



Award recognizes innovation

Teachers work hard to connect to students during remote learning

The Covid-19 pandemic’s impact on public education has been felt by every student, teacher and parent. However, even though school doesn’t look or feel the same, teachers continue to go the extra mile to make sure students feel some normalcy in their learning.

With that in mind, Davis School District’s Teaching and Learning Department began an effort to recognize teachers who were being innovative in this time of remote learning. They had no idea the effort would lead to more than a thousand nominations for Remote Learning Teacher of the Week.

“When the soft closure began, we saw the gargantuan efforts of teachers to connect with their students socially and emotionally and to keep learning happening, and we wanted to recognize those

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Rachel Pullan, North Davis Junior High, was recognized for the extra work she is doing to make sure struggling students have the help they need so they don't fall behind.

Superintendency Message

Parents, students, staff: We are here for you

I usually write the closing message of the year in May.

I have looked forward to that time each year to offer a message of deep gratitude and closure to another great school year. Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined I would write this



Newey

month’s message amid a closure that has lasted nearly a full one-third of the school year — all because of a global, viral pandemic!

It has been a shock to everyone’s

system as each one of us has lost the opportunity to do what we entered education to do and that is to interact with and influence students in a direct face-to-face environment each day. Our face-to-face personal interaction with each other has even been greatly curtailed and nearly eliminated.

As we close out the school year and look forward to next year, we will certainly need to plan for, as they say, the “New Normal.” This will certainly consist of enhanced social distancing requirements and the need for easily transitioned blended teaching and learning formats. We have a great challenge ahead, but we are equal to that challenge! We are always inspired

by the daily acts of heroic greatness we see in our team members in Davis School District. The way that every single teacher, administrator, aide, nurse and classified staff member has delivered is truly awe-inspiring. THANK YOU! Our gratitude cannot be adequately displayed in this monthly message, but at present, it is all we have, and we thank you from the bottom of our heart and soul!

On September 7, 1940, Germany began 57 consecutive nights of bombing on England. The intent of the German Army was to break the will of the English people. As history

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efforts,” Teaching and Learning Director Belinda Kuck said.

The sheer number of nominations speaks clearly of the dedication Davis School District teachers have when it comes to their students. Kuck says it has been difficult to narrow it down to just a hundred or so teachers each week because the stories are so compelling.

“I am not necessarily amazed by this because I know it, you know it, everyone should know it, but the love (teachers) have for the students has shown overwhelmingly during the closure,” Kuck said.

Utah Gov. Gary Herbert’s soft closure of schools began March 16. Teachers were asked by the district to put together plans to continue educating their students remotely by Wednesday of the next week. Kuck said teachers had actually been preparing for three years as Davis School District has encouraged teachers to incorporate technology to improve learning, focus on priority standards and help students with Social Emotional Learning.

As the soft closure was extended through May 1 and then through the end of the school year, teachers have continued to incorporate new ways of reaching their students.

Honoring teachers was not a new concept. Prior to the soft closure of schools, the department recognized teachers

monthly in each content area. This recognition, however, is specifically tied to those who have gone above and beyond during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Nominations have come from supervisors, colleagues who received help with their own online learning, parents and even students. Kuck said each week when they look at the nominations there seems to be an emerging theme, so they focus that week’s picks to that theme.

Some examples of how teachers have gone above and beyond during the pandemic include:

- Circle time, lip syncs, talent shows, show-and-tell, dance-a-thons and reading time through Zoom;
- Live student debates using Zoom;
- Extended virtual meeting so students can continue working with their classmates and teachers online.
- YouTube videos created by teachers that go “viral” with students;
- Giving up Spring Break to work on One Note notebooks for special education students so they can receive individualized instruction;
- French cooking demonstrations with vocabulary included to teach proper pronunciation for students in a French immersion program.
- Quickly responding to emails, Canvas messages and more at all hours of the day and night as students struggle with different concepts.



Doug Ball, Syracuse High, has incorporated extra study sessions and other helps to ensure his students are prepared for the AP test.

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manifests, that “intent” was never realized. Instead of becoming depressed, frightened into inaction, or giving up and surrendering to Germany, the English people steeled their resolve to fight incessantly to defeat the enemy. As they say, the rest is history.

We too, are in an epic battle. Although it is not a battle against another country or individuals and there are not bombs and bullets involved, it is a battle that will continue to test our resiliency and ability to respond under very unexpected and adverse circumstance. We must continue to reach deep inside ourselves and find the strength and determination to transform what we expected our careers to

be and what they now MUST be.

Like the English people of the 1940s, every day brings a new, unexpected twist to our lives. Each of our personal lives, outside of our professional lives, has been impacted immensely. Many are experiencing job loss or job reductions in their family, some have family members who are frontline responders who work each day under increased threat, and some are experiencing a direct impact with sickness and possibly death. To all we say, we are here for you and want to do all that we can to support you through this COVID-19 health crisis. We ARE different, we ARE Davis School District team members and we will make it through this and pull the children we educate and serve each

day with us.

Please continue to take care of yourself and your loved ones. Rely on others and support each other as you continue to adapt, respond and prepare for all that may come your way. Again, we thank you, we love you and we are here for you!

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Staff, students receive accolades for achievements

- Winners from the 48th annual State Sterling Scholar awards for the Wasatch Front Region were announced, including several from our district: **Anabelle Ballard**, Woods Cross High, Skilled and Technical Sciences Winner; **Madelyn Lunt**, Clearfield High, Skilled and Technical Sciences Winner; **Spencer Stringham**, Layton High, Dance Winner; **Benjamin DeVries**, Woods Cross High, Science Runner-Up; **Logan Stats**, Farmington High, Instrumental Music Runner-Up and **Muskan Walia**, Bountiful High, Science Runner-Up.



Towner

- Odyssey Elementary teacher **Kayla Towner** was honored as the Outstanding Young Educator at the Utah Coalition for Education Technology conference in March.

- **Christian Schmidt**, a fifth-grader at Layton Elementary qualified as one of the semifinalists eligible to compete in the 2020 National Geographic GeoBee State Competition.

- The American Geographical Society (AGS) announced that **Shelbi Nelson** of Central Davis Junior High School was selected as a recipient of the AGS 2020 GeoBOOST grant.

- **Ozzie deMoura**, who serves as the AmeriCorps Tutor Coordinator at Tolman Elementary, was recognized as the state UServeUtah AmeriCorps Member of the Year during their member gathering in March.

- Utah PTA Reflections Winners from Davis School District that advanced to the national level include:

Dance — **Cassandra Forsyth**, Sand Spring Elementary; **Alivia Jenkins**, Canyon Creek Elementary; **Lilah Knight**, Ellison Park Elementary; **Spencer Stringham**, Layton High;

Film — **Jason Hayes**, Snow Horse Elementary; **Christien Jorgenson**, Centerville Elementary; **Mattix Knight**, Mountain View Elementary; **Logan Patane**, Heritage Elementary;

Literature — **Clayton McFadden**, Kaysville Elementary; **Elizabeth Geilman**, Oak Hills Elementary; **Brooklyn Miller**, Millcreek Junior; **Spencer Thomson**, Layton Elementary;

Music — **Audrey Howell**, Reading Elementary; **James Jordan**, Syracuse High; **Daniel Kotter**, Orchard Elementary; **Samantha Savage**, Bluff Ridge Elementary; **Jeff Teeples**, Layton High;

Photography — **Trevin Kroeger**, Cook Elementary; **Ben Teeples**, Layton High; **Clara Tibbitts**, Millcreek Junior;

3D Visual Arts — **Ally Brunson**, Oak Hills Elementary;

2D Visual Arts — **Abby Gordon**, Centerville Elementary; **Clark Karren**, Kaysville Elementary

- Layton High student **Kiana Madrid** received the 2020 National Merit Northrop Grumman Scholarship.

- **Melinda Stechlein**, a North Layton Junior High student, was a state finalist in the Utah State Board of Education's "Do the Write Thing" challenge, part of the National Campaign to Stop Violence.



Ozzie deMoura serves as a AmeriCorps tutor coordinator at Tolman Elementary.



State winners of the Utah History Day contest.

- The state winners were announced from the Utah History Day contest. Finalists: **Andrew Laypath**, **Jackson Coylar** and **Nate Teeples** from Central Davis Junior High will go on to compete virtually at the national level in June. Honorable Mention: **Margaret Call**, Woods Cross High; Oregon-California Trails Prize: **Eric Greeding**, Central Davis Junior High.

- **Cassie Smith**, marketing coordinator for the Davis Education Foundation, was named the outstanding Master of Professional Communication graduate at Weber State University.

- **Owen Hughes** of Bountiful Junior High was named one of the two top volunteers from Utah for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. Hughes converted a library into a music and game room at Valor House, a transitional housing facility for veterans. He then initiated a monthly game night for residents.

Special lunch delivery



Some Davis School District buses are back in action after weeks of sitting idle due to the Covid-19 pandemic and soft closure of schools.

The new role is not typical for bus drivers. Instead of delivering students to school, they are transporting meals to some students who have a difficult time making it to school to pick up the grab-and-go meals.

Bus drivers deliver meals along six bus routes to students living in the school boundaries of Wasatch, South Clearfield, Lincoln, Layton, Crestview and Foxboro elementary schools.

According to Transportation Director Dave Roberts, principals were concerned about students who live in areas with heavy vehicle traffic. Thus came the bus drivers to the rescue.

