



Uniquely Davis

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Groundbreaking for new junior high

Part of the 2022 "Building Generations" Bond

Specks of dirt and the sound of applause rose through the air as 20 Tiffany blue shovels pierced the ground at the corner of 4500 W. and 700 S. in West Point, marking the official groundbreaking of Davis School District's 18th junior high school.

The new school, designed by VCBO Architecture and soon-to-be-built by Hogan & Associates Construction, will open in Fall of 2025. The project is part of the Davis School District 2022 "Building Generations" bond proposal that voters approved in November.

"The future leaders of West Point will most likely attend this school," remarked West Point City Mayor Brian Vincent. "Blessed with the freedoms and privileges of education in our country and with the finest school administrators and teachers here in the Davis School District, the students will receive an educa-

tion that is second to none."

The mayor's excitement for the new building was shared by school board member Emily Price. In her speech, Price said "as a board member and a community member, I am so excited for this junior high... It's just wonderful to see that this is happening."

The last speaker was Davis School District Superintendent Dr. Dan Linford. "We should always celebrate this new beginning," he stated, explaining the importance of commemorating the start of construction at a new school. "We should celebrate the growth, dreams and all the things that will happen here."

All three speakers made sure to thank the many people involved in making the new school a reality, including the voters of Davis County who supported the bond proposal to build the school.



Davis School District administration, board members, and contractors "prepare to dig in" at the groundbreaking for West Point's new junior high.

Superintendent Message

"Achieving Mastery: Every Teacher is a Literacy Teacher"

I've always been a "math kid." In my student days at Center-ville Jr. High and Viewmont High, math and science classes were always my favorites – and those I performed best in. In college, I majored in math and physics. I loved diving deeper into studies of the physical world and how to better understand it through numbers, patterns, and data. When I started



Toone

working at Bountiful High as a math teacher – and throughout my career – the same pattern continued. Data, numbers, trends, and analysis have been critical to my daily work and a major reason why I love my job. But despite my passion, I don't do math all day every day. Most of my day is spent reading, writing, and communicating.

A key focus area of The Davis School District Strategic Plan is "Student Growth & Achievement." As we work in this area, one of the most important things we can do is

help students develop mastery of literacy skills. This may seem like a strange statement from a former math teacher, but the statement in no way minimizes the important work we do in math, visual & performing arts, career & technical education, social studies, health, physical education, world languages, science, and other important academic areas. Instead it is a statement of how literacy skills are critical to learning in any area – finding place in much more than just the English and reading lesson/class. Literacy is essential to every academic

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New Teen Wellness Center opens

Gathered under a banner that reads “It’s Great to be a Wildcat,” school, district and community leaders joined with students in the commons area of Woods Cross High recently to celebrate the opening of the school’s Teen Wellness Center.

Described as a “tested solution for helping teens who are homeless, or living on the brink” by the Salt Lake Tribune, the center will be the sixth of its kind opened by the Davis Education Foundation in Davis School District. With showers, laundry facilities, a kitchenette, a wellness room, quiet study nooks and a mini food pantry, the center gives students a safe, clean space to access services and supplies to cover their basic needs.

“This teen center has brought our whole school closer together,” says Student Body Officer President Liam Henriksen. “I’m proud of our Woods Cross students who come to school, despite their challenging circumstances. They’re resilient, seriously.”

To Henriksen, the work from the whole community to build the teen center reinforced the school’s slogan that “Everybody is Somebody.” He says the experience taught him that the student body can make a difference for good when they work together, highlighting how the Wildcats contributed more than \$150,000 to constructing the teen center during a weeklong fundraising drive.

The community matched the students’ enthusiasm for the project. In total, more than \$500,000 was raised to build the teen center with donations from individual donors, The Larry H. Miller and Gail Miller Family Founda-

tion, The Huntsman Foundation, The Call Foundation, Big West Oil, Lakeview Hospital and Medical Group, Baidee Development CEO Ben Baidee, Brighton Homes CEO Nate Pugsley, Performance Auto Group, the Burton family, the Porter family, the Tom Freeman family and AE Urbia Architects.

“I love our partnerships with businesses and the community,” said Davis School District Superintendent Dr. Dan Linford, expressing gratitude for the contributions that brought the teen center from an idea to reality.

After the speeches concluded, representatives from the Davis

Chamber of Commerce handed a pair of oversized scissors to Henriksen to cut the ceremonial ribbon. Once the ribbon fell and the crowd cheered, the new teen center was officially open.



Student Body Officer cuts ribbon at Woods Cross High School Teen Center opening



Woods Cross High Choir performs at Teen Center opening

SUPERINTENDENT, From Pg. 1

area and every life endeavor.

Since literacy and communication skills are essential to success in every academic area, we should view every teacher as a literacy teacher, approach every lesson as a literacy lesson, see every course as a literacy course, and undertake every instructional opportunity as an effort

to increase student literacy skills. We don’t stop teaching math, science, or other important topics; nor do we minimize the professional qualifications/skill of teachers in those areas. We simply recognize that for students to effectively master content in any subject area, they need to be able to read, write, and communicate about

their learning. And content-specific literacy skills are essential to every learning experience. Learning First!

—Assistant Superintendent
Logan T. Toone

Davis Schools participate in Jr. NBA Day

Students from Holbrook Elementary School, and Mueller Park and South Davis junior high schools were among thousands of Utah students selected to participate in the Jr. NBA day, part of 2023 NBA All-Star Weekend held in Salt Lake City.

“I feel pretty lucky because only three schools in each district got to go,” said Jayden, a Holbrook Elementary student.

Excited students filled the Salt Palace Convention Center at the start of the day.

“We walked in and there was a bunch of people there,” said Jessie, a Holbrook Elementary student. “There was music playing, there was a DJ, and we watched this entertainer spin this basketball on his finger.”

During the event, students had the opportunity to meet and interact with current and veteran players from the NBA, WNBA, and G League, hang out with YouTube influencers, and watch Indiana Pacers’ mascot, Boomer, have a shoot-around with selected students from the audience.

The day also consisted of clinics and activities, where students received valuable tips on how to improve their basketball skills, as well as the values that come with the game.

“We split up into certain courts,” said Jessie, a

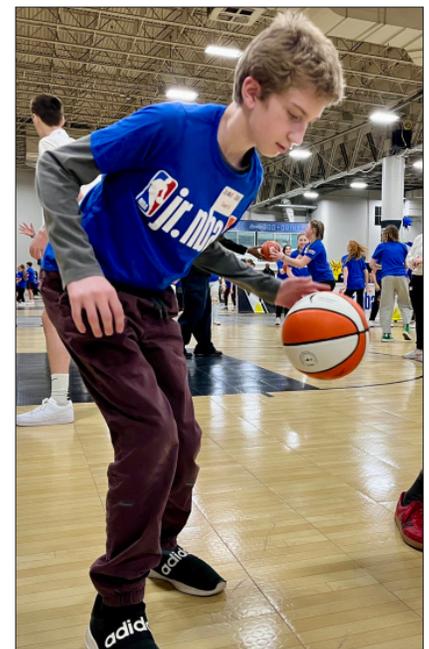
Holbrook Elementary student. We did ball handling, we did shooting, we did passing, we did defense, we did defensive slides it was super fun.”

The event proved to be a great success and a unique, unforgettable experience for Davis School District students.

“It was really a cool opportunity, and I would definitely do it again.” said Lola, a Holbrook Elementary student. “One of the coaches was saying ‘listening is the main key to being successful’ and he would help us with how we should run up and then I just did it and I thought it was good.”



Students running drills with trainer at Jr. NBA Day



Student practices his dribbling skills- above. Students shooting hoops- left.



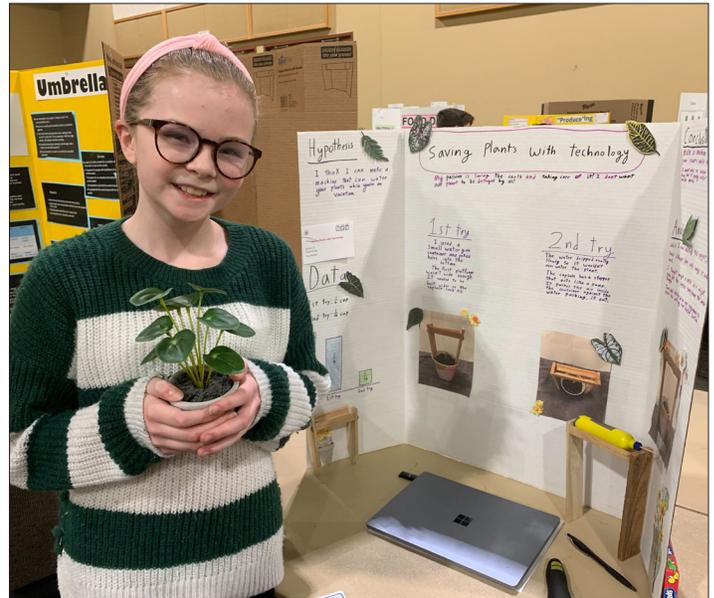
Some of the student teachers at Davis School District’s Student Teacher Celebration.

District celebrates student teachers

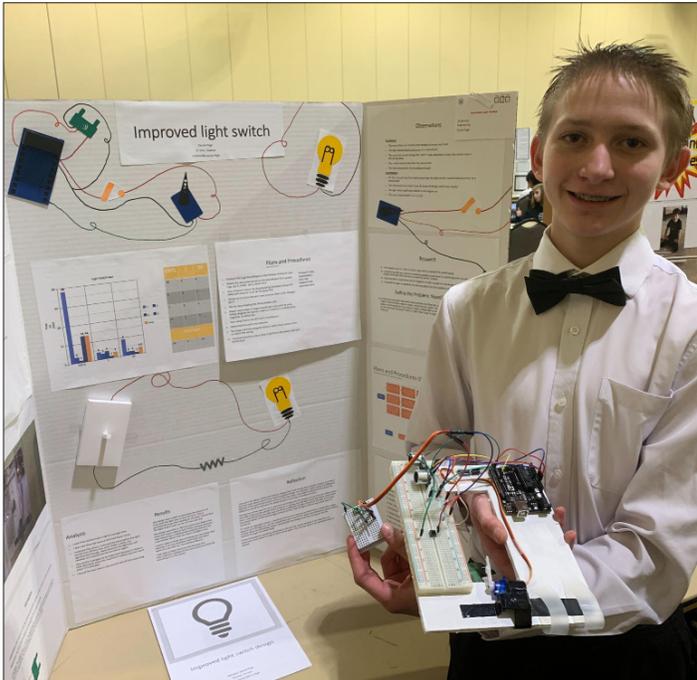
Davis School District and the Professional Learning & Quality Staffing Department honored this year’s cohort of 60 student teachers at a special celebration at district headquarters.

“We will hire as many of these educators as we can in the next few months as we get ready for the next school year,” says secondary mentoring coordinator Jenette Jenkins. “We’re so grateful to have them in Davis School District.”

Student projects wow at STEM fair



Student shows off project at STEM fair- "Saving Plants with Technology"



Student shows off project at STEM fair- "Improved Light Switch"



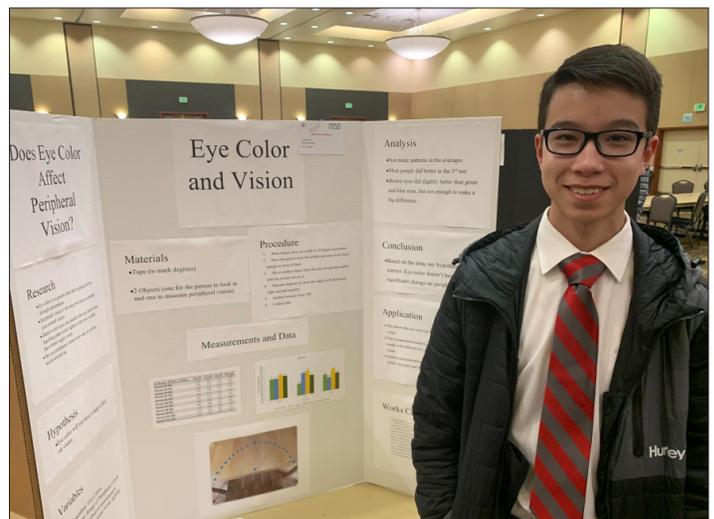
Student shows off project at STEM fair- "To Quench or not to Quench"

Does eye color affect peripheral vision? What's the best way to engineer a machine to automatically water your plants while you're on vacation?

How can you improve the traditional design of a light switch?

Students asked these questions and more at the 2023 Davis School District STEM Fair. Using poster boards and digital displays, 232 students in grades 6-12 then presented their findings at the Davis Conference Center.

After identifying a question to guide their research, students designed an experiment and crafted a hypothesis of what they expected to find. They could also investigate a phenomenon or engineer a solution to a real-world problem.



Student shows off project at STEM fair- "Does Eye Color Affect Peripheral Vision?"

IMPACT REPORT



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UNIFIED SPORTS

Teams from eight Davis School District high schools gathered at Clearfield High to participate in the annual Special Olympics Utah Unified Sports tournament.

Unified Sports is an inclusive sports program that combines a Special Olympics Utah athlete (individuals with intellectual disabilities) and partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) on teams for training and competition.

Teammates are similar in age to help foster meaningful involvement in the game and build friendships that extend beyond the event.

Thank you to our amazing sponsor,
MURDOCK FAMILY FOUNDATION.

This event would not take place without your support.



“This commitment from Davis School District, the Davis Education Foundation and the Murdock Family Foundation is an incredible step toward ensuring that every student in Davis School District feels loved, has friends who support them and that everyone feels a sense of inclusion and belonging.”

-Utah First Lady Abby Cox



Clinton Elementary Special Education teacher **Laurie Bagford** received the 2023 Heidi Martin, Mighty Heart Educator of Excellence Award. The award was named in honor of Utah resident Heidi Ann Martin, who was born with only two chambers in her heart. She passed away on January 12, 2017, from complications of her condition. An anonymous donor established the annual award that gives \$10,000 to the awardee to be spent at their discretion.

Laurie exemplifies everything this award stands for. She knows and loves her students, their interests, and how to help them succeed. She goes out of her way to support them in and out of school by attending special events, giving personalized awards and has even taken over several hallway bulletin boards that she regularly updates with positive affirmations that everyone in the school loves.

Laurie not only has the heart of a teacher, but she also exemplifies the heart of her school.

Congratulations Laurie!