**2012-13** **Salt Lake Center for Science Education**  **CEEB code: 450384**   
Main office: (801) 578-8226   
Counseling office: (801) 578-8226   
Website: www.slcse.org   
Principal: Larry Madden   
School counselors: Ashley Paulsen-Cook, Rachel Fletcher

**Community**Salt Lake Center for Science Education (SLCSE) is in its fifth year of operation and has already created a reputation for being highly successful in raising student achievement. The demographic of the school mirrors that of the Salt lake City School District. Fifty-seven percent of SLCSE students are economically disadvantaged, based on eligibility for free/reduced lunch and over twenty-three percent are English Language Learners. The student body is made up of 349 students in grades 6 to 12 with; 52% male, 48% female, 18% English Language Learners, and 12% receiving special education services. The student body is culturally diverse with a population that is; 4% African American, 4% Asian, 33% Hispanic, 3% Pacific Islander, and 56% White.

**School**Salt Lake Center for Science Education is a district-dependent charter school with one hundred eighty students in grades 6-8 and 170 students in grades 9-12. The school opened in the fall of 2008 and will graduate its first senior class in the spring of 2013. Salt Lake Center for Science Education is accredited by the Northwest Accreditation Commission (an accreditation division of AdvancED). Admission to Salt Lake Center for Science Education is non-discriminatory and open to all Utah residents. Applications are accepted from December to mid-February. In early March students are selected by lottery. Based on the number of applications from the first five years, approximately 22% of applicants are admitted each school year.

Our Mission: At Salt Lake Center for Science Education we develop the character and skills necessary to "Change Reality." We are courageous and persistent problem-solvers. We take healthy risks. We make mistakes and learn from our mistakes. We care about the quality of our work. We use professional language and kindness to develop learning communities. We take care of our abundant resources and use them to serve our school community and beyond. We use our curiosity, imagination and adaptability to direct ourselves in our quest; as learners, critical thinkers and ethical world citizens.

**Curriculum**Salt Lake Center for Science Education’s curriculum builds on the Utah Core Curriculum standards and objectives. Our methods of implementing and expanding on these standards are designed to prepare students for post-secondary by promoting high expectations for all students, and the support to meet those expectations. Critical thinking and problem-solving are emphasized through integrated projects that are focused on real world application. All students take Physics, Chemistry, and Biology during their first three years of high school. Statistics, Science Research, Science Academy and internships are optional. Beginning in the 2012-13 school year students that are interested in careers in education can take a three-class program offered in conjunction with the University of Utah Institute for Urban Education. These students will have a university transcript reflecting this course work at the end of summer 2013. Students have the option of taking Advanced Placement courses in Calculus BC, Environmental Science and Psychology. AP is an open-enrollment program.

**Faculty**

Salt Lake Center for Science Education faculty is a focused, talented, creative group that is dedicated to student achievement coupled with social, emotional and ethical growth. All faculty members participate in collaborative learning communities along with numerous other professional learning opportunities. Some of the awards Salt Lake Center for Science Education Teachers have received include: state finalists and winners of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, Utah State Teacher of the Year, Utah Charter school Teacher of the Year, American Chemical Society Teacher of the Year, Science Fair Teacher of the Year, and Air Force Association Teacher of the Year.

**Graduation requirements**

Students receive quarterly grades which are based on projects, presentations, tests, homework and other assignments. Year-long courses are worth one credit each. Core academic requirements are:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Subject | Credit Required | Subject | Credit Required |
| Science | 4 | Mathematics | 4 |
| Language Arts | 4 | Social Studies | 3 |

**Grading**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A** | **4.0** |  | **B+** | **3.33** |  | **C+** | **2.33** |  | **D+** | **1.33** |  | **F** | **0** |
| **A-** | **3.667** |  | **B** | **3.0** |  | **C** | **2.0** |  | **D** | **1.0** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | **B-** | **2.667** |  | **C-** | **1.667** |  | **D-** | **0.667** |  |  |  |

**Rank**Class rank is based on cumulative GPA.

**Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculation**GPA is computed using the above quality points. Beginning with grade nine, all subjects, whether passed or failed, are included in the computation. A minimum of 24 credits is required for graduation. Grades are recorded on the transcript and GPA is computed in quarterly. GPA is not weighted.

* **Class of 2013**

2013 represents the first graduating class from the Salt Lake Center for Science Education. As junior students during the 2011-12 school year

* 5 earned 3.5–3.99
* 3 earned 3.0–3.49
* 4 earned 2.50–2.99
* 4 earned 2.0–2.49

**Standardized Test Results**

State of Utah end of level Criterion-Referenced Test. The graphs below represent a 3-year comparison of Salt Lake Center for Science Education (SLCSE) and Salt Lake City School District.

 



**SAT/ACT**

19.5

*\*\*ACT data based on the 22 students at SLCSE that have taken the ACT*

* 7 students earned a composite score of 28 or above (the 90th percentile)
* 1 student earned a perfect 36 on the reading subject test
* 8 students earned a reading score of 30 or above
* 3 students earned a science score of 30 or above

**Awards and Distinctions, 2011-12**

* 3 International Science Fair Participants
* Title I High Performing School Award

### Writing Lab

### Established in 2012 in collaboration with the Salt Lake Community College, the Writing Lab is open daily during and after school. It is staffed by a teacher and trained parents and university partners and exists to support SLCSE students in advancing their expository writing skills.

**Athletics**

Athletics are not offered at Salt Lake Center for Science Education. Customized schedules are created for students wishing to play sports at their neighborhood schools.

### Extracurricular opportunities

* Math, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) club
* Washington D.C. 11th grade trip (and associated fundraising)
* Agents of Change – student government
* Community Bike Shop – serving low-income families in the school neighborhood
* Sports – students may participate in sports at their neighborhood school

**Note for Class of 2013**

The staff and faculty at SLCSE wish to extend comments regarding our first graduating class, the class of 2013. This is a group of students that chose to attend a new school in 8th grade. They were open to an unknown academic experience and have been accommodating throughout their experimental class schedules. The SLCSE staff and faculty insured our first graduating class would have all required state curriculum, but also wanted to offer these students different opportunities. Some of our attempts for our pioneering class worked beautifully; however, like with all experiments, there are times when plans do not go perfectly. This group of students handled all situations with understanding. We feel like this group of students has demonstrated incredible resiliency and dedication to this school.

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