



Mindful ★ Appreciative
Gritty ★ Innovative ★ Caring

Nebo News



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NEBO SCHOOL DISTRICT'S SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Nebo District has approximately 34,000 students in 2020-2021.
- Nebo District has approximately 4,500 employees.
- Nebo District is the 7th largest district in Utah.
- Nebo District is the 6th largest employer in Utah County.

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Superintendent Unleash your Imagination

Many years ago, an important mentor gave me a book titled "Orbiting the Giant Hairball." It is written by a Hallmark Cards employee who "shares lessons on awakening and fostering creative genius." A key lesson taught is that "Our creative genius is the fountainhead of originality. It fires our compulsion to evolve. It inspires us to challenge norms. Creative genius is about flying to new heights on untested wings. It is about the danger of crashing. It is amorphous, magical, unmeasurable and unpredictable" (Orbiting the Giant Hairball, p. 22).

The education community has definitely flown to "new heights on untested wings" during the past year! So where will we go from here? One writer sets an important path forward: "**Creativity** is the novel step of being the first to identify that something might be possible in the first place. But **innovation** is the action of putting things into practical reality, despite challenges and resistance, rather than just contemplating" (Business News Daily Editor).

A recipe for successfully following this path of transforming creativity into innovation is outlined in the following principles from Pat Williams' book, "How to be Like Walt."

1. **Draw on all of your life experiences.** Everything that has ever happened to you is grist for the mill of your imagination. Don't waste your experiences. Remember them, reflect on them, and let them inspire you.
2. **Remove the limits from your imagination.** Most of our limitations are actually self-imposed. We limit ourselves by worrying about the 'right' or 'proper' way to do things. The moment we place limits on imagination, creativity shuts down.

3. **Consider all possible solutions to every problem.** Creative people look at problems and challenges from every angle. They don't want one solution. They want hundreds.
4. **Silence your inner critic.** We all have a little voice inside us that criticizes our ideas and inhibits our creativity. Creative people learn to shut off that critical voice so they can explore the outer limits of their imagination.
5. **To be creative, be courageous.** Walt Disney was a dreamer, but he was so much more, because he dared to risk everything to make his dreams come true. So-called 'experts' called Disneyland 'Disney's Folly,' but it turned out that the real folly lay in ridiculing Walt's wonderful ideas.
6. **Work hard.** Authentic creativity doesn't just dream; it builds. Some people are dreamers; others are builders. We need people today who have the vision to dream, plus the skills and the energy to pull it off and make the dreams come true.
7. **Ask yourself, 'What if . . .?'** Creative people don't say, 'I always do it this way.' They question assumptions and ask 'What if we could find a better way?' (How to be Like Walt, p. 64-71).

Thank you for your creativity and innovation this past year and your commitment to applying it to our "practical reality" moving forward into the future. Your focus helps Nebo District to *Be the*

MAGIC for our students in these "amorphous, magical, unmeasurable and unpredictable" times.



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Nebo Administrative Appointments

Dates to Celebrate:

- Feb. 1-28**
American Heart Month
Dental Health Month
African American History Month
- Feb. 1**
Take Your Child to the Library Day
- Feb. 1-5**
National School Counseling Week
- Feb. 2**
Groundhog Day
- Feb. 4**
Rosa Parks Day
Honoring an important person in the civil rights movement
- Feb. 12**
Abraham Lincoln's birthday
- Feb. 14**
Valentine's Day
- Feb. 15**
Presidents' Day
- Feb. 17**
Random Acts of Kindness Day
National PTA Founder's Day
- Feb. 20-27**
National FFA Week
- Feb. 22**
George Washington's birthday



Ben Ford
Assistant Superintendent



Suzanne Kimball
Associate Superintendent of Curriculum



Jo Lynn Ford, Principal
Mapleton Junior High



Mike Johnson, Principal
Sage Creek Elementary



Mike Sorensen, Principal
Hobble Creek Elementary



Bart Thompson
Assistant Principal
Spanish Fork High



Cecily Yeager
Assistant Principal
Diamond Fork Junior High

Nominate Classified Employee of the Year

Our Nebo employees are amazing and deserve recognition. It is that time of year to nominate our hard working friends who are classified employees. Our classified employees include bus drivers, secretaries, technicians, food service workers, custodians, technical support, and maintenance workers. They work hard each day to ensure a positive, safe environment for our students to learn.

Please take five minutes and nominate one or more classified employees who have made a difference in your life or in the lives of our students. Go to the following link to make your nomination:

[Classified Employee Nomination 2021.](#)

Classified Employee Nominations

Due by: February 12



Nebo School District Welcomes Two New School Board Members

Nebo welcomes two new School Board members to the Nebo School Board of Education. John Taylor and Shauna Warnick were sworn in by Michael Harrison at the January Nebo School Board Meeting on January 13, 2021.

Dr. John Taylor, a physician with Canyon View Family Medicine, comes from a family dedicated to education. Dr. Taylor has served on the Nebo's Superintendent Council for the past few years. His wife, Erika, served as the area PTA President. John's mother, Lucille Taylor, served as Librarian at SFHS and on the Nebo Education Foundation for many years.

John Taylor is replacing Dean Rowley and will represent District 6 — Spanish Fork and Springville. John can be contacted at (801)362-3077 or j.taylor@nebo.edu.

Mrs. Shauna Warnick is passionate about education and helping students succeed. She has spent many hours attending school board meetings long before she was elected. Shauna has also served with the PTA and various School Community Councils over the past two decades.

Shauna Warnick is replacing Randy Boothe and will represent District 3 — Benjamin, Lakeshore, and Spanish Fork. Shauna can be contacted at (385)200-0386 or shauna.warnick@nebo.edu.

Nebo is thrilled to have you, both, on the Nebo School Board of Education. Thank you for your service.

For more information on all our Nebo School Board members go to: <http://www.nebo.edu/board-education>.



Thinking of retiring at the end of 2020-21?

Nebo is offering an Early Retirement Notice incentive to those who have their retirement approved by the Board of Education before mid-February. The details are as follows:

- ◆ Any employee who is eligible for and retires from Utah Retirement System (URS) by **June 30, 2021**, can submit the final paperwork to the District by:
 - ◇ **February 5, 2021**, to receive \$500 in their February 29 paycheck.
- ◆ The final application deadline for this Early Retirement Notice Incentive is **February 5, 2021**.

This incentive is a one-time option for those who will retire at the end of the **2020-2021** school year. If you have any questions contact Troy Bohling at [801-354-7480](tel:801-354-7480).





SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nebo School District

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Email: iana.hiskey@nebo.eduwww.nebo.edu

If your successes are not listed, please get awards to iana.hiskey@nebo.edu with Award Nebo News in the subject line.



BE A Nebo Hero

Sherry Sandberg, Teacher, Maple Ridge, "She is an outstanding teacher who makes a big difference in her students' lives. She always finds the positive and makes learning fun and interesting." Recognized by Brielle & Kelsey Glenn.

Val Larsen, Custodian, Diamond Fork Jr., "Val does it all. She comes in early to shovel snow and stays late for dances, concerts, and plays. She ensures that our school is sparkling clean." Recognized by Mike Sorensen.

Cynthia Van Buren, Speech, Summit, "She provides speech services. Cynthia is dependable and provides high quality lessons and activities weekly. She is flexible and the support we need." Recognized by Carrie Denning.

Jerry Whiting, Teacher, Spanish Fork Jr. "He has a way of making all students feel like they are his favorite. He is captivating in his approach to teaching. He creates lessons that allow his students to have moments of discovery and connection that build learning and create curiosity." Recognized by Alesha LeMmon.

Terri Shimmin, Bus Driver, Transportation, "Terri has great rules that our kids feel safe and protected when they ride." Recognized by April Jensen.

Brad Graham, Teacher, Salem Hills, "He is multi-talented teaching physics, German, and math, while coaching swimming and serving as the voice of the Skyhawks. He is our guru for Canvas, I-Campus, and computer concerns." Recognized by Lee Gillie.

Ginny Lund, Teacher, Sage Creek, "She makes everything around her a magical adventure. She has an excellent understanding of curriculum and child development. Ginny is also a professional storyteller." Recognized by Alison Hansen.

Diane Cooper, Nurse, MMHS & MJHS, "She has a willingness to answer any questions or concerns. She always comes to school with a smile and positive attitude. She inspires us with her dedication." Recognized by Kate Henderson.

Heidi Wilzbach, Teacher, Rees, "She has made such an impact in our arts program. She implements music and dance in her classroom and students love her! She also puts on our school-wide musical with enthusiasm!" Recognized by Adam Gull.

Dayna Rush, Teacher, Barnett, "She has such a big heart when it comes to her students. She will move heaven and earth for them and give all she can to help them be the best they can be." Recognized by Sarah Sumsion.

Tami Gee, Tracker, SHS, "She has been an incredible force of dedication to SPED students who struggled with school work during the soft closure. She has gone above and beyond her job description just to help these students pass their classes." Recognized by Ivan Cardenas.

If you have noticed any wonderful people or experiences that need to be recognized, please email them to iana.hiskey@nebo.edu.