

July 21, 2021

Dear Nebo District Friends:

Welcome back from the most well-deserved and welcomed summer “vacation” we will likely ever experience in our careers. The past school year was challenging for a host of reasons, not the least of which was the fact that “summer vacation” was almost non-existent last year. However, we successfully had a magical school year and served students and our communities in ways that set a standard for the nation! I sincerely hope that everyone had the chance to renew and recharge, prepared to rise up to the opportunities and challenges of a new school year.

I love that the first world-wide symbol of progressing beyond the pandemic is the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympic Games that have just begun. I have been enthralled with the Olympics ever since I watched Mark Spitz set 7 world records on his way to winning 7 Gold Medals in the 1972 Summer Olympics. That fire is reignited every time I watch the opening ceremonies, particularly as the American athletes enter the arena. I love the athleticism, standard of excellence, and competitive fierceness demonstrated by these athletes from all over the world. Even more so, I am captivated by the stories of sacrifice, dedication, and perseverance. Each individual competitor is a world-class athlete with a very personal story.

As you watch Olympic athletes over these next several days, and consider their life stories, I invite you to think about the parallels that can be drawn between them, and what we will experience as individuals and as an organization this coming school year. I am sure that there will be a number of inspiring and motivational connections. In my mind, one phrase can summarize the collective lesson learned: **RISE UP!**

These athletes have faced every challenge, cleared every hurdle, overcome every set back, and risen to the pinnacle of performance and competition because they make the daily choice to **RISE UP!**

None of us knows what the coming school year will bring. It will likely be challenging as we help students overcome academic deficiencies, deal with social/emotional challenges, and support those who cannot be in classrooms. We will surely need to support peers, friends, and neighbors with personal struggles. Through it all, my hope is that each one of us will make a daily commitment to **RISE UP!**

Sincerely,


Rick Nielsen



Beginning of Year Information

New Teacher and Intern Orientation -- All new teachers and interns **must** attend the District-wide Orientation from 8:30 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. **Tuesday and Wednesday, August 10-11, 2021**, in the Auditorium at the Summit Center, located at 165 South 700 East, Springville, Utah. Please contact Lisa Pruitt at 801-354-7423 with any questions. If new teachers were interns last year and have attended New Teacher Orientation, they do not need to attend New Teacher Orientation again.

Opening Institute – We will not be holding our traditional Opening Institute this year. We feel it is best to avoid this large gathering for one more year. We are sure that the time will be well-spent in school buildings getting ready for the school year. We hope to be able to do a Renewal Activity for all employees sometime in mid-January. Stay tuned for more details!

Special Note: All **Certified Special Education personnel** are expected to attend a meeting on August 13 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Spanish Fork High School Auditorium.

Benefits Fair -- To assist all employees in understanding their benefits, our annual Benefits Fair will be held at **Salem Hills High School** on **Friday, August 13**, from **8:00 a.m. until Noon**. This year we will be sponsoring several **Information Sessions** regarding important employee benefits. We encourage everyone to attend these sessions to learn more about our 403(b) retirement options, Utah Retirement Systems, our Nebo CareHere Clinic, and our new substitute vendor - Edustaff.

If you have questions regarding medical, dental, vision, or supplemental insurance plans, annuity options, retirement issues, flex spending, etc., please plan to spend time at the Benefits Fair. SelectHealth will also be at the fair to answer any medical or wellness requirement questions. As always, **there will be prize drawings!!!**

Employees who are not scheduled to work on August 13, but who attend the Benefits Fair will be paid two hours for attending. In order to be paid, you will need to mark your attendance at any time during the day at **one of the Timeclocks that are set up at the Benefits Fair**.

Benefit Enrollment – The annual benefits enrollment window for medical, dental, and vision benefits ended on June 11, 2021. **Every employee who is eligible for insurance should have signed in to “Employee Navigator” and updated their benefits information.**

Benefits information has been posted on Nebo’s Benefit 2021-2022 web page for employees. The web page is found at <https://www.nebo.edu/node/3298>.

Please contact the Nebo District Human Resources Department if you have any questions about these benefits or open enrollment.

We look forward to everyone returning safely on August 12!