



# Uniquely Davis

## District lauds graduation rates

District ranks second in state overall, highest in many subgroups

More than 4,300. That's the number of students over the last nine years who might not have high school diplomas if Davis School District hadn't increased its focus on graduation.

"If you think about those 4,300 people who have the opportunity now for post-secondary training, those 4,300 people who now have a future, that is a number we are proud of. We thank those who started this and for allowing us to keep this moving forward," said Assistant Superintendent Dr. Logan Toone.

Davis School District now touts the second-highest



A Bountiful High student celebrates graduation in 2019.

rate in the state of Utah, with a ranking of 96 percent for 2019, up from 95 percent in 2018.

But it's not about numbers or ranking. Superintendent Reid Newey said the meaning behind the number is about the help each student received along the way.

"Those numbers don't come without significant effort and support. We are grateful for the great people who make this happen every day — from district staff to our teachers — and the lives they affect," he said.

That intentional and deliberate focus on graduation includes identifying every student who is not on track to graduate. Throughout the year, junior high and high school

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### Superintendency Message

## Take a moment to reflect on inclusion, equity

Noted historian Carter G. Woodson initiated "Negro History Week" in 1926

to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and Frederick Douglass (February 14).

By the bi-centennial year of 1976, Presi-



Zurbuchen

dent Gerald Ford designated February as Black History Month to "Seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor

throughout our history."

Certainly, one part of Black History Month is the celebration of noteworthy accomplishments by black Americans. Ida B. Wells and her leadership in the Women's Suffrage Movement. James Baldwin and his writing. Marjorie Lee Brown and her mathematical genius. Joseph Graves and his work in nanoscience. The political brilliance of Barbara Jordan. The challenging prose of Richard Wright.

Take the opportunity provided by this month to explore the amazing and essential contributions of these and other black Americans. Perhaps start with a Google search and follow where the links lead you. You will be

amazed by what you learn.

Black History Month — aside from highlighting the accomplishments and contributions of black Americans — provides us with the opportunity to consider how we can create a more just community and society.

How do we go about the work of including people of all backgrounds in our communities? Perhaps even more important, in keeping with the Davis School District emphasis on "Be The One," how do I make sure that each individual feels welcome in my house, my school, my district, my community? This is the work of the individual,

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## GRADUATION, From Pg. 1

administrators and counselors meet regularly to identify interventions for those students.

“This has been game changing,” said

Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen.

When it first started, it was an imposition for schools, but now it is part of the culture.”

A new database also allows counselors and administrators to immediately see how English Language Learner and Latino students are performing in classes.

Additionally, the district has developed programs to help Latinos and ELL students get leadership experiences.

The district now leads the state in graduation rates for student subgroups. Davis School District ranks first in overall graduation rates for students who are economically disadvantaged, English language learners, African American/Black, Asian, Latino and multiple-race subgroups.

Additionally, the district saw a

## MESSAGE, From Pg. 1

starting with me.

Thus, while focusing on learning more about the myriad accomplishments and contributions to our rich American tapestry by our black American community, let us pause and reflect on our own biases, our stereotypes, our relationships

100 percent graduation rate for Asian students — the first time the district has experienced a perfect graduation rate with a student subgroup.

“We are at the top of the pack in almost every measure,” said Toone. “We

still have a gap (between all students and our subgroups) of about four percent, but it is significantly better than the 14 percent it was at eight years ago. We need to keep the pedal on the floor to continue the support for individual students. You may think it’s just one kid, but over time, it makes a huge difference.”

High

School Director Dr. Dan Linford said at first the effort was difficult.

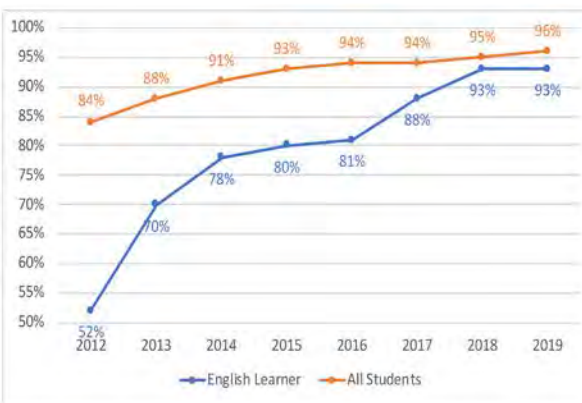
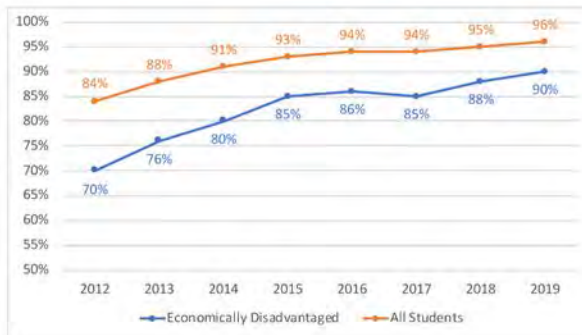
“When these were first rolled out when I was an assistant principal, it felt like an imposition, but we didn’t know these kids’ story and eventually we knew every kid’s story,” he said.

“Those names and faces come forward because of counselors and others, who brought them to our attention so we could work together as a case management group with parent input,” he said.

across racial difference so that we may be the leaders in creating a society based in inclusion, equity and fairness.

“In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute.” — Thurgood Marshall

*John Zurbuchen  
Assistant Superintendent*



The graphs above show the closing graduation gap between all students and economically disadvantaged and English Language Learner students.

## 2020 graduation schedule

All currently scheduled graduation ceremonies will be held in the Dee Events Center at Weber State University.



### May 27

9 a.m. Bountiful High School  
1 p.m. Farmington High School  
5 p.m. Layton High School

### May 28

9 a.m. Woods Cross High School  
1 p.m. Clearfield High School  
5 p.m. Viewmont High School

### May 29

9 a.m. Northridge High School  
1 p.m. Davis High School  
5 p.m. Syracuse High School

Mountain High School  
Time, date and location  
TBD

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# Staff, students receive accolades for achievements

• **Central Davis Junior High's** National Academic League team took first place in the district competition. Students competed against **Mueller Park Junior High** and triumphed with a score of 100-65. They will compete against Roy High next week for the opportunity to compete at the Utah State NAL Championship.



• **Ashlyn Hall** from Syracuse High School was selected as the only girl from the state of Utah to play in the 2019 High School Soccer All-American Game in Orlando, Fla.

• The **Farmington High Nixelles** captured the 5A state drill team championship at the 2020 State Drill Competition held in January. The **Viewmont High Vykelles** brought home second place and **Bountiful High Mandonelles** took fourth place. In the 6A division, **Layton High Lancelles** earned third place and **Davis High D'Ettes** fifth place.



Hammer



Forbush

• The Utah Association of Elementary Principals named **Layton Elementary Principal Diane Hammer** as a finalist for principal of the year.

**Farmington Elementary Principal Cameron**

**Forbush** was named the State Innovative Principal of the Year for his school's implementation of the Summit Learning Platform, flexible seating and STEM programs.

• Davis High Teacher and Coach **Lori Salvo** was inducted into the Utah High School Activities Association Circle of Fame.

• **Board President John L. Robison** was recently selected as a Distinguished Contributor to the Utah High School Activities.

• Layton Elementary Orchestra Teacher **Ryan Kemp** was named Utah Strings Teacher of the Year.

• Twenty-three junior high robotic teams and 20 elementary school robotics teams competed in the 2020 VEX IQ Challenge. Junior high team winners include — first place to a team from **North Layton Junior High**, second place to a team from **Kaysville Junior High**, third place to teams from **Fairfield Junior High** and **Syracuse Junior High** and the design award to a team from **Bountiful Junior High School**. Elementary winners include — first place and excellence award to a team from **Antelope Elementary** and second place to teams from **Windridge Ele-**

**mentary and Creekside Elementary.**

• About 300 students competed in the District STEM Fair. The following students were awarded first place for their projects: **Bryson Brown**, Endeavour Elementary, Botany; **Glenn Shields**, West Point Junior, Chemistry; **Ashton**

**Everett**, West Bountiful Elementary, Earth/Space; **Camden Mumford**, Mueller Park Junior, Energy and Transportation; **Tayson Wardle**, West Bountiful Elementary, Engineering; **Luke Olsen**, Fairfield Junior, Environmental; **Benjamin Smith**, Fairfield Junior, Environmental; **Solomon Green**, Mueller Park Junior, Math/Computer Science; **Lauren Andrew**, Foxboro Elementary, Medical/Health; **Denali Isaacs**, West Point Junior High, Microbiology; **Ben Raceuia**, Bountiful Elementary, Physics; **Lilli Graden**, Millcreek Junior, Social/Behavioral; **Myka Adams**, Farmington Elementary, Zoology; **Kaira Hagen**, Davis High, Botany; **Margaret Call**, Woods Cross High, Chemistry; **Audrey Campbell**, Woods Cross High, Chemistry; **Caleb Morgan**, West Point Junior, Earth/Space; **Timothy Clarke**, Woods Cross High, Energy and Transportation; **Fletcher Murray**, Woods Cross High, Energy and Transportation; **Shaylee Stanger**, Clearfield High, Engineering; **Emily Conlin**, Shoreline Junior, Environmental; **Parker Suzuki**, West Point Junior, Math/Computer Science; **David Hayes**, Farmington High, Medical/Health; **Sierra Lutz**, Farmington High, Microbiology; **Kyle Sommer**, Woods Cross High, Physics; **Maria Agreda**, West Point Junior, Social/Behavioral; **Brynn Hardcastle**, Woods Cross High, Zoology; **Bella Hawkins**, Woods Cross High School, Zoology.

• The Utah Music Educators Association recognized Sunset Junior High Choir Director **Melanie Wilcox** as Outstanding Junior High Music Educator, Farmington High Orchestra Director **Brek Mangleson** for Superior Accomplishment and former Davis High Choir Director **Becky Jarman** was inducted into the Hall of Fame.



Wilcox

Students from Centerville, Central Davis, Farmington, Kaysville, Millcreek, Mueller Park, North Layton, Shoreline and South Davis junior high schools participated in the Junior High All-State Band performance at Abravanel Hall. High school band students from Bountiful, Clearfield, Davis, Layton, Northridge and Woods Cross performed in the High School All-State Band.



# Indoor Beach Party



Top: It was below 40 degrees when the C.A.R.E.S. program celebrated with an indoor beach party. Left: Students were creative with their mode of transportation on the indoor slip and slide.



Far left: You can never have too many umbrellas in a tropical drink. Left: Students build sand castles during the indoor beach party.



Left: Navigating a banana pool float is difficult. Above: Students pose with C.A.R.E.S. Director Savannah Poe in the photo booth.