

Teacher of the Year, 2016-2017
Provo City School District

Amelia Earhart Elementary

Carolyn Hirz

I fiercely believe that all students can learn and it is my job to figure out the best way they do learn. Mistakes should be celebrated and I want to foster an environment where students can learn from their mistakes. Behavior is a form of communication and it serves a purpose. I believe in allowing the entire person to grow in my classroom, not just academics.

Canyon Crest Elementary

Kaylee Nelson

Exceptional teaching is what I strive to give each student as they walk through my classroom door. My goal is to take each student where they come in academically, socially, and emotionally; helping them progress in confidence and grow in each of these areas.

Centennial Middle

Audryn Damron

I care about my students immensely. I enjoy listening to their stories and laughing with them, but when I have created a lesson that gets students moving, and thinking, and dialoguing with each other, my teacher heart soars. I want to create life-long learners. I expect them to ask hard questions, make mistakes, and find joy in the experience.

Dixon Middle

Christy Giblon

I believe students come to school not only to gain knowledge, but to become great human beings. We as teachers have the opportunity to help our students develop responsibility, compassion, determination, creativity, independence, respect for others, and a sense of self worth. What we do goes far beyond our designated grade-level or subject.

East Bay Post High School

Stacie Hartline

We teach and live in an era where there is much more ease to access things that were once viewed as difficult and challenging to access. I believe in being an educator, who informs and prepares my students to not wait for things to be given to them on a silver platter, but to be active participants in seeking after knowledge, accepting responsibility and not being afraid to fall and get up back stronger and more informed to face life's challenges and actively seek for continued growth and learning.

Edgemont Elementary

Anne Robertson

Education works through partnerships that involve students, parents, and communities. It's important for school environments to create a school culture that engages student

learning, helps develop creativity, collaborates with one another and has high standards for all.

Franklin Elementary

Charlotte Hart

I believe that not all children learn the same, however every student can learn. That is the challenge that I love, to find different ways to help students finally “get it”. The best reward as a teacher is to see a struggling student find success when they understand.

Independence High

Gina Solis

I think teaching is one of the most important jobs in the world. It is also one of the most difficult. Not only do I have the role of teaching educational material, but I get to teach students how to be good citizens. I teach kindness and respect as part of my curriculum. What makes me an outstanding teacher is my capacity to love my students and the kindness that I show them.

Lakeview Elementary

Cindy Baer

My personal philosophy of education is that it is my responsibility to provide an environment where all students can learn at their level and reach their full potential. I challenge and give them the necessary skills to continue a life of learning. I provide a place where the students feel safe and cared for.

Oak Springs School

Marc Ostler

To be a successful teacher I believe that my students need to trust me and know that I care about them. If as a teacher, I can establish these two things then I believe it opens the door to accessing my students’ hearts and minds. When I see my students accomplish things they never thought possible, that is when I feel the greatest fulfillment in my job.

Provo High

Todd Smith

I believe all students can learn with enough encouragement and motivation. I find history fascinating, and I try to encourage my students to find their own fascination in history and build on that. I come to school energized and excited to share new ideas with my students and to get their reactions to what we’re talking about.

Provo Peaks Elementary

Heather Talbot

I care about my students, and want the best for them. I also want them to know that I have high expectations for what they are capable of. One of my purposes as an educator is to guide, empower, motivate, and prepare students for their future. I think it is important to expect growth from students and challenge them to exceed their own expectations.

Provost Elementary

Caroline Cobia

I try every day to go prepared to class to help each student the best I can. I try to get to know each student and to better understand their individual circumstances and what makes them who they are. I try to help each student realize his or her importance and potential. I also try to help them become better citizens. Every child deserves to have a bright and successful future, and I hope to have a little part in helping them on their path to achieve this.

Rock Canyon Elementary

Danielle Fueger

I treat each of my students as if they are my own children. I respect them and encourage them with the optimistic attitude and high expectations that make them feel important and supported. I believe that each child wants to learn and wants to be successful academically and behaviorally and that my reactions have a huge impact on their motivation.

Spring Creek Elementary

Julie Martin

I believe that every child can learn. I work with students that have difficulty learning. One of the best things that I can teach to my students is a love for learning and a can do attitude. I teach my students to have perseverance and that they can do hard things. There is no greater reward to me than to see the light in a child's eye when they are having an "aha" moment.

Sunset View Elementary

Taylor Olson Kinsey

I, like my students, love learning and am a "lifelong learner." I believe that all students can learn at high levels. Every student deserves an equal opportunity to learn, which looks different from child to child. In my classroom, I strive to create an atmosphere where every student can experience some level of success.

Timpanogos Elementary

Tierra Wakefield

I love the saying "They don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." Little children especially need to know that the person teaching them genuinely cares about them. I sometimes get asked where I see myself in five years and my answer is always, teaching in the classroom! I have no desire to do anything else.

Timpview High

Terry Szink

I believe that learning should be fun. This removes the affective filter and allows the student to learn. Teachers should present varied learning activities to capture and maintain the interest of the student. These activities need to take place in a safe environment. The goal is to create life-long learners who learn for knowledge's sake and who can apply what they learn to enrich and improve their lives.

Wasatch Elementary

Valerie Whitaker

I believe strongly that children who enter the public school experience as kindergarteners should come to a safe, nurturing environment that creates in them a love of learning. Children this age are active learners and their learning activities should reflect this and consider their developmental needs. I believe young children learn best in small group settings where instruction can be honed in on their specific needs since their range of skills is so wide.

Westridge Elementary

Mark Nance

I believe that teaching is less about being the dispensary of all the knowledge that any one teacher or textbook or curriculum has and more about empowering students to think about and explore their world, to expand on their own understanding. An effective teacher serves as a facilitator to help students to try new things, ask questions, and learn to deal with what might be called “failure” but is actually just a stepping-stone in learning something new.