



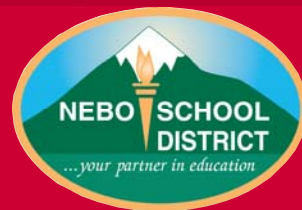
NEBO SCHOOL DISTRICT'S SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Nebo District has nearly 30,000 students 2011-2012.**
- **Nebo District has over 4,000 employees.**
- **Nebo District is the 7th largest district in Utah.**
- **Nebo District is the 5th largest employer in Utah County.**

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Nebo News



VOLUME I ISSUE III

DECEMBER 2011

ParentLink and "Delayed Start"

As the leaves begin to fall from the trees, I am reminded that winter is not far behind. As you are aware, last winter was one for the record books. As a result of last year's difficult winter, Nebo School District implemented a "Snow Day," the first in over 25 years. It also fostered discussions about possible ways to improve day-to-day operations in the district. In preparation for another winter, we would like you to be aware of some exciting changes in Nebo School District.

During a severe winter snow-storm, our first question is usually, "Will we hold school?" As a general rule, "Yes." Past experience has taught us that cancelling school should be an exceptionally rare event. Due to the complexities of implementing a Snow Day, Nebo School District has recently approved a new "Inclement Weather Policy." A major shift in the policy is the addition of what is termed a "Delayed Start." On rare occasions, our area receives an unusually heavy snowfall that can make road conditions hazardous. In an effort to keep students, parents, and

employees safe during these occasions, the district may implement a Delayed Start. A Delayed Start means that school will be postponed for exactly two hours. After two hours, school will start on a modified



schedule for the day. More information can be found regarding this new policy at www.nebo.edu.

We are also pleased to announce that Nebo School District has recently partnered with ParentLink, a mass notification system, that is based out of Provo, Utah. Using innovative new technologies, ParentLink and Nebo School District will be able to provide each school in Nebo School District the opportunity to communicate with parents and students on a variety of issues through phone calls, emails,

Short Message System (SMS) or text messages, fax messages, and printed letters.

Another exciting component of this new technology is the ability of the district to communicate district-wide—with patrons and employees of a particular city or with a specific school or program. This communication could be regarding a Snow Day, a Delayed Start, or any other topic the district deems necessary. It is interesting that just a few short years ago, it would have taken at least 48 hours to communicate with everyone in Nebo School District. Using this new technology, ParentLink, Nebo School District will be able to contact all patrons and employees within 15 minutes!

We are excited about these new changes that will give us superior school-to-parent communication and a new way to address inclement weather. Working together, we can continue to ensure that Nebo School District is a wonderful place to work.

Assistant Superintendent
Scott Wilson

Busing December 2011

Busing Information for Wednesday, December 21, 2011.

Wednesday, December 21, 2011, will be a half day of school. Secondary Schools

will be out at 11:15 a.m. and Elementary at 12:00 p.m. Buses will run to adjust to this schedule.

Any questions or concerns may be directed to the Transportation Department at (801)465-6005.



Math Common Core Curriculum



How is the content of mathematics the same and different from the current Utah Core Curriculum and the Common Core State Standards?

The primary difference between the current Utah mathematics core curriculum and the Common Core State Standards is that the common core focuses on mathematical topics with more depth than the current core. Students that complete CCSS through Secondary Math III will be college and career ready with skills and knowledge in mathematics beyond

those contained in the current Algebra II course.

How are secondary math classes sequenced in the Common Core State Standards?

7th Grade Math or Honors
8th Grade Math or Honors
Secondary Math I or Honors
Secondary Math II or Honors
Secondary Math III or Honors

What is the difference between the “regular” track and the “honors” track?

For 7th Grade Math and 8th Grade Math, students will cover the same required topics in both

the regular and honors tracks. However, in the honors track the investigation of topics will be broader and deeper. Students will be prepared for the next grade level regardless of which track they take the previous year.

For the Secondary Math classes, there will be additional topics covered in the honors track that are not covered in the regular track, completing the requirements for Pre-Calculus by the end of Secondary Math II Honors. For more information go to: www.nebo.edu/news/751

Strengths Common Core:

*Alignment of College & Career Success,
Consistency All States,
Knowledge of High-Order Skills, and All Students are Prepared to Succeed in Our Global Economy & Society*



Curriculum – What Students’ Need

Our district does know what students need. Why? Because students tell us, parents tell us, educators tell us, and research backs up what they all say. We know that right at the TOP of the list is “Peak Performers” or highly qualified, effective teachers just as Superintendent Rick Nielsen states. Our students deserve to be taught by the most highly competent, highly motivated and highly caring teachers in the profession. Nebo’s teachers are just that. Nebo’s teachers are the GREATEST! This is why the curriculum department focuses our resources on supporting teachers. Nebo District needs to continue to be the best at helping students achieve success as students travel through our education system.

Over the past eight months, Nebo District has been able to provide teachers with four, full days of staff development as teachers implement the new common core standards. Nebo District has heard positive statements made such as, “I am excited our district provided quality time for teachers to meet together. In many districts, teachers are left to figure out the common core expectations on their own.” Another employee stated, “It was great to get so many new innovative teaching ideas.” And still another employee commented, “Now I see what is meant by the common core involving all subjects.”

Students need to have 21st century learning opportunities. As a superintendent’s staff, we are focused on 21st century learning and continually strive to support the

needed technology and essential skills for today’s classroom teachers.

Data, Data, Data. How fortunate for Nebo District administrators and teachers that they have at their fingertips a variety of data to help evaluate and guide the next steps in helping every student succeed. The Wednesday early out days help provide the needed time for teachers to collaborate and analyze together student data for student success.

This is a great time to be in education, even with all the economic stresses. This is a great time to be part of this wonderful district where we are all working together to make the biggest impact in helping students explore all possibilities and achieve their desired dreams.

Benefits Update

- Select Health 800-538-5038
- ALTIUS 800-377-4161
- MEDCO Pharm 800-903-4725
- Dental Bonne. 801-224-2055
- Hartford Life 800-886-5598
ext 32805
- Eye Med 866-723-0513
- Opticare 800-EYE-CARE
- Flex Spend 877-872-2125
- Health Equity 866-346-5800

Additional benefits for employees covered by our Basic or Supplemental Life Insurance policies

Employee Travel Assistance Program: This benefit provides pre-trip information, emergency medical assistance or personal assistance services while traveling more than 100 miles from your home. Please visit www.nebo.edu >employee homepage > Benefits 2011-12 – Latest Information> Employee Travel Assistance for a flyer with detailed information.

You can pick up a travel card to put in your wallet from the district office HR department.

Life Conversations – provides services to guide you through major life decisions such as selecting the appropriate amount of life insurance, creating a will, funeral planning, and grief counseling. Go to our employee's homepage and see flyer for details.

When did you last update you beneficiaries? We have noticed that a number of employees have not updated their

beneficiaries for many, many years. If they were to die right now, benefits would be paid to the beneficiary listed on the latest beneficiary form (even if it is a divorced spouse). If you would like to make changes, please fill out a new beneficiary designation form and return to the district office HR department. Forms may be obtained on the employee homepage. While you're at it, go online to your URS.org and update your beneficiaries there as well.

Nebo Wellness – 1,900 Strong

Nebo School District now has enrolled 1,900 participants. Nebo Wellness is not about numbers. The purpose is to change individual lives. The following is written by one of our employees:

A year ago, I went in for my preventative screening. I wanted to get my blood sugar checked knowing that my dad was diabetic. I was unaware that I needed to be fasting for the test, so the test didn't happen. The doctor encouraged me to come back fasting and to get it

checked soon. I let life pass by and never went in. About a month ago, I had some pain that concerned the doctor. The doctor asked me to get some lab work done. My sugar levels were very high. After further testing, I found out that I am diabetic. I personally believe that I have been dealing with this disease for at least this past year, undiagnosed. I wish I had taken the advice of my doctor at the preventative screening and received the help I needed then. Imagine, a whole year of not feeling

quite right, ignored because of the craziness of life. I have personally learned my lesson and have become an advocate to encourage all around me to get anything that seems questionable checked out. You never know, it could save your life.

Nebo School District offers a \$35 gift card for those who complete their preventative screenings.

See: <http://wellness.nebo.edu/>, scroll to "Preventative Screenings Challenge".



Preschool Programs

Nebo School District administers three different types of preschool programs. These include: Special Education Preschool Classes, Title I Preschool Classes, and Tots Learning to Communicate (TLC) Classes. Headstart programs are also located at some of our school campuses but are administered through a separate agency, Mountainland Headstart.

Title I preschool classes are for students that live within Title I school boundaries. Screenings are held each spring for three- and four-year olds for

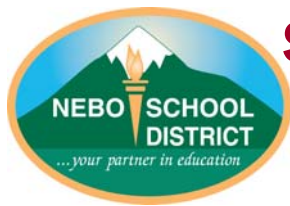
acceptance into the Title I classes. Students with special education services are also in Title I classes.

Special education preschool classes are located throughout the district. These classes have tuition paying students and students with disabilities. Students receive specialized services depending on delays within a developmentally appropriate environment.

TLC classes are speech classes. Parents come with their students to learn techniques

to improve their child's articulation skills. Speech therapists work with students on speech sounds and phonological awareness.

All preschool classrooms in Nebo School District focus on providing developmentally appropriate activities in fun and exciting environments. Life in preschool is always full of fun dramatic play, art projects, games with friends, and learning. If parents are concerned about their child's development, they can call 801-491-2165 to schedule a screening appointment.



School Board & Superintendent's Staff Goals

Nebo School District

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Focus on Students



The Nebo School Board and the Superintendent's Staff continue to collaborate and set goals for Nebo School District. This month we are highlighting Quality Instruction.

The Quality Instructional Program Goal: Examine and align established 21st Century skills with Nebo School District's K-12 curriculum including Literacy, Math, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education, Fine Arts, and Technology Education.

Action Items:

1. Effectively Implement the new Common Core Standards in Literacy and Math.
 - ◆ Continue to engage employees in a collaborative culture focused on improving teaching methods, establishing learning goals, and meeting student academic needs.
 - ◆ Provide staff development to ensure that each individual teacher understands district expectations regarding content, instructional strategies, utilization of resources, and assessment.
2. Continue implementation of elementary fine arts staff development to ensure fine arts instruction for every child every day.
3. Keyboarding instruction for all children in Grades 4 and 5.
4. Evaluate K-12 Physical Education programs in the district.
5. Increase band and orchestra participation in the secondary schools.

- ◆ Ensure that each teacher has appropriate resources for effective implementation.

- ◆ Evaluate the effectiveness of the common core implementation through assessment of student performance and teacher use of effective strategies.

- ◆ Continue to provide timely and informative communications with patrons and employees regarding the common core.

Live Your Dream

"To accomplish great things, we must not only act but also dream, not only plan but also believe." By: Anatole France

Find Your School's Good News

Accomplishments worth showcasing: Be on a constant lookout for noteworthy accomplishments of your staff and students. Did one of your students score exceptionally high on a standardized test? Is one of your teachers about to be recognized with a prestigious teaching award? Whether it is a group of students who won a regional science fair or a teacher who is adored by parents, look for accomplishments that you and the PR person can highlight for the media.

Programs that show innovation: Teaching is a profession that will never get stale or hum drum. Methods are always changing and expectations seem to continue to climb higher. Do you have an educational pioneer on your staff? Are you getting positive feedback from parents about a new and innovative method one of your teachers

is using to make multiplication exciting? These are the kinds of things that you may want your local media to know about!

Students and their community contributions: Good citizenship and active giving to the community are things that always leave a good feeling behind. This is also true when we hear of schools that are producing students who give back to their communities. Are your students a part of community service groups that help the elderly, the environment, or the poor? Be sure not to let these accomplishments go unnoticed. Work with your local media to feature these generous students and their projects.

Exceptional parents and their involvement: While schools are always working to increase parent involvement, there are some parents who

are an educator's dream come true. Parents who are consistent, patient and generous with their time and skills should get accolades as well. Did a group of parents help to pull off an enormously successful fundraiser? Maybe a rave review is something that your local media would be interested in.

Now equipped with the news you want to share with your community, work with the district PR person to use the media for the benefit of your school. Keep in mind that the media want stories — good or bad — that will attract local readers and viewers. Let's give them the GOOD!

From the office of Lana Hiskey, Public Information Officer, Source: NSPRA's Resource Files