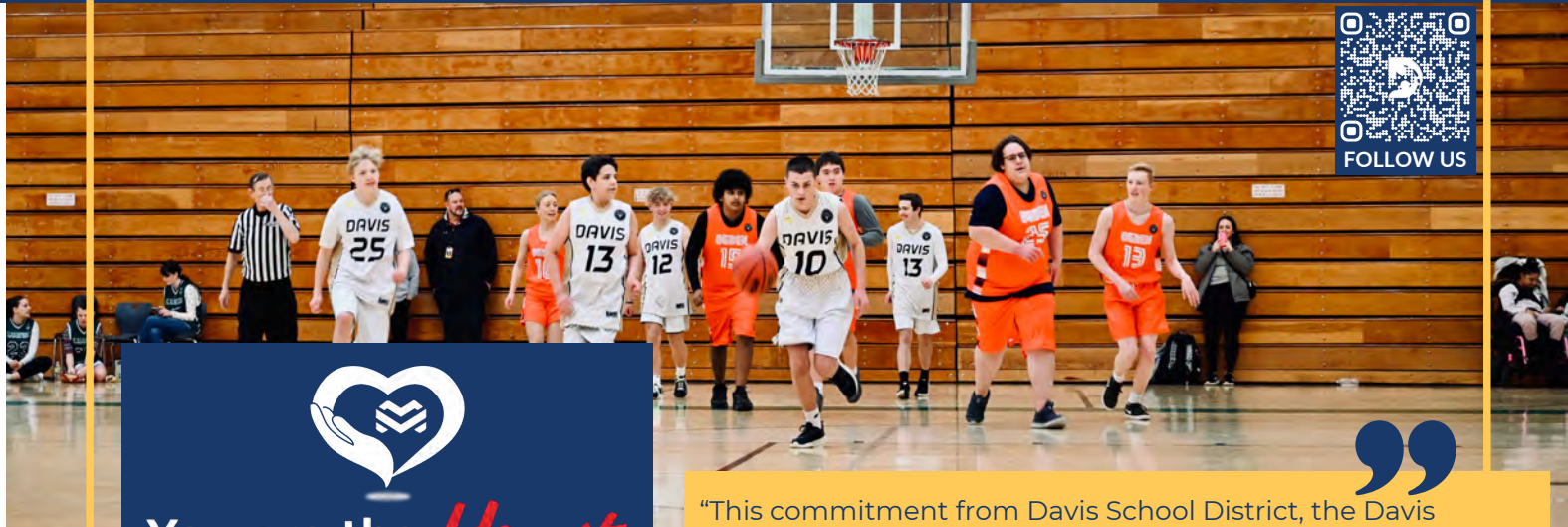


# IMPACT REPORT



You are the *Heart*

MURDOCK FAMILY FOUNDATION



Special Olympics  
Unified Champion  
Schools

## UNIFIED SPORTS

Teams from eight Davis School District high schools gathered at Clearfield High to participate in the annual Special Olympics Utah Unified Sports tournament.

Unified Sports is an inclusive sports program that combines a Special Olympics Utah athlete (individuals with intellectual disabilities) and partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) on teams for training and competition.

Teammates are similar in age to help foster meaningful involvement in the game and build friendships that extend beyond the event.

Thank you to our amazing sponsor,  
**MURDOCK FAMILY FOUNDATION.**

This event would not take place without your support.



“This commitment from Davis School District, the Davis Education Foundation and the Murdock Family Foundation is an incredible step toward ensuring that every student in Davis School District feels loved, has friends who support them and that everyone feels a sense of inclusion and belonging.”

-Utah First Lady Abby Cox



Clinton Elementary Special Education teacher **Laurie Bagford** received the 2023 Heidi Martin, Mighty Heart Educator of Excellence Award. The award was named in honor of Utah resident Heidi Ann Martin, who was born with only two chambers in her heart. She passed away on January 12, 2017, from complications of her condition. An anonymous donor established the annual award that gives \$10,000 to the awardee to be spent at their discretion.

Laurie exemplifies everything this award stands for. She knows and loves her students, their interests, and how to help them succeed. She goes out of her way to support them in and out of school by attending special events, giving personalized awards and has even taken over several hallway bulletin boards that she regularly updates with positive affirmations that everyone in the school loves.

Laurie not only has the heart of a teacher, but she also exemplifies the heart of her school.

*Congratulations Laurie!*

# New Teen Wellness Center opens

Gathered under a banner that reads “It’s Great to be a Wildcat,” school, district and community leaders joined with students in the commons area of Woods Cross High recently to celebrate the opening of the school’s Teen Wellness Center.

Described as a “tested solution for helping teens who are homeless, or living on the brink” by the Salt Lake Tribune, the center will be the sixth of its kind opened by the Davis Education Foundation in Davis School District. With showers, laundry facilities, a kitchenette, a wellness room, quiet study nooks and a mini food pantry, the center gives students a safe, clean space to access services and supplies to cover their basic needs.

“This teen center has brought our whole school closer together,” says Student Body Officer President Liam Henriksen. “I’m proud of our Woods Cross students who come to school, despite their challenging circumstances. They’re resilient, seriously.”

To Henriksen, the work from the whole community to build the teen center reinforced the school’s slogan that “Everybody is Somebody.” He says the experience taught him that the student body can make a difference for good when they work together, highlighting how the Wildcats contributed more than \$150,000 to constructing the teen center during a weeklong fundraising drive.

The community matched the students’ enthusiasm for the project. In total, more than \$500,000 was raised to build the teen center with donations from individual donors, The Larry H. Miller and Gail Miller Family Founda-

tion, The Huntsman Foundation, The Call Foundation, Big West Oil, Lakeview Hospital and Medical Group, Baidee Development CEO Ben Baidee, Brighton Homes CEO Nate Pugsley, Performance Auto Group, the Burton family, the Porter family, the Tom Freeman family and AE Urbia Architects.

“I love our partnerships with businesses and the community,” said Davis School District Superintendent Dr. Dan Linford, expressing gratitude for the contributions that brought the teen center from an idea to reality.

After the speeches concluded, representatives from the Davis



Student Body Officer cuts ribbon at Woods Cross High School Teen Center opening

Chamber of Commerce handed a pair of oversized scissors to Henrikson to cut the ceremonial ribbon. Once the ribbon fell and the crowd cheered, the new teen center was officially open.



Woods Cross High Choir performs at Teen Center opening

## SUPERINTENDENT, From Pg. 1

area and every life endeavor.

Since literacy and communication skills are essential to success in every academic area, we should view every teacher as a literacy teacher, approach every lesson as a literacy lesson, see every course as a literacy course, and undertake every instructional opportunity as an effort

to increase student literacy skills. We don’t stop teaching math, science, or other important topics; nor do we minimize the professional qualifications/skill of teachers in those areas. We simply recognize that for students to effectively master content in any subject area, they need to be able to read, write, and communicate about

their learning. And content-specific literacy skills are essential to every learning experience. Learning First!

—Assistant Superintendent  
Logan T. Toone