

Note from Assistant Director, Brian King

Happy November!

I love this time of year. Football is in full swing, the leaves are turning colors, and the weather is cooling down. Throughout my career I have also seen November as a great time to evaluate how the school year is going. At this point in the year I feel like I have enough of a sample size to know what I am up against for the rest of the year. I also have enough time left to take meaningful steps that will have a positive effect on the remainder of the year. As part of this exercise I recognize things that are not going well, but I make a point not to fall in love with those challenges. Instead my true objective is to try to focus on those things that are going well that can help me to overcome those challenges.

When we choose to give all of our attention to things that are not going well (especially if they are not in our control) the bigger our problems seem to become. My friend Melisa Genaux loves to say, "Where attention goes, behavior grows." Any behavior given attention will grow regardless of whether or not that behavior is a positive or negative one. The choice is yours. Do you want to grow more positive or negative in your life? Make an effort to find anything and everything that is going well and inundate those things with praise and attention. You will soon see that the positives will start to outnumber the negatives. Isn't that the point of the Thanksgiving holiday that is celebrated at the end of this month? Find those positives in your life both at home and at work. Give thanks for them and keep them at the forefront of your mind. Make it a habit to have an attitude of gratitude and it will have a positive effect on you as well as the students and colleagues that you work with.

One thing that I know I am grateful for in my life is the opportunity to work in a district with so many talented and dedicated educators. What you do is meaningful and truly makes a positive impact on the lives of students and the community that we work in. What a wonder it is to consider all of the great people in this district who have chosen this profession because of their desire to make a positive impact in the lives of others. You are a force for good in our society and that is something you should be very proud of.

Thank you for what you do!
Brian King

IMPORTANT NOTICES

- The monthly PD for November will be on November 10, 1:30 PM – 2:00 PM. We will be covering, [Working with District Resources and Supports. Click for link.](#)

November Events

- 7: Tentative Pre-ACT Test & HS College Prep 1/2 Day- No School for 11th Grade
- 8: CO-Teaching - Year 1
- 10: PD: Working with District Resources and Supports
- 10: HS SCSC Singleton PLCs
MS SCSC Singleton PLCs
District SEB PLCs
- 13: HS Team Leaders Meeting (MRHS)
- 14: CO-Teaching - Year 2
- 22-24: Thanksgiving Recess - No School

TRANSITION CORNER

Embrace - Individualized Postsecondary Transition Plan

- Question 1 within the Transition Plan section -
- Question 1: **Must** include Postsecondary Employment Goal and Postsecondary Education/Training Goal
 - Use this guide in writing a compliant transition goal –
 - After high school, (student) WILL (observable behavior) (where and how)
 - After high school, Sally will enroll in a 2 year college in order to study...
 - After post-high, Sally will receive on-the-job training in the field of...
 - Post-Secondary Independent Living goal - is optional. If the student does not need this write in the box "**Considered, Not Needed**"
 - "Skills Needed" box is optional at this time. However, this portion can be used to describe skills needed to meet each of the goals that will support to comprehensive transition services.

Behavior Byte**EMBRACE FBAs/BIPs**

Along with changes to JSD's IEP platform, there have also been updates to the Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) and Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) forms. The new FBA/BIP documents align with the new Least Restrictive Behavior Intervention (LRBI) manual (2023). One noticeable difference is the document is not editable within EMBRACE. You can find the [editable forms](#) on the Special Education website, Faculty & Staff, Forms. In order to access the FBA/BIP documents within EMBRACE, complete the following steps:

1. Click on District Documents
2. Select FBA-BIP
3. Download FBA-BIP to your desktop
4. Complete the document electronically
5. During the FBA/BIP Meeting, all members of the team will sign and finalize the document
6. Upload the signed/finalized document into EMBRACE

Teaching Tidbits

Edutopia is a great resource for teachers to learn about many different topics. Here are some great short articles that you can read and implement in your classroom.

[3 Ways to Get Students to Write about Math](#)

[3 Tips for Guiding Students to Grow in Math with Error Analysis](#)

[6 Tips for Teaching Math Problem-Solving Skills](#)

[Connecting Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension Benefits Both](#)

[4 Ways to Teach Students Backward Planning](#)

[Teaching High School Students Active Reading Skills](#)

IN COMPLIANCE**Transfer Students Compliance Highlights from the Handbook****10. New Students to Jordan School District****a. In-State Transfers**

- i. When a student on an IEP moves from within Utah:
 1. The current IEP documents should be reviewed and implemented as written if the school is accepting the IEP. If changes to the IEP need to be considered, a new IEP should be held as soon as possible.
 2. The current Eligibility documents should be reviewed, and conduct a new evaluation if determined to be necessary.
 3. If the school has decided to accept the student's current Special Education documents, they need to be scanned and uploaded into Embrace. Pertinent information from the documents need to be entered into Embrace's documents and finalized. This would include Eligibility's dates and IEP goals and services and dates.

b. Out-of-State Transfers

1. When a student on an IEP moves in from outside of Utah during the summer, (a) an IEP meeting must be held before school starts, or (b) the IEP is accepted "as is," meaning the IEP must be implemented exactly as it is written with no comparable services. The term "summer move-in" is the date the student registers, not when their special education file arrives.
2. All students who move from outside of Utah need an initial evaluation performed as soon as possible. To initiate the evaluation, the special educator should complete the following steps: (a) complete the *Data Review for Initial and Re-Evaluation*; (b) obtain a parent *Consent to Evaluate*; (c) conduct a full evaluation; and (d) hold an eligibility meeting. If the student qualifies for special education, an IEP meeting must be held as soon as possible. A *Prior Notice of Initial Placement* form must be signed by the parent at the IEP.

PLANTING EXCELLENCE

Thomas Meehan
Team Lead
Hidden Valley Middle School



Thomas has stepped up and taken the lead as team lead. He is positive and frequently praised by his peers. He is responsive to all requests and works hard to support his team and students. Thanks for everything you do Thomas!

McKenna Larsen
Resource Teacher
Mountain Point Elementary



McKenna is an amazing resource teacher at Mountain Point Elementary. She is a very hard worker and always puts her students first. McKenna is always positive and supportive of all the people she works with. Even though McKenna is only in her second year of teaching she is the glue that holds the team together. Mountain Point is lucky to have her!

BEHAVIOR ASSISTANCE TEAM

Melanie Dawson (Admin), Katie Jarvis (Admin), Stephanie Johnson (Behav Spec), Toni Lee (Behav Spec), Benjamin Washburn (Behav Spec), Daveed Goodrich (Behav Spec), Cassidy Hansen (Behav Spec), Mary Fahey (Behav Tech), Carson Field (Behav Tech), Taylor Lynch (Behav Tech)

Got Behavior? Call JSD's amazing behavior team. Our behavior specialists and techs are such a tremendous help to our struggling students. They are out there supporting our teachers while maintaining a positive attitude the entire time. Although they work with some of our most difficult situations, they are calm and optimistic. If you have had a chance to work with them, you will come out with a variety of skills and gain so much knowledge from them. We want to thank you all for all the work that you do for teachers, students, and families.



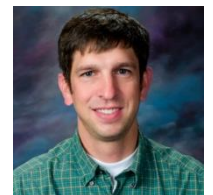
Please visit their website to look through all of the videos, tips, and resources available to you. [JBAT LINK](#)

Tara McPartland (SLP) and Megan Rowe (SLT)
South Jordan Elementary



Tara and Megan are both doing great work as a team at South Jordan Elementary. They are working together to provide services and support for the kids and building systems of support for the teachers as well. During, they are both excited to be with kids, creative in their therapy approaches, and advocates for student needs. Thank you both for the hard work you are doing!

Dr. Romney Stevens
School Psychologist
Blackridge Elementary



Romney Stevens is the school psychologist at Blackridge Elementary. He goes above and beyond for the students and staff in the Jordan School district. Romney provides social skills groups, cognitive behavioral therapy, and consultation for behavioral interventions at Blackridge. He is also a faculty member in the Doctoral School Psychology Internship here in Jordan, supervising doctoral interns and clinical rotations. Romney is an asset to the students, families, and teams in Jordan SD.