

Be the
MAGIC!

Mindful ★ Appreciative
Gritty ★ Innovative ★ Caring

Nebo News



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MAY 2021



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 Thank you for the MAGIC this year!

Last month, I wrote about the important role each of **YOU** played in having a successful school year during this pandemic. I've since been reflecting on **WHY** each of you rose up and set a standard for the nation. I have concluded that your **WHY** is likely rooted in a deep conviction to do what is right by children. Regarding conviction, Author Lee Cockerell shared:

"My Father-in-law, Charles N. Payne, was a rear admiral in the U.S. Navy. When I asked him when he first knew that he was willing to die for his country, he said it was on the day he joined the service and swore to defend the United States Constitution. Then he added something I've never forgotten: 'Lee, you have to decide what you stand for long before an incident happens, so you'll be ready to act appropriately.' You have to know what you stand for and be ready to do the right thing" (Creating Magic, p. 247).

The pandemic created an 'incident' that put our principles to the test and Nebo District employees already knew what they stood for and were 'ready to act appropriately.' Our people rose to the occasion and our students, families, and communities have been blessed by your actions.

Magic for entertainment uses misdirection, illusion, and mental forcing to awe and impress a crowd. Nebo **MAGIC** requires each of you to be Mindful, Appreciative, Gritty, Inno-

vative, and Caring day in and day out. To do this for an entire school year, and throughout an entire career, is so much more Awesome and Impressive than any other magic.



While there will be many lessons learned from this past year, the most profound lesson I have learned is: "Every choice you make matters a great deal. You have the opportunity to make a huge difference [in] the lives of other human beings, [in fact] your decisions and behaviors reverberate across many lives." (Creating Magic, p. 260)

Thank you all for your **MAGIC** and have a wonderful summer!

Thank you

Nebo District's Retirees 2021

Dates to Celebrate:

May 1-31

International Civility Month

Better Hearing and Speech/
Healthy Vision Month

National Physical Fitness &
Sports Month

May 2-9

National Music Week

May 3-7

National Teacher Appreciation
Week

May 4

National Teacher Day

May 5

Cinco de Mayo
National Bike to School Day

May 9

Mother's Day

May 9-15

Food Allergy Awareness Week

May 12

National School Nurse Day

May 15

Armed Forces Day

May 24

Landmark Graduation 11:00 a.m.

May 25

Graduations: PHS 10:00 a.m.,
MMHS 2:00 p.m.

May 26

Graduations: SFHS 10:00 a.m.,
SHS 2:00 p.m.

May 27

Graduations: SHHS 10:00 a.m.,
Legacy 7:00 p.m.

May 31

Memorial Day
World No Tobacco Day

Tom Alvey, Bus Driver, Transportation, 14 yrs.
Pat Ames, Bus Technician, Transportation, 9 yrs.
Doreen Barker, Technician, Art City, 21 yrs.
Holly Beckstrom, Secretary, IMC, DO, 43 yrs.
Natasha Bingham, Teacher, Hobble Creek Elem., 24 yrs.
Susan J. Boothe, Program Manager, Legacy, 30 yrs.
Maria J. Bradford, ESL Liaison, Taylor, 25 yrs.
Rhonda Brady, Teacher, Mt. Loafer Elem., 35 yrs.
Michael Brown, Administrator, Summit Center, 44 yrs.
Annette Cannon, Secretary, Operations, DO, 15 yrs.
Scott Carson, Assistant Principal, Landmark High, 34 yrs.
Kim Christensen, Technician, SPED, District Wide, 19 yrs.
Tori Clarke, Teacher, Legacy Program, 25 yrs.
Richard Daybell, Maintenance, DO, 25 yrs.
Lynette DeGraffenried, Principal Goshen Elem., 23 yrs.
Diana Eastman, Technician, Mapleton Elementary, 24 yrs.
Mary Erikson, Nutrition, Mapleton Elementary, 17 yrs.
Virginia Lund Francis, Teacher, Sage Creek Elem., 29 yrs.
Judith Hamilton, Bus Attendant, Transportation, 12 yrs.
Pamela Haney, Teacher, Salem Elementary, 34 yrs.
Dave Harlan, Principal, Canyon Elementary, 34 yrs.
Shawn Hatfield, Teacher, Payson Junior, 31 yrs.
Catherine L. Holt, Nutrition, Salem Jr., 16 yrs.
Gary Hubbs, Bus Driver, Transportation, 12 yrs.
Debbie Jarrett, Nutrition, Mt. Nebo Middle, 29 yrs.
Lesley Johnson, Tech., SPED, Spanish Fork Jr. 18 yrs.
Valerie J. Johnson, Bus Driver, Transportation, 31 yrs.
Monte B. Larsen, Bus Driver, Transportation, 20 yrs.
Cathleen Lewis, Nutrition, Spanish Fork Jr., 29 yrs.
Maria D. Lewis, Teacher, Diamond Fork Junior, 33 yrs.
Sylvia Little, Teacher, Payson High, 17 yrs.
Regan Lundell, Teacher, Park View Elementary, 25 yrs.
Joseph McCrillis, Custodian, Mt. Nebo Middle, 12 yrs.
Rozlin Mecham, Tech., SPED, Springville High, 24 yrs.
Wade Menlove, TSA with ESL, Taylor Elementary, 36 yrs.
MeriLynn Metcalf, Technician, SPED, Cherry Creek, 30 yrs.
Mina Money, Teacher, Canyon Elementary & CFA, 38 yrs.
Linda Mortensen, Secretary, Landmark High, 19 yrs.
Patricia Muni, Speech, Barnett Elementary, 34 yrs.
Theresa Olesen, Teacher, Wilson Elementary 37 yrs.
Angela J. Olsen, Teacher & CFA, Maple Ridge, 30 yrs.
Dennis Olsen, Teacher, Diamond Fork Junior, 31 yrs.
Jana Olson, Psychologist, Barnett & Goshen, 23 yrs.

Connie Parker, Finance Secretary, Springville High, 30 yrs.
Karen Paul, Technician, SPED, District Wide, 25 yrs.
Mary Beth Perry, Nutrition, Mapleton Jr., 20 yrs.
James E. Peterson, Custodian, DO, 18 yrs.
Kara Poulsen, Teacher, Diamond Fork Junior, 32 yrs.
Paula Price, Nutrition, Barnett Elementary, 29 yrs.
Stephanie Richards, Teacher, Sage Creek Elem., 21 yrs.
Jay B. Robbins, Electrical Foreman, Maintenance, 30 yrs.
Sherry M. Sandberg, Teacher, Maple Ridge Elem., 30 yrs.
Candice Sorensen, Teacher, Sage Creek Elem., 25 yrs.
Randel Talbot, Custodian, Park Elementary, 16 yrs.
Sharla Thomas, Teacher, Riverview Elementary, 40 yrs.
Pam Tippetts, Teacher, Diamond Fork Junior, 29 yrs.
Lori Toutai, Teacher, Mt. Loafer Elementary, 30 yrs.
Mark F. Van Voorhis, Teacher, Landmark, 15 yrs.
Marlene Vest, Technician, Spanish Fork Jr., 15 yrs.
Julie Warren, Curric. & Assoc. Superintendent, DO, 33 yrs.
Larry Whitehead, Custodian, Spanish Fork High, 27 yrs.
Scott Wilson, Assistant Superintendent, DO, 35 yrs.

Celebrations

Kara Poulsen, a drama teacher at Diamond Fork Junior, was honored as the State Drama Secondary Instructor with Sorenson Legacy Awards for Excellence in Arts Education by the Utah State Board of Education.

Ryan Rigby, a teacher at Spanish Oaks Elementary, was honored as the Region 10 PTA Outstanding Educator Award.

Emily Blaisdell, teacher at Mapleton Elementary, was honored as the Region 10 PTA and the Utah PTA Outstanding Elementary Educator Award.

Kelli Oswald, a volunteer at Meadow Brook Elementary, was honored as the Region 10 Spirit of PTA Award.

Insurance Enrollment

Now is the time for eligible employees to enroll in or waive benefits for the plan year starting September 1, 2021.

Please keep in mind, even if you are waiving insurance, you will need to log into the Employee Navigator and do so **DURING THE ENROLLMENT WINDOW** — May 17 through June 11. (Exception: If you are leaving Nebo School District, you will not need to take action.)

When you log into Employee Navigator, the benefits you had last year will show on the right of the screen. Your options for the 2021-22 year will show on the left of the screen. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to Ryan Kay or Valerie Leetham.



Nebo School Board Approves Raise

In recognition of our tremendous employees and their dedication to Nebo students, the Nebo School District Board of Education recently approved a significant salary and compensation package that includes:

- 5.5 % increase on the base salary
- Steps and Lanes fully funded
- Continuation with Select Health Share medical insurance
- Continued options for Dental, Vision, and other benefits
- Significant enhancements to Early Retirement options



Building level administrators have additional information, and we encourage everyone to visit with their administrator or call the District office for more information.

“At our last board meeting when we approved this raise, it was a celebration of validation for all of our Nebo Heroes. The past year has been a difficult one, and each of you has handled it with grace. I think if anything good has come from this pandemic, it is that our patrons have gained a greater understanding of the importance of educators!” stated Board President Christine Riley.

“I’m always so proud to say we have held school five days a week for the past school year. Your focus on our students makes Nebo School District a really great place to be!

“Enjoy your summer break! It will go by much too quickly!

“Thank you,” Christine Riley, President of Nebo School Board of Education.

Nebo

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nebo School District

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If your successes are not listed, please get awards to [lana.hiskey@nebo.edu](mailto: lana.hiskey@nebo.edu) with Award Nebo News in the subject line.



Nebo Hero

BE A Nebo Hero

Devan Haskell, Bus Mechanic, Transportation, “Devan is very hard worker and honors the National Guard. He is of great service to our world, country, and the transportation department. We are proud to call him a friend. He is very, very kind person. He is the best mechanic.” Recognized by Heidi, Terri, Debbra, Tony, Debra, Liesel, Bonnie, Shelly, Vickey, Chad, & North Compound.

Ashtyn Millett, Custodial, Larsen, “Ashtyn is positive and helpful and goes out of her way for faculty and students. She always has a kind word and a smile and can solve any problem.” Recognized by Laura Olsen & Third Grade.

Shelby Martindale, Child Nutrition, Mapleton Jr., “Shelby is a hard worker, who puts all her energy into guaranteeing that students get the very best for their breakfast and lunch. She has a cheerful hello and a positive energy flow.” Recognized by Mary Erekson.

Laurie Nielson, Secretary, Mt. Nebo Middle, “Laurie always greets her substitute teachers with the utmost of friendliness and makes sure they are well informed of all aspects of the school day. We feel valued.” Recognized by Robin Nelson.

Scott Buck, Teacher, Diamond Fork Jr., “Scott has been an incredible teacher for many, many years. His ability to create a caring, fun, and educational classroom environment is unmatched. He has wrangled a class of junior high kids to create a weekly news show—week in and week out.” Recognized by Lori Biesinger.

Cynthia Langford, Technician, Maple Ridge, “Cynthia is a wonderful technician. She goes above and beyond to help students in class. Each day she is eager and willing to serve in whatever capacity. She is kind, helpful and genuine with both students and faculty.” Recognized by Bethany Brown.

Robyn Miller, Finance Secretary, Salem Hills High, “Robyn works with people each day having to pay money. Her calming disposition helps those people walk away with a more pleasant attitude.” Recognized by Lee Gillie.

Timothy Bell, IT Technician, Cherry Creek, “Tim is ALWAYS greeting everyone with a smile. He is amazingly approachable and never makes anyone feel stupid for asking technology questions. He is prompt and attentive to make sure everything is running perfectly.” Recognized by Cheryl Nielson.

Sheryl DeNaughel, Assist. Secretary, Barnett, “She is a rockstar! She runs from the time she comes through the front doors until the time she leaves! She is the first smiling face to greet parents, students, teachers, and our school community. She makes everyone feel welcome in our school, is super quick to help solve problems and answer questions, and keeps everyone coming back!” Recognized by Kali Brown.

Shelly Gillies, Teacher, Sierra Bonita, “She goes above and beyond in helping our son. He loves school and loves his teacher! She has been accommodating for our situation. We know she truly cares about our child.” Recognized by Melissa Lewis.

If you have noticed any wonderful people or experiences that need to be recognized, please email them to [lana.hiskey@nebo.edu](mailto: lana.hiskey@nebo.edu).