

HUSKY PAW PRINTS



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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!



Dr. Jason Song
Principal

Welcome to NCA's 20th school year! What an amazing accomplishment for all students, parents, and teachers! I am honored to lead NCA, and I look forward to serving the school community again in this milestone year.

Each year, NCA focuses on an overarching schoolwide goal that will benefit all students. This year's goal is "Growth Mindset" based on Dr. Carol Dweck's research.

Growth Mindset posits that having the proper attitude toward learning is critical to student achievement and success. While all students experience "failures" in the learning process, some students learn from their errors/mistakes and reach their learning goals while others give up or quit. It turns out that a student's mindset or belief is the key factor that determines outcome.

If a student perceives that she is "not smart," "can't make improvements," and is only focused on grades or scores, then she has already imposed limits on her learning. On the other hand, if a student believes that failures are part of learning, and that she can make improvements by putting in more

effort, then that mindset will produce not only higher marks but pave the foundation for further learning and growth.

Thus, the key to student success is not the IQ or aptitude but having the right attitude or mindset toward learning.

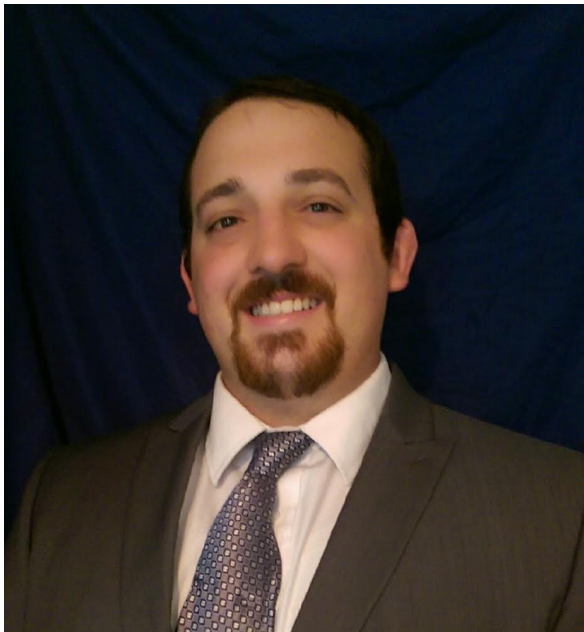
Based on this research, NCA will be challenging all students to (1) not allow failures to define them, (2) learn from mistakes/errors, (3) focus on making efforts, and (4) believe that their aptitude is not pre-determined but pliable and improvable.

As much as our teachers and staff will do our part to plant the seed and develop the Growth Mindset in our students, we need our parents to do the same at home. If you're interested in learning more about Growth Mindset, please visit: <https://www.mindsetworks.com/default>, and then click on the tab "Parents" for more on what you can do.

As a school community, let's focus on praising our students' efforts, not grades. Let's encourage our learners to remain positive when facing challenges. Let's *not* define our children by grades or IQs. Let us support our students to grow, grow, and grow by trying, trying, and trying! When we do so collectively, this will be a wonderful year of learning for all our children!



INTRODUCING MR. KELLEN CUEN



My name is Kellen Cuen, and I am the new Math teacher for the Middle School students. I graduated from Hope International University with a B.A. in Secondary Education and a Minor in Biblical Studies. I am currently in the Masters Program at Hope International University getting my Teaching Credential and Masters in Administration. Before arriving at NCA, I was in a multitude of schools for different teaching and coaching jobs. I started coaching wrestling when I was 18 and teaching for the Red Cross around that time as well. I have coached wrestling for almost ten years, basketball for two, and volleyball for two as well. I was also the Math teacher for Grades 6-12 at a small private school in Garden Grove. I am excited to be here at NCA and cannot wait to be a part of this excellent program.

SCHOOL PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

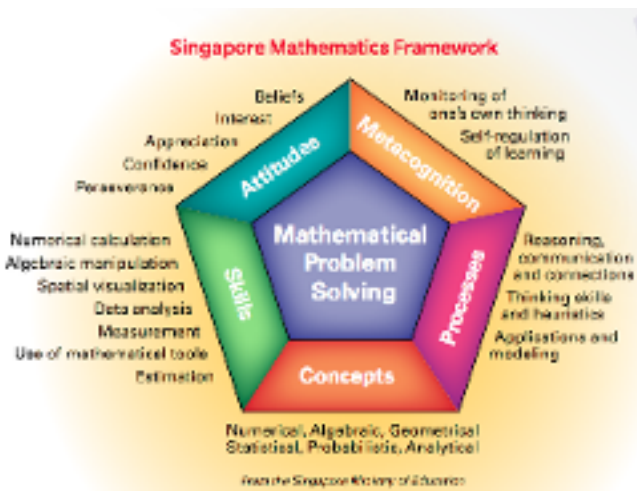
After careful consideration, NCA has adopted **Smithsonian Science for the Classroom** to make STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) more engaging, do-able, and applicable. This science classroom material kit is designed from ground up to meet the Next Generation Science Standards, and it incorporates the latest findings from education research as to how students learn. Plus, students will have access to world-class Smithsonian collections, experts, and online resources to support learning and engagement. An investment of more than \$21,000 has been made to integrate Smithsonian Science to NCA's MS program.

In addition, NCA is making a strategic decision to accelerate the Math Program for K-8 students. In a nutshell, more advanced learners will be able to complete Geometry before entering high school. To achieve this goal, Singapore Math Curriculum will be integrated in K-4 classes immediately. Singapore Math teaches students to master foundational math concepts in greater detail by using a three-step learning process: concrete, pictorial, and abstract. It has been proven through TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study) that this approach enables students to solve abstract problems significantly better over time.

These are just some of the exciting changes that will have long-term effects on student learning at NCA. Go Huskies!



Smithsonian
Science Education Center



FALL CAMP 2018

The start of the new school year signals one of many things – Fall Camp is just around the corner! For NCA’s 20th Fall Camp, students from Grades 2-12 will be going to Camp Cedar Crest in Running Springs. This camp site is full of wide, open spaces for students and teachers to run around, play sports, and hang out in the sun. Our speaker will be Pastor Jay Choi from West Hills Presbyterian Church. Until more information comes your way, feel free to browse through Camp Cedar Crest’s website: www.campcedarcrest.org!



GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

The Girls Volleyball Team, under the leadership of their fantastic coach Mrs. Lowry, has been practicing all summer long for their upcoming season! Their season will begin with an away game on August 14th against New Roads School. The following schedule is subject to change, but please be sure to mark your calendars for our 5 scheduled home games. And be sure to encourage and cheer on our team as they fight hard to bring home wins for our school!



Date	Opponents	Time	Location
8/14	New Roads	3:15	Away
9/10	Int'l Lycee	4:00	Away
9/11	Pacific Lutheran	2:45	Home
9/13	Sequoyah	3:00	Home
9/17	New Harvest	3:30	Away
9/18	Mesrobian	4:00	Away
9/25	Le Lycee	6:00	Away
9/27	Southwestern	3:00	Home
10/2	New Harvest	2:45	Home
10/3	Southwestern	4:00	Away
10/4	Mesrobian	3:00	Home
10/9	Waverly	7:30	Away
10/11	Sequoyah	4:00	Away

CALENDAR

August

- 1 - 10 Staff Development
- 13 First Day of School / Picture Day
- 16 Convocation Service
- 29 - 31 Fall Camp

September

- 3 Labor Day Holiday
- 4 - 7 Book Fair
- 6 Back to School Night / PTA