



Jeremy Ranch Elementary School
3050 Rasmussen Rd • Park City, UT • 435-645-5670

November 13, 2017

Dear JRES Parents and Students,

I trust that you're enjoying our beautiful and fleeting Park City fall season. There is so much happening at school these days, I think it's a good time to send out some updates to keep us all on the same page.

I'm sure you know that Jeremy Ranch Elementary School was recently awarded the National Blue Ribbon Award! Perhaps you're wondering what that means. Well, it's pretty special. Out of over 133,000 schools nationwide, only 342 schools received the award this year. **In Utah, JRES was one of two such schools.** We received the recognition for the high performance of our students, primarily based on our end of year SAGE testing results. I recently returned from Washington, D.C., where Barb Hansen and I were honored to accept the award on behalf of our school and community.

In other public relations news, you may be interested in watching **KSL News** to see an upcoming story about how we've adjusted our homework policy this year. **On Monday, Nov. 13th, on the 10 PM News** program, JRES will be featured in a focus on how the practice of homework is changing, and what that means for students and their families.

My great hope is that it means our students are reading more, and enjoying their reading more. **A student who reads just 20 minutes each day will encounter over 1.8 million words in a year, and is likely to perform in the 90th percentile in academic testing.** A healthy reading habit is also likely to result in greater use of imagination, greater critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and less time in front of a screen.

You may also have seen how our reading expectation at home is supportive of the Park City School District's measureable goals:

- 90% of PCSD 3rd Grade Students are proficient in reading as measured by DIBELS by Spring 2023
- 90% of PCSD 8th Grade Students are proficient in math as measured by Galileo by Spring 2023.
- 90% of PCSD 11th Grade Students are college and career ready in English as measured by ACT by Spring 2022.
- PCSD will maintain or increase the graduation rate to 95% or higher using the 4-year federal graduation rate

Research suggests that these benchmarks are critical measures. We have some work to do to reach the 90% goal in six years. As high performing as JRES is, our average is closer to 70% of our 3rd grade students reading on grade level. Your student will certainly benefit by your support of a healthy reading habit. **Please be a model for your kids by reading with them and to them every day.**

Next time you're at JRES, you may be surprised at the apparent loss of our office. **It's only temporary, as we complete an upgrade to our security measures at the entrance to the school.** Soon the vestibule of our lobby will be expanded, and visitors will pass through the office before entering the school. Our aim is to maintain the welcoming feel of our office, while increasing our ability to monitor access to the school. We anticipate completion of the remodel in January 2018.

Finally, I want to make sure you're aware that our wonderful **PTO** is holding an evening meeting this week. **On Tuesday, Nov. 14th, at 7:00 PM**, you are welcome to join us in the library for this month's meeting.

Thank you for reading,

Shawn Kuennen
Principal