

Eliza Hart Spalding School of Math and Technology

12311 W. Braddock Drive

Boise, ID 83709

Principal: Jamie Dobson

Eliza Hart Spalding School of Math and Technology, located in Boise, Idaho, is a year-round magnet school serving over 690 students in grades pre-K–5, about 15% of whom qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. Students have shown high-level achievement in math, with 94% scoring at proficient or advanced levels on the 2010 Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT).

- ◆ Elementary (Pre-K–5)
- ◆ 89% White
- ◆ 6% Hispanic
- ◆ 3% Asian
- ◆ 1% Black
- ◆ 15% Free or Reduced-Price Lunch

As a math and technology magnet, Spalding provides students with a chance to think outside the box. Instruction at Spalding emphasizes the incorporation of math and technology in the classroom.

Within the school’s continuum of learning, students are exposed to more technology at each grade level, expanding their knowledge of and experience with rapidly advancing technological tools. Spalding continues to build on the technologies available to support the learning environment, and the school currently has an audio/video lab, a broadcasting studio, several SMART boards, and four mini laptop carts, with each cart holding 30 laptops. Each teacher has a projector, five computers, and a document camera.

The math program focuses on developing mathematical thinking (DMT), encouraging students to solve problems using a variety of mathematical strategies. An effective DMT process requires teachers who understand how students develop mathematical ideas over time and know how to build a learning environment that will support math instruction. To improve their knowledge of math content and increase their level of engagement with the material, teachers at Spalding have been part of a mathematics professional development initiative covering topics such as fundamental mathematical theory, student reasoning of number and operation, multiplicative thinking, and proportional and algebraic reasoning. By teaching mathematical logic and reasoning in such a way that students can apply it in other subjects, teachers provide students the opportunity to apply their specific learning style to achieve success in all classes.

The school and district use curricular focal points to highlight the “big ideas” of math instruction at each grade level:

- In third grade, students develop understandings of fractions and equivalencies; multiplication, division, and strategies for basic multiplication and division facts; and the properties of two-dimensional shapes.
- In fourth grade, students develop understandings of area and decimals—including connections among whole numbers, fractions, and decimals—and

build their fluency with whole-number multiplication and quick recall of multiplication and division facts.

- In fifth grade, students develop an understanding of and fluency of whole-number division, addition and subtraction of fractions and decimals, and the properties of three-dimensional shapes.

Problem solving is a part of instruction at all grade levels.

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