



District celebrates 2020 graduates



A Viewmont High faculty member takes a selfie with a graduate during the cap and gown pick up.

Seniors receive \$62 million in scholarships

The school year may not have ended as the Class of 2020 envisioned, but that doesn't mean those seniors will move on without accolades.

About 5,172 seniors attending the 10 high schools in the district were awarded more than \$62 million in scholarships.

Many are now moving on to higher education at such institutions as George Washington University, Kent State University, Seton Hall University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and West Point. Of course, many are also attending local universities including Brigham Young University, Southern Utah University, Univer-

sity of Utah, Utah State University and Weber State University.

Viewmont High, which has one of the smaller graduating classes, saw more than \$10.7 million in scholarships, followed by Davis High with \$9.4 million and Syracuse High with \$7.7 million.

The graduating class included 2,619 male students and 2,553 female students. Virtual graduation ceremonies were held May 26 for all schools, with diploma walks following at the end of the week.

"You can be proud of yourselves," Superintendent Reid Newey told graduates. "We hope you feel that pride. We are so grate-

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Superintendency message

Balancing safety and education

We are living in unprecedented times. With the pandemic and soft closure of school this spring, as a school community, we demonstrated flexibility and attention to the balance of safety and education as required by Utah Gov. Gary Herbert, health professionals, and the Utah State Board of Education.



John Zurbuchen

As difficult as this has been, we have been overwhelmed by the support and concern of families, students and staff.

Since Feb. 27, Davis School District representatives have met weekly with the Davis County Health Department. During these meetings, we have discussed the progress of the virus, the impact on health, provisioning of supplies related to health, and the cleaning of our facilities. This partnership has been, and continues to be, invaluable to our district as we emphasize safety for all who interact with our district.

Currently, a subgroup of this committee is working to establish the protocols for the opening of school in the fall. At this time, we have every intention to open our schools for the fall term on Aug. 25.

In coordination with the Davis County Health Department, Davis School District will establish safety protocols to provide for a safe school opening. Early in July, we intend to share those protocols with our public.

Balancing health and safety with the educational and social/emotional needs

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District recognizes 40 top employees, teacher of the year

Congratulations go out to the 40 Best of Davis Award winners and Davis School District's Teacher of the Year Michelle Berg.

The Best of Davis Award is the highest recognition given to the top educators and support personnel in the Davis School District. Awardees were chosen from hundreds of nominations sent in by coworkers, supervisors, parents and students.

The nomination, application and endorsements were reviewed and scored by a committee and then the final selections were made. The list of winners includes 15 elementary educators, 15 secondary educators and 10 support personnel.

A small team made up of an administration member, board member, school director and school staff members helped celebrate the honor in a presentation at the awardee's home. Each received a crystal plaque, jacket, small monetary gift and yard sign, thanks to the sponsorship of Chevron and Hogan & Associates Construction.

To identify the teacher of the year, a small group of the



Michelle Berg poses with her family after being awarded Teacher of the Year.

top educators were interviewed and a small screening committee identified the designee. Young Automotive, Goldenwest Credit Union, KSL and Young Caring for our Young surprised Berg with a one-year lease of a Kia Seltos.

The Best of Davis awardees are: Elementary

educators: Stephanie Allred, Michelle Berg, Ann Bingham, Kendra Dominguez, Nhung Godfrey, Jennifer Hall, Emily Jackson, Amy Neal, Jack Paget, Jessica Payne, Ashley Pobiegló, Erica Roe, Gloria Smith, Marcia Thompson and Benjamin Welch.

Secondary educators: Nancy Anderson, Whitney Bartholomew, Wayne Burbank, Jeff Christensen, Jessica Constant, Sarah Dennison, Kyle King, Dane Leifson, Heidi Griffith, Marvin Luddington, Adrienne Pugmire, Angela Stewart, Adam Sturm, Marisa Taylor and Lucinda Wooton.

Support personnel: Bryce Barth, Toni Bauman, Chris Handley, Karalee Harrison, Daron Kennett, Kirsten Mele, Karla Robinett, Dawn Sheen, Rose Uffens and Justin Whittaker.

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ful for the tenacity and toughness you've shown sticking it through until graduation. We know it's not the typical graduation."

The number of graduates at each high school are as follows: Bountiful, 491; Clearfield, 604; Davis, 646; Farmington, 507; Layton 616; Mountain, 107; Northridge, 602; Syracuse, 703; Viewmont, 455; and Woods Cross, 441.

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of our students and staff is paramount. Furthermore, one lesson we have learned during this pandemic is that the information about and subsequent reaction to change in the disease and its spread is a given.

We will continue to work with the Davis County Health Department and state and local governments and agencies to provide for the education as well as the physical and emotional safety of our students, families, patrons, and staff.

National Merit scholars garner awards

Nine Davis School District students will get a little boost in their pursuit of higher education, thanks to recognition as National Merit Scholarship winners. The scholarship and recipients are as follows:

Northrop Grumman Scholarship: **Kiana S. Madrid**, Davis High; National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship: **Rebecca L. Schank**, Farmington High;

College-Sponsored National Merit Scholarship: **Benjamin G. Devries**, Woods Cross High, Brigham Young University; **Cort S. Richards**, Woods Cross High, Brigham Young University; **Phillip Addel**, Davis High, University of Southern California; **Kira R. Halls**, Davis High, University of Utah; **Nicholas Van Staden**, Woods Cross High, University of Utah; **David N. Clark**, Syracuse High, University of Utah, and

Donald M. Bird, Syracuse High, Brigham Young University.

About 15,000 students nationwide were designated as National Merit finalists and represent less than 1 percent of the nation's seniors. Each completed a detailed scholarship application, which included writing an essay and providing information about extracurricular activities, awards and leadership positions.

Davis School District
45 E. State Street
Farmington, Utah 84025
801-402-5261
www.davis.k12.ut.us

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Staff, students receive praise for achievements

• Fremont Elementary teacher **Austin Green** and his first-grade students were recently featured in articles published in Education Week, titled “Students Reflect on their Distance Learning Experiences” and “What We’ve Learned from 30 Days of Distance Learning.”



Colton Desmond

• The Automotive Student of Excellence (ASE) Award was presented to two Davis High students. The grand prize was awarded to **Colton Desmond**, who received tools worth over \$3,000 and runner-up winner **Nate Young** received tools worth \$250.

• Several students were honored in the Utah Labor Commission poster contest

from over 800 entries: Grand Prize — **Jaimes Robinson**, Shoreline Junior High. Second Place — **Lexie Jones**, Centerville Junior and **Miguel Mendiola**, Centerville Junior. Honorable Mention — **Kiara Baclayon**, Central Davis Junior; **Brooklyn Black**, Centennial Junior; **Sydney Bate-man**, Shoreline Junior; **Jordan Ellis**, Centennial Junior; **Lauren Ruedas**, Centennial Junior and **Kiera Spence**, Centennial Junior. Top 35 — **Ella Ahern**, Centerville Junior; **Sophia Bagley**, Central Davis Junior; **Teague Farr**, Shoreline Junior; **Ella Hadley**, Central Davis Junior; **Avery Herbert**, Central Davis Junior; **Jaci Jacobsen**, Shoreline Junior; **Jocelyn Montgomery**, Centerville Junior; **Makinley Naylor**, Centennial Junior; **Bethany Roberts**, Centerville Junior; **Hannah Tate**, Centerville Junior and **Chynna Welch**, Shoreline Junior.

• Students throughout the district were recognized for their accomplishments in the CTE Pathway programs.

Graduates of the Utah Aerospace Pathways program are: **Carter Beckstrom**, **Taylor Bettolo**, **Jordan Brud-er**, **Carson Coleman**, **Michael Clark**, **Tige Daugherty**, **Riley Downs**, **Tyson Draper**, **Reagan Empey**, **Cole En-sign**, **Jayden Ferrin**, **Dominique Franklin**, **Ryan Garcia**, **Chet Germer**, **Kaleb Green**, **Spencer Hill**, **Josh Hillam**, **Austin Johnson**, **Bryson Lubeck**, **Talon Martinez**, **Kameron Reaves**, **Austin Sales**, **Spencer Shumway**, **Arick Sorensen**, **Jayden Thomas Stevenson**, **Jack Sum-**

mers, **Jaxson Tremayne**, **Zack VanKomen**, **Tyler Van-Wagenen**, **Tyler Wall**, **Caleb Walters**, **Matthew White**, **Andrew Williford** and **Dallen Young**.

These students are graduates of the Medical Innova-tions Pathways program: medical manufacturing track — **Emma Epperson**, **Kaleb Green**, **Tyler Hulinsky**, **Kurtis Laing**, **MacKormyc Hunter**, **Hunter Vanhorn**; biotech-nology lab track — **Andrew Budge**, **Linzie Butler**, **Kas-sidy Howard**, **Avery Losee**, **Sierra Lutz**, **Aubrey (Bre) Marchant**, **Emmalee McBride**, **Brynn Mix**, **Makenzie Moore**, **Caleb Ostler**, **Jessiah Palmer**, **Abigail Phelps**, **Angel Robinson-Marshall**, **Caleb Reid**, **Robertyo Castilla Rodriguez**, **Liliana Sauro**, **Aaron Soderquist** and **Hunter Vanderbeek**.



Davis High received Best Musical in the State for their production of “Matilda.”

• Several high schools received accolades during this year’s Utah High School Musical Theater Award night held recently via YouTube. **Davis High** received Best Musical in the State for their production of “Matilda,” **Woods Cross High** was awarded Best Set Design for “Tarzan” and **Northridge High** was honored with Best Choreography for “West Side Story.”

• Cook Elementary student **Trevin Kroeger**’s Reflec-tions entry received the Award of Excellence at the state level competition and an Award of Merit in the national-level competition.

• **Mountain View Elementary** students participated in the Imagine Math campaign to help raise money for the COVID-19 Community Relief Fund through Silicon Serves, the charitable branch of Silicon Slopes. As part of the program, students completed enough math problems in two weeks that totaled 10,000 points, which Imagine Math then converted into \$5,000 raised for the relief fund. Moun-tain View Elementary students completed more math prob-lems and donated more points than any other school in Utah.



Poster created by Jaimes Robinson.

Unique recognition for *Class of 2020*



Pandemic necessitates virtual graduations for social distancing



From balloon arches to mascot-themed decorations on stages and football fields, high schools throughout the district celebrated the achievements of seniors in a variety of ways.

Each graduate was invited to don their cap and gown for a special graduation picture to be included in the virtual graduation video.

After the premiere of the virtual graduations, students were given the opportunity to schedule a time to hear their name read and pick up their diploma. Small family member groups joined them for photos and a celebration of their high school career.