meaningful, and educational experience for students, parents and their guest.

Our groups so far have been quite large, students are excited and happy to have some hands on activities is apparent! Due to the size of the groups I feel it is important to review some guidelines of expectations that will help Outings and Events run as smoothly as possible.

Outings- are activities that take place in the community, away from the PFRC. An *Outing Permission Form* is required; the *Outing Permission Form* can be found on the I-DEA web site. When visiting a place of business, we must always show our appreciation and be respectful to employees and the premises.

Events- take place at the PFRC, no *Outing Permission Form* is necessary.

The PFRC is a place of business, please be mindful that I-DEA staff is working and indoor voices are necessary.

Information and Fees - Information for Outings and Events are contained in flyers that are emailed to parents, posted in the I-DEA Newsletter and at the PFRC. Flyers contain the WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, FEES (if any), WEB SITES, SIGN UP DEADLINES, RESPONSE CONTACT, and any other pertinent information. This year Contact Teachers are providing portfolio ideas based on the Content Standards for Outings/Events, this should make for some fun work samples!

Continued, next page.

By Velvet Gutridge, Teacher

Portfolios



Portfolio ideas can be found on the I-DEA website.

After logging on click on the curriculum/standards tab.

Then click Elementary K-6th tab.

Go to pacing guides. Click on a subject.

The column on the far right will give you examples of portfolios.

“Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.”

Malcolm Forbes

Portfolio Conferences occur every semester at I-DEA. For many of us, Portfolio Conferences are a favorite time of the school year. It is a time for students to show successes, explain goals, and express struggles. It is a time for Contact Teachers to get to know their students better and for students and parents to reflect on what they have accomplished.

Student portfolios should be an authentic collection of work over time that reflects a student's day to day learning. Portfolios are a collection of work in progress. There are two primary types of portfolios: Best Work and Process portfolios.

The Best Work Portfolios, which consist of finished projects and are often used when students are applying to college, internships or jobs.

The Process Portfolio is the type most commonly used at I-DEA. It is a collection of evidence that documents the student's learning from the

beginning of the year to the conference time. It can be used as an assessment portfolio because it shows a student's effort, progression to, and achievement of mastery of basic and advanced skills.

Choosing items for a student portfolio should be a collaborative effort of the administration, teacher, parent and student. At I-DEA, our board of trustees requires that every student have at least one writing sample included in each semester's portfolio. The writing sample needs to include a prewriting activity, a rough draft, a revised and edited draft as well as the final copy.

The Contact Teacher may have input into what goes into the portfolio. For example, if a student is just learning to read the teacher may ask for a list of sight words mastered each semester to be included in the portfolio. If a student is struggling in math the teacher may ask the student to include evidence of math facts mastered. These requests aren't punitive in nature but are made to help the teacher gain better insights to the student's abilities and needs. It also gives the teacher the opportunity to be a cheerleader for your student and a resource to empower your

student to succeed.

The parent is responsible for showing evidence of growth towards mastery for every course on the student's ILP. Therefore, the parent will have input on what goes in the portfolio. The key is making good choices showing student understanding, application and mastery of skills.

Therefore, including whole workbooks or daily work in the portfolio is appropriate. If you are using a variety of materials to cover the standards, then bring those workbooks or projects your student completed to the conference.

Student portfolios are property of the student. To help students take ownership of the portfolio, they should be involved in the process of choosing what goes in it. Students should choose pieces they enjoyed, pieces they are proud of, and pieces they really learned from, along with a reflection of why they chose each piece. The reflection can be written or given orally during the portfolio conference. Portfolio ideas are listed on the I-DEA website or your Contact Teacher can provide more ideas if you desire.

Parent to Parent, continued from pg 1

-Responding – I can't express how important and necessary responding is! A **YES** when you can attend, and a **NO** update when your plans change and you won't be attending. Often families are on a wait list, and your NO update will open a spot for another family on the wait list.

Sign up Due dates- Most times I am required to provide our host with a total number that will be attending the Outing or Event. If you miss the sign up deadline, your family can be added to a wait list and you will be notified if an opening occurs.

Be on time- Parents should arrive at least 10 minutes before the outing start time. This gives time for students to settle, and to organize the group so we can begin on time.

Be prepared- Before the outing/event you may want to consider providing your child with a bit of background knowledge. This will help them engage in discussion that often accompany presentations.

Parent Responsibility- It is the parent responsibility to; remain with and oversee their child, make sure the child understands the importance of respecting others. Private conversations are distracting and need to be kept away from presentations.

Student Responsibility- Students and younger siblings are expected to; act in a responsible, respectful, attentive, and polite manner at all times. Students should be able to follow directions, stand quietly in a line, keep hands to self, use indoor voices, raise of hand for questions, and always be respectful of our host.

I hope you find this information helpful, and that you will use the guideline to do your part in making Outings and Events a positive experience for all. I am looking forward to the fun, fascinating, educational experiences that await us!

Events: September

September 26—Post Falls Portfolio Assessment Workshop
1-2:30pm PFRC Lab
RSVP to laurielkelley@idahoidea.org

September 28-IDFY Sponsors JH & HS Game Night
6:30-8:30 PFRC Lab
Open to grades 6-12
Fun & Games!

September 30—Sandpoint Portfolio Assessment Workshop
10-11:30am
NIC Satellite Center, Ponderay Mall
(use movie theater entrance)
RSVP to laurielkelley@idahoidea.org

Events: October

October 5

Last day to sign up for Love & Logic Parenting Sessions Workshops are free, \$10 fee for workbook. If you can't make it to all of the sessions, just come to the ones you can! Call Karen to register and order your workbook. 208-661-5099

October 20—Love & Logic Parenting Classes
6-8pm PFRC Lab

October 21—IDFY Chapter Meeting
3-5pm PFRC Lab
Call Karen Ashenbrenner for info 208-661-5099

October 27—Love & Logic Parenting Classes
6-8pm PFRC Lab

IDAHO DISTANCE EDUCATION ACADEMY

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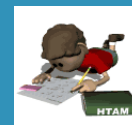


Support IDFY & IDEA Students
Idaho Preferred Fund Raiser
Products straight from Idaho!
Contact Karen @ 661-5099

Getting involved in
community activities
helps students stay
interested in
school.



Science Help with Mrs. Rightler
10 to 12 Mountain time
Wednesday and Friday
<https://idahoidea.ilinc.com/join/fpjkt>



H.S. Math Help
With Mrs. Pappas
10 am to 12 pm MST
Tuesday and Thursday
<https://idahoidea.ilinc.com/join/ccjcmhw>

