



## District staff receive vaccination

### School nurses partner with health department in mass clinic

One by one cars enter the Legacy Events Center. And one by one upper arms are bared and a COVID-19 vaccination takes place.

The process is methodical as nearly 30 stations armed with nurses and data clerks operate throughout the day. Those receiving the vaccinations register in advance online to make the process run quickly and smoothly.

Thanks to a partnership with the Davis County Health Department and the state's prioritization of education staff, vaccinations for nearly 9,000 employees began Jan. 12. First in line were those identified as high risk, followed by individual age groups, with the oldest slated first, down to the youngest.

Health Department Director Brian Hatch said his

department was excited to offer the vaccines to school employees. It's just another part of the ongoing collaboration that has occurred throughout the pandemic. In fact, among the teams vaccinating individuals at the Legacy Center were school district nurses and district data technicians.

School nurse Sarah Hoskins said the vaccination clinic is just another example of how well the two entities have

worked together. From putting a COVID aide in every school to training on administering rapid tests, the health department has been invaluable, she said.

Hatch said currently, about 2,000 individuals are vaccinated in a day. However, the hope is to get that number up to 4,000 a day if supplies increase. Certain times of day are busier than others, but the process has mostly been smooth.

"I saw someone's comment on social media

that said whoever set this up must have worked at a Chick-fil-A drive through, because it's run so smoothly and every-

**See VACCINATION, Pg. 3**



District Nurse Catherine Sparks prepares a vaccination during the mass clinic.

## District graduation rate continues to top state numbers

Davis School District continues to have the highest graduation rate among districts along the Wasatch Front with a 94.2 percent graduation rate. Utah's state graduation rate is 88.2 percent. One other district, Nebo School District, also has a 94.2 percent graduation rate.

The district's overall graduation rate dropped slightly from 96 percent in 2019. The high schools with the

highest graduation rates in the district include Bountiful High at 97.8 percent, Farmington High at 97.6 percent and Woods Cross High at 97.2 percent.

Davis School District is the second largest school district in Utah. As of Oct. 1, 2019, 72,897 students were enrolled in its 91 schools. The largest district, Alpine School District, has an overall graduation rate of 93 percent.

Assistant Superintendent Logan Toone said the difference between the

2019 graduation rate and the 2020 graduation rate is about 80 dropouts across 10 high schools.

"But 80 is a lot; 80 is too many," Toone said.

District administrators looked at subgroups of students to see where numbers were changing from previous years. The results were not surprising, Toone said.

**See GRADUATION, Pg. 2**

## GRADUATION, From Pg. 1

“It was most pronounced in our at-risk groups, which are our English Language Learners, our African-American students and our Hispanic Latino students,” said Toone. “Those are the ones where typically, that gap has been the largest and that gap got bigger.”

The district will continue to look at the data and focus on ways to continue to narrow that gap. Toone said that’s not to say that the district isn’t still doing well in its work within those subgroups.

Davis School District outpaces the state average in every category.

It would be easy to blame COVID-19 and the school shutdown for the rate drop, Toone said. And there is evidence that certain demographics are impacted more by the pandemic. However, administrators feel one of the key

### Superintendency Message

## District moves forward with hope and excitement

*“If I were to summarize in one sentence the single most important principle I have learned in the field of interpersonal relations, it would be this: Seek first to understand, then to be understood.”* — Dr. Stephen R. Covey

My wife begins many of our conversations with “Don’t say anything, just listen.” She knows that as soon as the information enters the universe I will begin processing, evaluating, judging, dissecting, fixing ... whereas if I had let the ideas “hover,” they may settle gently into an appropriate place, then in time, sorted and made useful.

The year 2020 provided us many opportunities to agree, disagree, oppose, support, dig in, recoil .... I have done them all. The year 2020 also provided an opportunity to understand perspectives of others we may never have had the chance to, had we not seen or heard or experienced the events of the year. Although our perspectives vary and our opinions differ, our desire to improve the lives of children is universal.

We recently delighted in watching our granddaughter’s



Newey

factors was the loss of the individual outreach that was prevalent at the end of the school year. The student at risk for dropping out is already difficult to reach when school is in session face-to-face. With schools not in person in the spring, it became even more difficult to personally reach those students.

Davis School District high school administrators for

many years have focused on individual students at risk for dropping out. Administrators and counselors meet regularly to talk about each student who is not on track. That effort includes displaying the student’s record, which contains a picture,

grades and any disciplinary actions. Those in the room talk about the student as an individual, discuss the relationship they may have with the student, and possible interventions to help the student be successful.

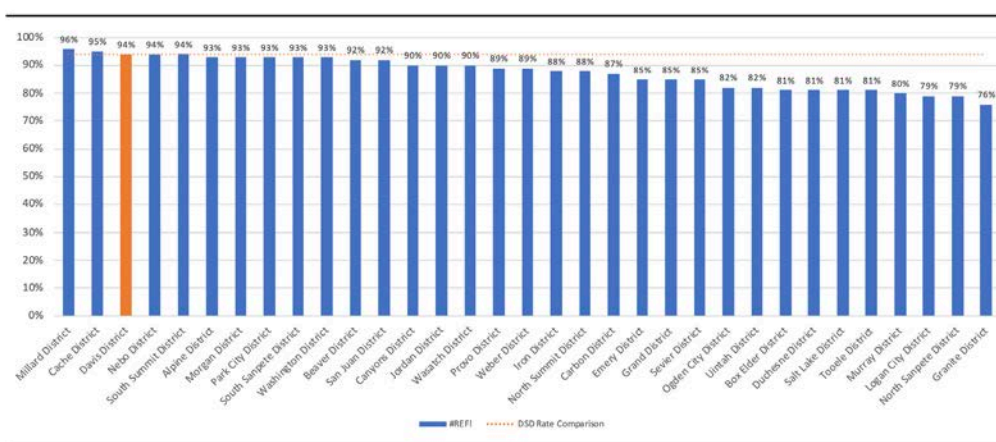
“I think the lesson is how powerful that outreach is and how much, in a time of crisis, ... it is critical to find different ways to make that happen,” Toone said.

awe and excitement as she watched a show about flying puppies (I think rainbows and unicorns were also involved). My hope for her is a life full of flying puppies, with a few experiences intermingled that challenge her to learn and understand.

We do not know when the challenges of this pandemic will end. We do know we will continue to find ways to navigate these complex times with care and understanding. Let us move forward with hope and excitement. Bring on 2021!

— Reid Newey, Superintendent

Comparing District Graduation Rates Across State - Class of 2020



**Davis School District**  
45 E. State Street  
Farmington, Utah 84025  
[www.davis.k12.ut.us](http://www.davis.k12.ut.us)

*Uniquely Davis is published monthly on the district website*

# Staff, students honored for achievements

• **Andrew Tolton**, a student at **Syracuse High**, was chosen as one of the winners of the Westminster Honors College essay contest. He received a \$500 honorable mention scholarship for his essay on bridging political divides. There were 223 essays submitted from 62 high schools across the state and Andrew was one of four winners and the only winner from Davis School District.



Riding

• School Technology Specialist **Leigh Ann Riding** recently completed the National Board Certification, one of the most respected professional certifications available in education.

Volunteer of the Year for her efforts tutoring students online. AmeriCorps members help support students who are struggling with literacy, academics and social/emotional learning.

• **Mountain View Elementary** Teacher **Tarah Crookston** received a \$2,500 “Master of Your Future” scholarship from Western Governors University. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science Degree in Curriculum and Instruction.



Crookston

• In the month of January, the Board of Education of the Davis School District recognized **Creekside Elementary** Teacher **Stacey Empey** for her exemplary work helping students.

• Multiple students have been selected to represent Davis School District by telling their stories at the Weber State Storytelling Festival, which will be held the last week in February.

The students and the school they attend are: **Myra Perry and Aubrey Michelle Walter, Columbia Elementary; Rori Cannon and Katie Joubert, Heritage Elementary; Kalei Crockett, Teenie Callahan and Mac Feller, Woods Cross Elementary; Addison Mccrary, Chaysi Todd and Elle Winward, Ellison Park Elementary; Mattan Cooper and Leisl Olsen, Burton Elementary; Lydia Ford, Kate Monson and Eva Amin, Kaysville Elementary; and Charlotte Harward, Adams Elementary.**

## VACCINATION, From Pg. 1



Multiple stations at the Legacy Events Center are set up to vaccinate individuals in their vehicles.

one’s so friendly,” Hoskins said.

The vaccine is an important component in the fight against COVID-19, Hatch said. Once a high percentage of residents are immunized, then herd immunity can be reached and other control measures — masks, physical distancing — can end.

He said he trusts the vaccine. Individuals with questions or concerns should consult with their physician.

“I got the vaccine. I don’t know if that means anything,” Hatch said. “The manufacturers, the oversight of those manufacturers, it has gone through the same clinical trials as any other vaccine. It’s just been on a little quicker pace this year because we’re in a pandemic and there’s been a need for it.”

Dave Caulford, an engineering teacher at Clearfield High School, also received the vaccination. He said the entire crew helping were friendly.

“My wife and I are both teachers, so we really appreciate having access to the vaccine this early,” Caulford said.

Teachers are on the front-line, he said. Getting the vaccine gives teachers one more tool to avoid getting sick.

District Risk Management Director Scott Zigich said ad-

ministering vaccinations for all employees who want it will take through the end of February.

He added that the ongoing relationship with the health department means teachers and staff will benefit from the well-run vaccination clinics.

This relationship is not new,” he said. “It’s a great relationship and it’s very deep. It’s also reciprocal. Not only does Davis County Health assist schools, but Davis School District assists Davis County Health.”

Hatch said the health department is happy to do its part in keeping students and employees of public schools healthy.

“A great thanks to all of the educators,” Hatch said. “We know it’s been a stressful time, but we are moving you through and hopefully we will get you back to that normalcy that everyone is looking for.”

Zigich said getting the vaccination is invaluable for teachers.

“For teachers to not be as worried about contracting this virus through exposure to a large student population helps our teachers relax and focus on education,” he said. “We hope all those who can will receive the vaccination.”

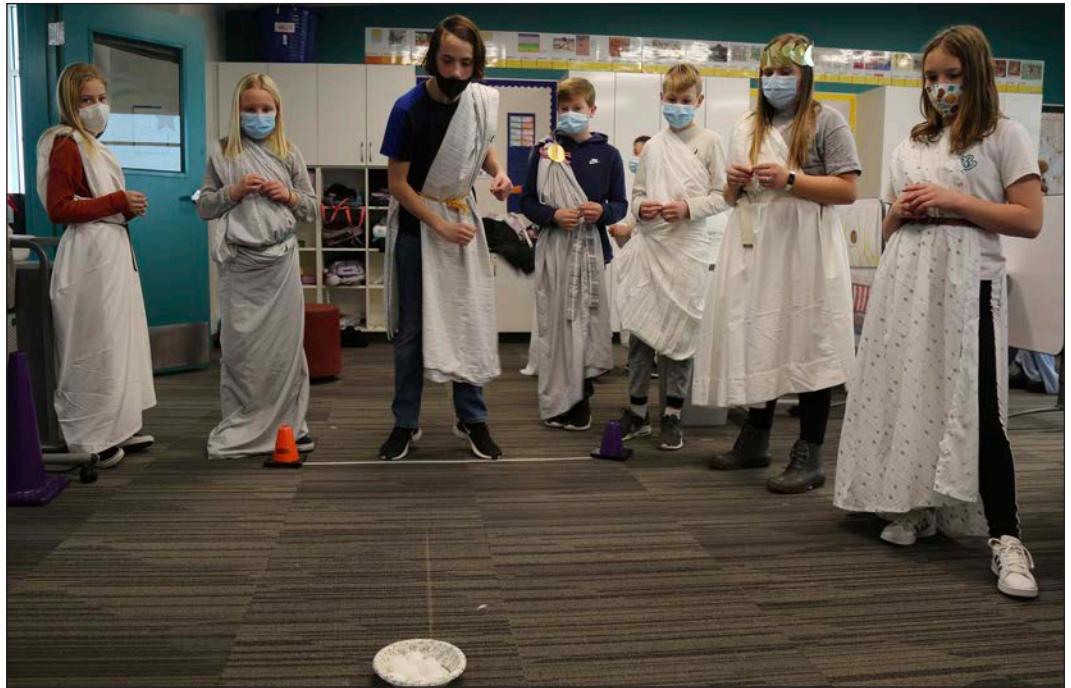
# LET THE GAMES BEGIN

Sixth-graders at Canyon Creek Elementary enjoyed a morning of activities that was all Greek.

To complete their unit on Greece, the students dressed in togas and participated in Olympic-game like activities.

The special event was topped off with a Greek meal. Principal Julie Ferreira said Nutrition Services employees went out of their way to make the regular school lunch take on a Greek feel.

“I love being out in the schools,” said Bonnie Hintze, nutrition services coordinator, of their efforts. “I think it’s just fun that the kids get to do something normal this year.



Students designed the “Olympic Games” for each group to participate in. The javelin throw involved students throwing toothpicks into bowls of cotton.



Students wore costumes of all sorts to recognize their study of ancient Greece.



Above: Nutrition Services turned school lunch into a Greek feast. Students enjoyed skewered meatballs, lemon rice, Greek salad, pita bread, grapes and donuts drizzled with honey.



Left: Cup stacking was a favorite among the games. Other games included: Ring toss, basketball, corn hole, bowling, Gimkit and an obstacle race.