

Welcome back to school! It is my honor to serve our students in Park City School District. I have had the opportunity to visit our schools and continue to be enthralled with the excellence in teaching and learning that is occurring in our districts. In the last three weeks, we have had students receive a perfect ACT Score, another honored to perform at Carnegie Hall, and national FBLA first place recipient. Excellence abounds in our hallways, classrooms, and community. To continue this excellence, we will conduct a comprehensive needs assessment with our students, staff, parents, and community members this year. This information will be used to update the District's Strategic Plan. This plan will guide our District for the next five years and develop a District Learning Plan to guide overall district improvement and align school improvement plans to measure principal and teacher effectiveness while increasing student achievement. The next community forum will be held September 16, 2013 from 6:00-7:30 PM at Ecker Hill Middle School. Throughout the year, the feedback received from the community and staff will be analyzed along with our student performance data to capture the values and beliefs of Park City School District.

On the state and national level, the district and individual school letter grades were released on September 2, 2013. Utah now measures performance and growth of students, rather than just performance. Although many questions surround the formula at the state level, the data will be useful to focus our efforts to maximize student learning, achievement, and success. We have also been following legislative requirements for teacher and principal effectiveness and following the evaluation pilot timelines. The evaluation system is based upon Utah Teacher Effectiveness Standards and Utah Educational Leadership Standards. Again, we are in the state of change at the state level. As a district we will remain focused on these standards along with the Utah Core Standards for students.

Thank you for staying involved in our students' education.