



Act as if what you do
makes a difference.

It does.

— William James

Because of You

By Heather Price

Because of you a child will feel loved.

Because of you a child will believe they can reach the stars above.

Because of you a child will find laughter and smiles.

Because of you a child will feel worthwhile.

Because of you a child will learn to love and not fight.

Because of you a child will want to read every night.

Because of you a child will learn patience when someone is driving them crazy.

Because of you a child will learn the value of work and not be lazy.

Because of you a child will find comfort in loving arms.

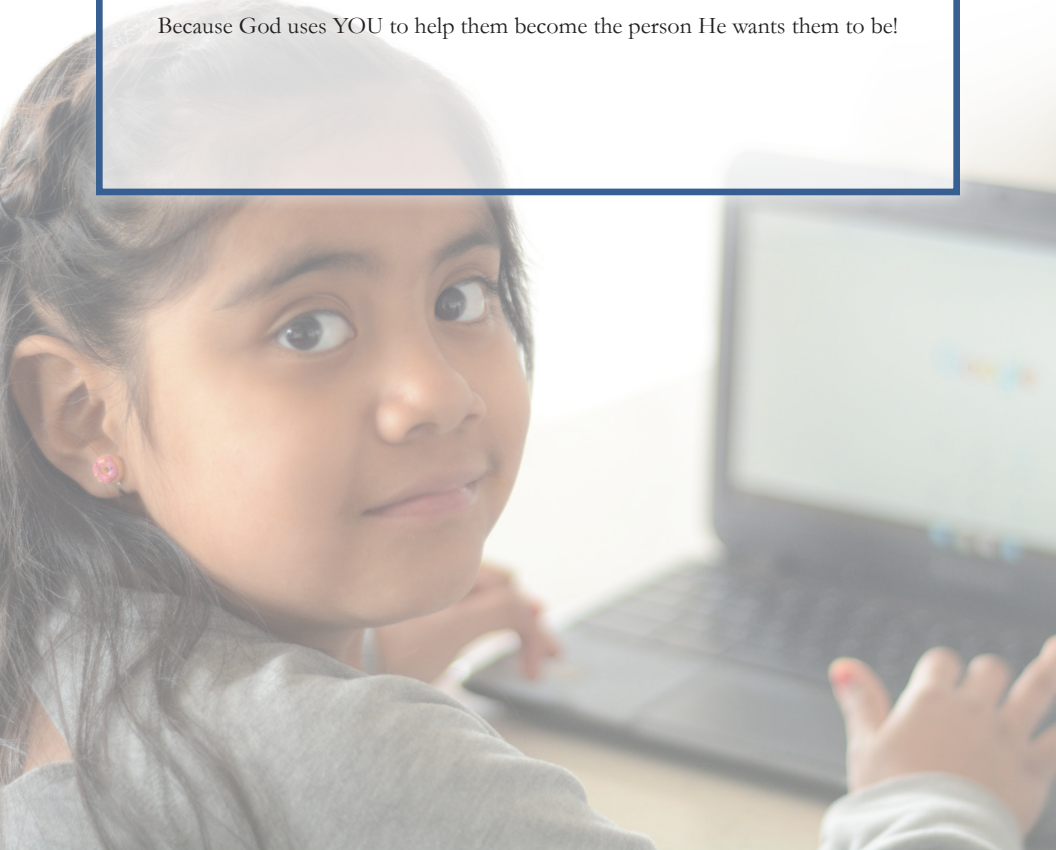
Because of you a child will be safe from words and hands that harm.

Because of you a child will learn as they “play”.

Because of you a child will make a difference along life’s way.

Because of you a child’s life will be forever touched in ways you may never see.

Because God uses YOU to help them become the person He wants them to be!



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Remember the Rainbow

Popular author and speaker, Steve Gilliland, poses the following questions in Mum's the Word: "Who do you truly admire or consider a role model in your company, community, family, or circle of friends? What attributes does he or she possess that you would want to emulate?"

The common quality this person possesses that everyone would emulate: a positive mental attitude.

Gilliland continues: "A positive mental outlook is very important to your success and well-being. Although it can't guarantee immediate health and wealth, it can make your life more enjoyable and rewarding."

"On a flight from Atlanta, Georgia, to San Francisco, California, approximately 20 minutes prior to landing the pilot announced that we were about to experience some rough air and that the ride might get a little bumpy. True to his word, because of the storm, the ride became extremely rough. After we landed, a gentleman who was sitting next to me prompted me to look out the window at what he and I both described as one of the most magnificent rainbows we had ever seen. He then said, 'I guess the rough ride was worth it.' [This] reminded me that we have to put up with a little rain some days in order to see the rainbow. Our children, relationships and professional endeavors have a sprinkling of rain and, in some cases, storms that seemingly never will end."

"Remember the rainbow," Steve recalls his mother always saying. "In order to see the beauty of the rainbow, you have to put up with a little rain some days."

Rainbows are a fitting symbol as each of you conclude your remarkable careers in education. Thank you for letting your positive energy, enthusiasm, and optimism shine so that our students, families, coworkers, and we, ourselves can enjoy and remember rainbows.

Thank you for your outstanding service to Nebo School District!

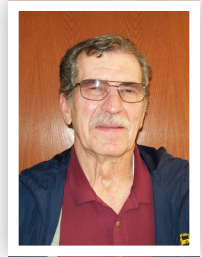
— Superintendent Rick Nielsen



Nebo School District Retirees — 2020

Dale Abbott

Bus Driver – Transportation
12.5 years of service in Nebo



“I would like to give a big thanks to all of the office and mechanical staff, (especially Trish and Jamie) who have always been available with a positive response. They have a tough job, with all the variations of complaints and problems. I am also going to miss all of my secondary and elementary students. It has been a fun job (for the most part). I will miss it.” 🌀

Ann Anderson

Director of Secondary Education – District Office
29 years of service in Nebo, 4.5 in another district



“Don’t cry because it’s over, smile because it happened.” These words from Dr. Seuss sum up my sentiments as I come to the end of a career in public education. I’m so grateful for the 33.5 years I’ve worked in education! I’ve had the opportunity to wear with pride the logo of a Bear River High School Bear, a Bryan High School Viking, a Springville Junior High Red Devil, a Spanish Fork Junior High Don, a Springville High School Red Devil, and a Salem Hills High School Skyhawk. The memories and friendships along the way will always hold a special place in my heart. I’m grateful for what has been given me and hope that along the way, I was able to give back in ways that improved the lives of students, staff, teachers, and families. In alignment with the thoughts expressed by Winston Churchill, ‘We make a living by what we get, but make a life by what we give.’ I’ve been so blessed to have had both a great living and a great life! Thank you, Nebo School District!” 🌀

Kathy Banks

Custodian – Springville High
23 years of service in Nebo



“Over the past 23 years working at Springville High School, I’ve made a lot of great friends. Retiring is exciting and also a little sad. All of the great friends I’ve made will be truly missed.” 🌀

Ingrid R. Bolz

Music Educator – Payson Junior High
24 years of service in Nebo, 1 year in another district



“I am so grateful for a fulfilling 25 years of sharing music with many wonderful students. I appreciate and love each student, colleague, and parent I have had the privilege to work with.

“I leave this chapter of my life excited for the next, yet keenly aware that I will miss my daily walk with my students.

“I have had the BEST JOB! It has been delightful to watch as students discover music, discover their individual voices, and discover how enjoyable it is to share their voices with others. I have learned and grown so much personally through all of this.

“I am retooling and redirecting – not retiring! I look forward to more family time, continuing in music endeavors, learning new things, and service opportunities.

“MOST IMPORTANTLY – Thank you to my husband Daniel, and our daughters Naomi, April, Heidi, and Heather for your love and constant support through the years.” 🌀

DeAnn Carter

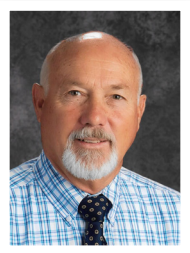
Secretary – Spanish Oaks Elementary
27 years of service in Nebo



“**H**ow fast time goes when you are having fun. I have never really looked at my years in Nebo School District as a ‘job’, but more as a fun experience. I started out 27 years ago at Spanish Fork Intermediate School. I worked an hour a day inputting student discipline into the computer. This is how I got my foot in the door. After working there and in various jobs, I was hired as the Financial Secretary at Payson Junior High School. I learned a lot from the administration there, which has helped me through my career. After a few years at PJHS, I helped open Spanish Oaks Elementary, where I have been for 19 years. I have loved working with all of the principals at all of these schools. I have made so many friends and have worked with so many amazing people including faculty, family, PTA, parents, etc., not to mention all of the awesome students I have gotten to know over the years. I have had the best job in the schools. I will miss my school family. It’s been a great career!!!” 🌀

Steve Carter

Building Official – District Office
32 years of service in Nebo



“**T**hirty-two years ago I was asked to help, for just a few months, build some portables. How fast the few months turned into years. Since then, I have worked under five superintendents and one business administrator that have made a difference in my career and life because each of them wanted the very best for the students in Nebo School District. I enjoy being busy and love construction, so this job has been a good fit for me. I have overseen the bidding, buyout, and construction for 37 new schools and/or buildings from the ground up along with overseeing 27 major additions and remodels on existing schools and buildings. It has been great seeing the employees and students in Nebo School District enjoy and use these wonderful facilities. Thanks to everyone through the years for their support and encouragement.” 🌀

Jill Chestnut

Special Education Technician – Salem Hills High
20 years of service in Nebo



“I started out at Goshen Elementary as an aide, then worked as a skill building coach at Wilson Elementary School for five years. I was at Payson High School for six years and have been at Salem Hills High School for the past six years as a special education technician, which I have loved! It’s been the best job for me, and I have enjoyed the special education kids, as well as the regular education students who help us, all my great co-workers, administrators, and staff!”

Ivan Clarke

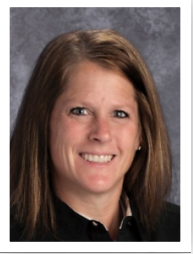
Math Teacher – Salem Hills High
32 years of service in Nebo



“I appreciate having had the opportunity to teach at both Spanish Fork High School and Salem Hills High School during my career. I am also thankful for the great colleagues that I have worked with at both high schools, and for the many great students that I have enjoyed teaching and working with over the past 32 years.”

Tammy Crandall

Teacher – Rees Elementary
26 years of service in Nebo



“It doesn’t seem possible that my career with Nebo School District is over. It is all that I have known for the past 26 years. I have grown so much since that first year. I will never forget the little group of third-graders that were entrusted to my care when I was just a kid myself. It was the start of an amazing adventure. There were many little things along the way that made it worth all the long years and the endless hours of worry – Tony, a struggling second-grader, coming to class one day, eyes sparkling, “I can read Miss Horning!” We had been working after school for months and it finally clicked. The isolated and depressed child that figured out his love for running and came out of his shell to do great things in high school and beyond. The countless thank you notes from students and parents with pictures and words of encouragement. The tears at the end of the school years as the kids walk out of my room for the last time. The visits from past students that just want to talk and catch up. The hugs from grown, past students and wedding invitations and the, ‘I can’t believe you came to my wedding,’ comments. I will miss those things the most. I’ll miss the kids.

“I have taught with so many amazing educators. The teams that I have been on have been amazing. I have learned so much from all of them. Some were seasoned teachers and some were just starting out their careers. It’s amazing how a couple of minds put together can solve insurmountable problems. I have seen it time and again. I have also worked for some amazing principals. I am so grateful that Lynette Neff took the chance on me 26 years ago. I wouldn’t trade any of my experiences for the world.

“I’m saddened that my last year has ended as it has. I will miss the opportunity to see those kids walk out the last day. I will miss the hugs and tears. I’m not great at goodbyes anyway, so maybe this was for the best.

“Thank you Nebo School District for being a great employer. Thank you for teaching me so much and for allowing me to work with children. Thank you principals and fellow teachers. I value education so much, and I know that Nebo is the best at what they do. Thank you for an amazing ride, I will miss it all.” 🌸

John DeGraffenried

Director CTE – District Office

30 years of service in Nebo, 3 years in another district



Betsy Eckton

Instruction Coach / GT Specialist – District Wide

29 years of service in Nebo, 1 year in another district

“As I gaze into the mirror, the face looking back at me is not the same as the one with which I began my career in Nebo School District. Rather, what I see reflects the countless individuals – the amazing students, parents, colleagues, and so many cherished friends – who have influenced my life. The grey hair may have come from the weightier concerns of the years, but the wrinkles are laugh lines, stemming from the joy I have experienced, moment by moment, person by person. My eyes shine with the learning, the growth, and the thrill of the journey. I can’t thank you enough, as everything I see is a reflection of each of you!” 🌀

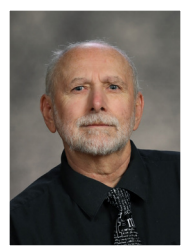


Brian Frankowski

Science Teacher – Mapleton Junior High

30 years of service in Nebo

“I am grateful to the administrators who believed in, hired, and cultivated me. To Tim Johnston and Dixie Allred as my cooperating teachers during student teaching. To my colleagues for their examples, advice, and support. To the parents who entrusted their children to my care; and most of all, I am grateful to the students who allowed me to be their teacher.” 🌀



Faye Fuller

Special Education Technician – Payson Junior High
22 years of service in Nebo



“I have been so grateful for this job. I worked two years part time, and then our son was in a bad car accident that left him paralyzed. My husband got laid off from Geneva around the same time. That year, I was able to start working full time with benefits. Mr. Clayton, our Principal, was so nice. I had to be at the hospital for about three weeks, and he told me to just come back when you can; which I have counted my blessings. I have worked with three teachers and four principals during this time, which have all been great. I have also been grateful that I have been at PJHS the whole time. Thank you so much.”

Jan Gordon

Special Education Technician – Foothills Elementary
27 years of service in Nebo



“I began working for Nebo School District at Salem Elementary in the Special Education Department as a resource technician. I have worked with wonderful teachers including Sharee Swenson, Amy Daniels, Kristin Roylance, and Tanya Proctor. When Foothills Elementary was built, I moved with Sharee Swenson and worked with her until she retired. I then was able to work with Amanda Powell and the last two years with Mandy Kuchar. These outstanding women taught me so much, and each one made going to school a pleasure each day. I also worked under the direction of wonderful principals.

“The many, many students I have worked with are my forever friends. The very first student was a young man named Gage. Although we had challenges in making adjustments, we conquered them and became best friends to this day. Whenever I see Gage, he always says, ‘Hello, Jan Gordon.’ I love to say back, ‘Hello, Gage.’ Zeke was another friend I will remember with fondness as he passed away a few years ago. I met many outstanding students over the years who have influenced my life, and I hope I was able to help them as well. I learned that with every challenge a student might have, they also have a unique strength to build upon.

“We have raised butterflies, ladybugs, triops, ants, and tadpoles together. We have learned to read and write and improve math skills, mostly my own. We have put together countless puzzles for fun and have used innumerable boxes of dry erase markers to learn. And then shared a mountain of candy from my Magic Drawer as a reward for good work. I loved the magic of reading aloud a great book to them. I loved the excitement of when they reached a DIBELS goal and watched as they stood up and cheered their accomplishment. I loved being able to join their celebrations of success as well as comfort and encourage them in their struggles.

“The greatest thrill is to see them move on to become great young people and achieve good things in their lives. After these many years, many are married with families of their own now. The reward comes as you see them all as the good people they always were.

“There will always be a special place in my heart for the 27 years I’ve spent working with the finest teachers and the best young people to be found.

“A special thank you for the honor given to me on my retirement, as being the Classified Employee of the Year for Nebo School District 2020. It was truly my honor to work for Nebo School District!” 🌀

Karl Hales

Math Teacher – Salem Hills High
33 years of service in Nebo

“**W**hen I started this adventure at Payson Junior High, I wasn’t sure I would last 33 weeks, let alone 33 years. I really appreciate the many wonderful colleagues and students I have worked with at Payson Junior High, Spanish Fork High, and Salem Hills High. I am filled with joy that, at this point, I can call it a career!” 🌀



Lynn Harmer

PE Teacher – Mt. Nebo Junior High
30 years of service in Nebo



LaVerne Hoseinyzad

Preschool Technician – Rees Elementary
18 years of service in Nebo

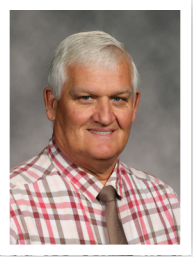


“Working with the students has been the happiest days of my life. I feel at the end of the day, that I have contributed to not only the learning part of school, but also to building their confidence in what they do and learn. I also try to add to their self-esteem as well. Smile and compliments build on self-esteem and self-confidence. I have always tried to create a positive atmosphere in all I do. I have enjoyed every moment of my employment with Nebo School District

I want to thank everyone I have worked with through the years. I will miss all of you as you have made my years at school happy each day.”

James Howell

Computer Science Teacher – Payson Junior High
15 years of service in Nebo



“I am grateful for all of the Teachers and Principals I have worked with and for each of the students I had the privilege to teach.”

Rebecca Jorgensen

Teacher – Brookside Elementary
17 years of service in Nebo



“Getting my master’s degree was one of the best things I did. It really changed my teaching.

“The other best thing was reading good books for improving teaching. Alicia Rudd provided us with a Kindle app connected to her account, where she put many good books.”

Cheryl Cosgray Leifson

Teacher – Park Elementary

19 years of service in Nebo, 3 years in another district



“I started my career in Santaquin with Mr. Ron Bills. I was hired to teach kindergarten. My first year teaching, I had about 75 students. I taught three sessions with 24-25 students in each session. Each session was two hours long with a ten-minute break between the first two sessions, and a half-hour break for lunch, then finished the day with a two-hour session. The wonderful lunch ladies would fix me a lunch and hold it for me. I don’t know what I would have done without the help of Doyle Crook, Lois Haskell, Grandma Ora Davis, and Grandma Celeste Hales. My second year in Santaquin, I taught two sessions with 34-35 students in each session. Santaquin became my second home, and I loved working with the parents and faculty.

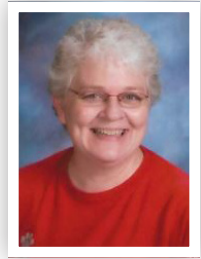
“After my mission, I returned to teach in Spanish Fork at Larsen Elementary. Sterling Argyle hired me to teach kindergarten. One of my kindergarten parents set me up with my future husband, Steve Leifson. I loved working with Phyllis Brock and Patricia Palmer. They are still dear friends to me along with all of the amazing faculty from my years at Larsen Elementary.

“I taught at Brockbank Elementary with Mina Money and Janet Garner. Brockbank Elementary will always be dear to my heart as I was very involved with my three youngest children attending that school. I loved being a part of the Brockbank family; and after 14 years of staying at home, I came back to Brockbank to work with Cynthia Loreen. I truly enjoyed working in her fifth-grade class.

“My last 11 years have been spent at Park Elementary. Rob Keddington hired me to teach kindergarten. I had an amazing team: Heidi Sitake, Bruce Elliott, Leah Fail, Cindy Bradford, Lori Moosman, and Elaine Olsen. I feel blessed to have worked with amazing teachers at Park. I would also like to recognize Ryan Kay and Lindsey Hughes for inspiring me to be the best teacher I could be. At Park Elementary, I learned what it means to use the eight habits to help my students be successful. Teaching has been my passion and my joy for many years!” 🌀

Ann Makin

Teacher – Art City Elementary
25 years of service in Nebo



“Taped to one of my drawers on my school desk is a quote by a systems analyst which I look at when all the ‘have-tos’ at school are weighing me down. It reads ‘The most measurable things are the least important. The least measurable things are the most important.’ Just what are the things that I feel are the most important part of teaching? Are they CRTs, DWAs, benchmarks, or DIBELS? Measurable, yes, but not the reason I became a teacher. The most important part of teaching for me is to make a child feel that they are of worth. If that is attained, a student can achieve anything!

“A while ago, I received a thank you letter, hand delivered, from a former student. This student had been in my class some six years earlier and was now graduating from high school. He wrote, ‘...I can honestly say that having you as a teacher has had a large, positive influence in my life, because you respected me as a student even though I was only in sixth grade. You have taught me to value and respect ideas and people, no matter how small. The importance you placed on having fun and respect in life, and the classroom will stick with me forever.’

“A boy in another sixth-grade class, once questioned why he had to do some work that was on the board. Another student piped up and responded, ‘Because it will help you on the test at the end of the year.’ He questioned, ‘Is that the only reason we come to school, to take a test?’ What message are we sending our students? Are test scores not an important part of education? They have their place, in data, statistics, and placement. But when all is said and done, I do not want to be remembered for changing a student’s grade for the better, but rather, his regard for others and their ideas!”

Linda Meador

Bus Driver – Transportation
11 years of service in Nebo



DeAnn S. Nielsen

Principal – Maple Mountain High
33 years of service in Nebo



“I have had an incredible career in Nebo School District, starting at Mapleton Elementary teaching third grade in a classroom with a beautiful view of Maple Mountain. In education, we you work with the most amazing people—people who chose to serve children. It has been a unique privilege to be a principal and work with these amazing people at both the elementary (Canyon and Brookside) and secondary level. My appointment as Principal of Maple Mountain High School was the pinnacle of my career. Thank you Nebo School District.” 🌀

Shellie Olsen

Teacher – Mt. Loafer Elementary
18 years of service in Nebo



“I have loved being a teacher and having the privilege of coming to school each day, seeing the smiling faces of the kids I teach, and being a part of their lives. It has been energizing, inspiring, and fun to see the world through the eyes of my students. Their thirst for knowledge encouraged me to always be learning myself. Even the challenge of trying to reach the ones who were more difficult has been a blessing. I loved being able to see the difference of where they were at the end of the year, as opposed to where they started. To help to ‘turn the light of learning on’ for a young boy or girl is an honor. I know it has made a huge difference in my life, and I hope I have been a positive influence in their lives as well.

“I will miss the excitement that comes with a new group of kids, and the anticipation of a new year. I know it will always be a big part of me. This has been an interesting year to end my career, with the shutdown of schools for the entire last term! It’s certainly not how I would have scripted the end of my career. But it definitely will be a year to remember.

“I owe so much to the great leaders and teachers who have helped shape me as a teacher. I was blessed to be around very gifted educators from both Nebo and Provo Districts. I am indeed grateful for their patience, expertise, example, and friendship.


“This new chapter in my life is going to be exciting and fun to explore. But a big chunk of my heart will always remain in the classroom. Thank you for the wonderful adventure!” 🌀

Tracy Olsen

Business Administrator – District Office

23 years of service in Nebo, 11 years in another district



“It has been an incredible ride at Nebo School District for 23 wonderful years. I have met, learned, developed friendships, and rubbed shoulders with the best people on earth. I will be forever grateful to the Nebo Board of Education, who many years ago, took a chance on a young guy from the small town of Nephi. They gave me the opportunity to serve as the Business Administrator for Nebo School District. There have been many ups and downs along the way like: dealing with the legislature (good and bad), the 2008 financial crisis, steady enrollment growth, bonding, and building new buildings, and many others. But through it all, I can honestly say that the focus has always been on doing what’s best for the students of Nebo School District. Many financial improvements have been accomplished along the way, but they pale in comparison to the relationships that I’ve developed and will cherish the rest of my life. I will forever be a better person for having worked for Nebo School District. I especially express gratitude to present and past school board members, superintendents, and the finance department employees, who will always have a special place in my heart!” 

Ellen-Anita Olson

Librarian – Mt. Nebo Junior High

19 years of service in Nebo



“It has been an honor and a privilege working in the Nebo School District for the past 19 years. I taught fourth grade, sixth grade, and seventh-grade math. I was a library ‘teacher’ at Diamond Fork Junior High for eight years, and my last year here at Mt. Nebo Junior High. It has been a fantastic ‘run,’ and I have had a wonderful career. I have met so many wonderful people, students, teachers, faculty, and staff. I will treasure your friendship, kindness, support, and encouragement for years to come. I have tried to live by this motto in my teaching years: ‘A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in,

or the kind of car I drove... but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child.'

“As I close this book in my life, I will eagerly open a new and exciting adventure book. Thank you all for the good times, good memories, support, and for all you have taught me.” 🌀

Gwen Reed

Secretary – District Office
32 years of service in Nebo



“I began my 32-year career with Nebo School District at Mapleton Elementary School. I worked in food service, special education (in a severely handicapped unit), Cornerstone, community school/Springville Recreation; and my final years have been at the district office as the community education/athletics and school services secretary. In every area I have worked in, I have developed friendships, which I will cherish forever. I am grateful for my employment with the Nebo School District. The best part of retiring is not having to set an alarm, except for church on Sundays.” 🌀

Sheila Robbins

Teacher – Sierra Bonita Elementary
27 years of service in Nebo



“It is amazing how time flies! It seems like just yesterday that I was so excited to start teaching and have my very own class! I have thoroughly enjoyed my association with fellow teachers, parents, and most of all—students. What a joy it has been to be instrumental, in some small way, in the acquisition of knowledge and the love of learning for children in the Nebo School District. I have been blessed to be a part of the educational community.” 🌀

Nyle Russell

Agriculture Science / FFA / Welding Teacher – Payson High
30 years of service in Nebo



“It has been an honor to serve the students at Payson High School for 30 years.”

Kathleen Shaw

Special Education Teacher – Spring Lake Elementary
17 years of service in Nebo, 4 years in another district



“Working at Spring Lake Elementary for the past 17 years has been a wonderful experience.

I have a school family that is dear to me. I owe many thanks to many people, especially J. Lynn Jones for hiring me as a special education teacher and Spencer Sainsbury who was the principal at Spring Lake for many years and willing to help me as a special education teacher. He was always so kind to me, the faculty, and students. All of the principals at Spring Lake have been exceptional, which is one reason it feels like a family among faculty and staff. A special thanks to Teresa Jordan and Necia Albrecht for your help and sitting in all those IEP meetings. You all have been a tremendous support.

“There have been many individuals who have made a difference in my career and I would like to give a special thanks to MarVele Tycksen who mentored me in my first years. She was willing to answer questions, give advice, and help wherever there was a need. Bonnie Dixon taught me how to be an effective reading teacher. I learned so much from all of her classes. Thank you, Bonnie, for all your knowledge and sharing it with me.

“I would like to also thank the Special Education Department. Thank you, Mike Larsen and Brent Coffman, for your support and kindness. Special thanks to Wendi Pray for all your help. Thanks Nicole Loveless for your insights and information with in-service meetings. I am truly grateful to Amanda Kittell for her help and friendship. I will always have fond memories of my time at Spring Lake Elementary and Nebo School District.”

Greg Shields

History Teacher – Springville Junior High

17 years of service in Nebo, 16 years in another district

“It has been quite a ride for 33 years. Teaching has many challenges, but it is also rewarding. One of the biggest rewards is when I run into a former student, in public somewhere, and have a catch-up conversation with them. It is fulfilling to hear about their life and what they are doing, etc. Especially, once in a while, when they thank me for teaching them or mention that they enjoyed my class, that makes it worth it. Also, it’s fulfilling to see the light come on in their eyes during class and see them succeed. I hope I have made a difference in every one of my students’ lives. My goal was not only to educate them in history and study skills, but also to be able to instill life-skills that will affect them the rest of their lives to be successful in their careers, families, etc.



“My father was a big impact in my life and he is the one who steered me toward a teaching career. He was a teacher himself. My very first principal in Ogden, Utah, made a difference. I appreciate him hiring me and guiding me through those first few years. I appreciate Clark Clayson, who was my first principal in the Nebo School District, for hiring me and his support. I also appreciate the support of Ken VanAusdal who was my principal for a few years. I feel like he understood my strengths and weaknesses. I gained so many friendships with other teachers, which are too many to name. I also appreciate the support of both of my wives (my first one passed away, I’m not a polygamist) and my four boys.” 🌀

Brent Shurtliff

Mechanic – Maintenance

28 years of service in Nebo

“I would like to thank Nebo School District for the many years I was able to work as the floor and carpet layer in the maintenance department. I appreciate the time spent with the maintenance guys doing all of our many projects to keep the district buildings maintained for the students and staff each year. I was able to make some lifelong friendships while working. The administration was good to support me during my years at Nebo School District. I am looking forward to a great retirement and have made many great plans to keep me busy and occupied during this next chapter in my life.” 🌀



Pat Spencer

Lead Night Custodian – Payson Junior High
15 years of service in Nebo



“**F**irst, thanks to my family for putting up with my crazy hours. As I am retiring this year, I am happy and sad at the same time. I started in Payson Junior High 15 years ago and never left. Everyone is like family, and I am sad because I won’t see you, only in passing. Ben Cluff, Don Smith, Leann Hoffman, J.O. Braithwaite, Connie Ericksen, Jesse Sorenson, Christi Petrucka, Flo Padlock, Carl Swenson, and many, many more. You have all have made a difference. It’s a great place to work; I should have started here 30 years ago. Thanks for the memories.” 🌀

JoAnn Sutherland

Special Education Technician – Foothills, Orchard Hills & Santaquin Elementary
25 years of service in Nebo



“**I** want to thank Nebo School District for giving me the opportunity to work with our most precious students for the last 25 years. I also want to thank the parents for entrusting their children to my care. I truly feel that I learned far more from the students than I could ever have imagined. So many of these students and their parents will forever be in my heart. It is so fun to run into them and see the adults some of them have become, and the joy in their parents’ eyes at where they are at in life. This career has taught me patience, compassion, and to celebrate the little accomplishments in life. It was always party time when they learned to do something that we take for granted. Without this job, I would not be the person I am today. I am grateful for all the wonderful people that I have met and worked with through my career; many of them will remain lifelong friends.” 🌀

Glen Thorpe

Night Custodian – Salem Hills High
10 years of service in Nebo



Jill VanAusdal

IEP Student Advocate – Payson High
24 years of service in Nebo



“**I** feel like I have been a part of Nebo School District practically my whole married life! I have appreciated, so much, all of the teachers I have worked with who became friends! People really are so kind and welcoming here. I have worked mostly with special needs kids. I have a big soft spot in my heart for all of them. I had the privilege of working at the IMC for about nine years. Everyone at the district level treated me as if I were one of them. It was fun to work with them and see they are just regular people!! I will really miss my job at Payson High! I love everyone there! Life is Good!” 🌀

Joan Van Voorhis

Speech Language Technician – Mt Nebo Junior High
15 years of service in Nebo



“**W**ho has made a difference? Cheri Cornaby! She hired me to work in Nebo; I was living in Columbus, Indiana, and moved to Utah for this job. Cheri was my mentor, and she patiently worked with me to learn the trade of speech therapy. I had earned my bachelor’s degree from Indiana University as a young married student in 1973, after which I raised six children to adulthood. All of these six children, two sons and four daughters, are married with children.

“I am very grateful to have been privileged to work side by side with many talented speech language pathologists during the past 15 years. I served children ages preschool through post high school. It has indeed been a growth experience helping these many students to meet their communication goals!” 🌀

Robbyn Wagstaff

Director Secretary – District Office
15 years of service in Nebo



“I have worked with so many amazing people in my years with Nebo School District. I have appreciated the opportunities and challenges it has brought to my life. It has made me a stronger and better person. I will miss the many friends that I consider a great gift. The people in my office are kind, caring, and extremely great educators that have a lot of respect and love for those they are in charge of. I am anxious to begin a new phase in my life with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren to love and help care for. Thank you so much for all you have given me.”

Debra Wells

Chinese Teacher – Springville High
31 years of service in Nebo



“I started teaching ESL in 1988 as a volunteer in the night-school program; then as a substitute teacher and ended up teaching three nights a week. Then in 2001, I started teaching Chinese classes in the night-school program. I noticed an opening and was hired at Provo High School as a part-time Chinese teacher. Eventually, when parents began requesting Chinese classes at Springville High School, and the governor provided funding for the first six years for any school starting a Chinese program, I started teaching at Springville High and later added Springville Junior High. So, I kind of side-stepped my way into becoming a Chinese teacher. And, I have enjoyed it! I have enjoyed the colleagues I worked with and the students I came to know—many of whom took classes from me for two, three or even four years (those that started in junior high). I liked thinking up new activities and ways to teach and review Chinese—it’s been a great run. I never thought I’d last long enough to retire! But, I was able to teach some of my own kids, my neighbors’ kids, and some other great kids. I would never have been able to know otherwise. I was able to connect with the high school community and learn just how hard it is to be a teacher! The skills I gained led to opportunities at BYU, at the district office, and the

USOE. I was able to go to conferences, help write the state curriculum, and feel like an expert in my field. It's been great! And now, it's on to the next great adventure. My husband and I have our mission papers 'in' and we're hoping to use Chinese—somehow, somewhere!" 🌀

Brenda Wesson

School Psychologist – Brookside & Foothills Elementary
15 years of service in Nebo



“**L**earn as much as you can from the positive people around you and then do your best to ‘pay it forward.’ This has been the guiding philosophy I learned as a graduate student at BYU and then tried to implement as a school psychologist for Nebo District. Fortunately, I have been surrounded by many positive, exemplary people to learn from including students, parents, faculty, and administrators. I am grateful to have shared this journey with so many cherished and motivating team members and friends. I will miss each of you!” 🌀

2020 RETIREMENT LIST

Certified Employees

Name.....	Years of Service
Ann Anderson.....	29
Ingrid R. Bolz.....	24
Ivan Clarke.....	32
Tammy Crandall.....	26
John DeGraffenried	30
Betsy Eckton.....	29
Brian Frankowski.....	30
Karl Hales.....	33
Lynn Harmer	30
James Howell.....	15
Rebecca Jorgensen.....	17
Cheryl Leifson.....	19
Ann Makin.....	25
DeAnn Nielsen.....	33
Shellie Olsen	18
Tracy Olsen.....	23
Ellen-Anita Olson.....	19
Sheila Robbins.....	27
Nyle Russell	30
Kathleen M Shaw.....	17
Greg Shields.....	17
Joan Van Voorhis.....	15
Debra G Wells.....	31
Brenda Wesson.....	15

2020 RETIREMENT LIST

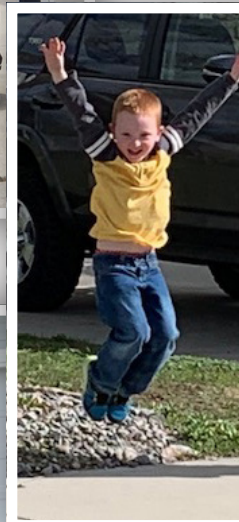
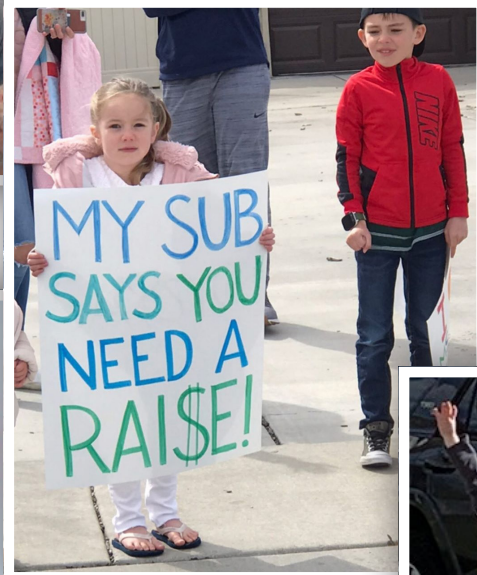
Classified Employees

Name	Years of Service
Dale Abbott.....	12.5
Kathy Banks.....	23
DeAnn Carter	27
Steve Carter	32
Jill Chestnut	20
Faye Fuller	22
Jan Gordon.....	27
LaVerne Hoseinyzad	18
Linda Meador.....	11
Gwen Reed	32
Brent Shurtliff	28
Pat Spencer.....	15
JoAnn Sutherland.....	25
Glen Thorpe	10
Jill VanAusdal.....	24
Robbyn Wagstaff.....	15

Certified Employees Retiring: **24** for a total of **584** Years in Nebo

Classified Employees Retiring: **16** for a total of **341.5** Years in Nebo

Total Employees Retiring: **40** for a Total of **925** Years in Nebo





*you can't
Retire
from being
Awesome!*



There will always
be more blessings—
than burdens—
even if some days
it doesn't seem so.

—Jeffrey Holland