



Team tracks COVID in schools

On the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic, a team in every school in the Davis School District is helping to slow the spread of the virus.

The effort is thanks to a great partnership with the Davis County Health Department, which contributed \$700,000 of Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) funds to assist in hiring the part-time aides. The district used another \$500,000 of its reserve funds to hire the 140 aides.

Each school in the district has at least one part-time COVID aide who takes on the task of tracing contacts for each student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19. An assistant administrator oversees the effort and acts as a liaison with the health department.



April Tobler, a COVID aide at Clearfield High School, checks the temperature of a school visitor.

Brian Hatch, director of the Davis County Health Department, said contact tracers in schools is vital to mitigating the spread of the virus. The idea behind contact tracing is to identify the circle of people in closest contact to the individual. Education and quarantining of that circle helps break the chain of infection, he said.

“COVID-19 has definitely been in my career in public health the most challenging. We’ve had other challenges over the years ... but it didn’t have

this complexity to it.”

The task is not an easy one as the team attempts to identify every student or staff member the positive case was in close contact (less than 6 feet) with for more than

See COVID, Pg. 2

Superintendency Message

District educators will ‘Still Be the One’ for students

Welcome Back to School! In an oft-used term, we are living in “unprecedented times.”

It has been something to reflect on — ALL that has changed over the past year.

We started last school year with the theme of “Be the One.” Each and every person really absorbed that notion of making a difference in the lives of others and we were astounded to



Newey

see the great impact made in the lives of students and adults in Davis School District by genuine care for others.

This school year we are amid a global pandemic, witnessing extreme social and civil unrest, including the examination of what racial and social justice should mean for all, as well as economic challenges. Never has the need for educators (and we are ALL educators in DSD) to be the rock that our students and staff can anchor to been more critical than now!

Now is the time for increased kindness and understanding toward others. Now is the time for unwavering courage that others can lean on for strength. Now is the time for reaching

out to others in ways that stretch our current and comfortable well-being. Now is the time to Still Be the One!

In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., “We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right.”

Still the One is the theme that has been selected for the 2020-21 school year. Although it is difficult to feel certain about what tomorrow will hold, we are absolutely certain that every member of the Davis District Team will Still Be the One! Have a great school year and please [click here to share in some “Still the One” moments.](#)

*Reid Newey
Superintendent*

COVID, From Pg. 1

15 minutes. The process begins when the school is notified by the Davis County Health Department of the positive case. The team must then trace the comings and goings of that person for two days prior to the onset of symptoms through the date the student or staff member was no longer at the school.

Once those close contacts are identified, the COVID aide works to notify close contacts of their need to go into quarantine. The aides also advise parents or the close contact on how to best monitor for symptoms.

Contact tracing is particularly difficult in the school setting, Hatch said. Students may have a variety of close contacts throughout the day, especially in secondary schools where they move through several classrooms during the day.

With 91 schools, it would not have been possible for health department employees to efficiently take on that task, Hatch said. That's where the idea came to partner with the district in creating points of contact in every school. The county set aside some of its CARES funding to make it financially possible.

"It's been a great success already," Hatch said. "We now have a contact person that's dedicated time to help control and do contact tracing in the school quickly and efficiently so that we can maintain school and hopefully keep the continuity of education going."

Sarah Willardson, bureau manager for Davis County Health Department, said the COVID aide and assistant administrator were trained through a virtual platform. The aide and point of contact are invaluable in the department's attempts to mitigate the spread of the virus, she said.

"Having an insider in the school, if you will, who knows the scenarios, the classrooms, who can help us do that, is enormously helpful, it saves us a lot of time," she said.

When not phoning or emailing possible contacts, COVID aides help schools in a variety of ways related to the illness. At Clearfield High, April Tobler can often be found seated near the school entrance greeting visitors. Visitors, including parents, are asked a list of questions regarding possible symptoms, and given a temperature check.

At Woods Cross High, the aide helps distribute grab-and-go lunches for those not attending classes in-person.

Tobler said she also helps assess sick students and keeps the sick room and COVID-19 isolation room sanitized.

Sometimes the aides are quite busy, like recently when multiple students at the high school tested positive. For Tobler, that meant a lot of phone calls and visits to classrooms to assess who the students may have been in close contact with at school.

Woods Cross Assistant Principal Mike Moss said seating charts in classrooms have been vital as they work to identify those who came in close contact with the infected individual.

Along with the aide, every school has an administrator who acts as the point of contact for the health department. As that administrator, Moss said it has given him the opportunity to get into classrooms and



Woods Cross Assistant Principal Mike Moss meets with a teacher to look over her seating chart. Classroom seating charts help with contact tracing.

work with teachers on the best physical set up for their classroom to help with physical distancing of students. Administrators also monitor how teachers are providing remote learning day lessons.

Being the point of contact has taken extra time, Moss said, and there are still many unknowns with the virus. However, as questions arise, he said he's been able to get answers either from the health department or district leaders.

"The district support has been great in every way," he said.

[Click here to view a video about the COVID aides.](#)

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

*Uniquely Davis is published monthly
on the district website*

Layton High employee receives RISE Award

It's not every day a representative from Utah Gov. Gary Herbert's office stops by to present an award. However, since only two U.S. Department of Education Recognizing Inspirational School Employees (RISE) Awards are given out per year in the state of Utah, the opportunity warranted a special visit to Layton High recently.

Layton High Facilities Coordinator Rod Southam was surprised when he walked into what he thought was a faculty meeting, but in actuality was a presentation dedicated to him. Karen Peterson, the governor's education advisor, presented Southam with the RISE award, which honors classified school employees who exemplify excellence in work performance, leadership and community involvement.

Jason Lewis, Utah School Employees Association President and chairman of the Utah RISE committee, helped Peterson present the award to Southam in front of district administrators, board members and Layton High faculty.

"Rod stood out as being a mover and a shaker at both Layton High School and his community," Lewis said. "He



Gov. Herbert's Education Advisor Karen Peterson awards Rod Southam with the RISE Award.

brings pride to his school with his work ethic, professionalism, leadership and his overwhelming care for everyone in his building. For decades, Rod has been an influential employee with scores of instances where Rod has gone above and beyond his position."

As an employee at Layton High for 13 years, and over 30 years working at Davis School District in the custodial department, Southam has spent countless hours helping students and staff, in addition to training numerous custodians throughout the district, said Layton High Principal Chadli Bodily.

"This is the best custodial crew I've ever worked with and it is all because of Rod and how he is able to manage and inspire employees and put the needs of others well above his own," Bodily said.

To Southam, it's all just a part of his everyday experience.

"I never expected this," said a surprised Southam after receiving the award. "I really love my job — managing the campus, grounds and facility."

Cheers for staff, students recognized for achievements

- South Weber Elementary Teacher **Deborah Sheffield** received the Sanford Teacher Award, which is given to one teacher per state, per year. She was honored for ensuring students are taught the necessary social and emotional skills to help make the world a better place.



Sheffield

- Two Davis School District employees were named 2020 recipients of scholarships from the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents of Utah — **Patricia Limas**, a counselor at Layton High School, and **Eric Castro**, a Spanish teacher at Millcreek Junior High.

- Several students in Davis School District received awards at the National PTA Reflections contest.

Awards of Excellence — **James**

Jordan, Syracuse High (Music Composition), **Samantha Savage**, Bluff Ridge Elementary (Music Composition) and **Spencer Stringham**, Layton High (Dance Choreography).

Awards of Merit — **Abigail Hall**, Bluffdale Elementary (Dance Choreography), **Audrey Howell**, Reading Elementary (Music Composition) and **Trevin Kroeger**, Cook Elementary (Photography).

- Clearfield City recently recognized South Clearfield Elementary teacher **Deb Williams**, who has spent her entire career of over 30 years at South Clearfield Elementary.

- Viewmont High School's **Tara Stickney** has been named the Davis School District Custodian of the Year.

- **North Davis Junior High** was awarded a \$50,000 Promise Partnership Education Innovation Award.

- Northridge High Principal **Brian**

Hunt was honored by Layton City as a Hometown Hero for his commitment as an essential worker.

- Davis High AP Psychology Teacher **Kristin Whitlock** was awarded a Presidential Citation from The American Psychological Association. Only two educators in the nation receive this award per year.



Whitlock

- The Select Health Award for Outstanding Community Service was presented to Davis Head Start Health Manager **Karen Martin** for her work providing dental services for children in Head Start programs.

- Sunset Elementary Teacher **Kendra Dominguez** was recognized by Blue Star Families of Utah for her service as a teacher and to our country as a former military member.



HOPE for the future

In his role as a junior high counselor, Adam Rosenberg has seen his share of struggling students.

With those students in mind, Rosenberg wrote a song and performed it during HOPE Week.

The week included lunch activities sponsored by Shoreline Junior High's HOPE Squad. Students also learned to punch out addiction and Squad members received instructions on ways to include and reach out to fellow students.



Top: Rob Eastman, an addiction recovery coach and fitness trainer, teaches students how to punch out addiction. Above: HOPE Adviser Elysia Butler gives instructions on a HOPE Week activity.

Above: Shoreline Junior High counselor Adam Rosenberg performs a song he wrote for HOPE Week.



Rob Eastman speaks with HOPE Squad members about the difference they can make for other students.