



Special Ed Times at JSD

December 2024 Newsletter

December Events

9: High School
SPED Team
Leaders Meeting

13:

- SLD Deep Dive: Gathering the Right Clues to Consider Eligibility
- SLP PD
- Middle School Team Leaders Meeting
- HS and MS SCSC Singleton PLCs

23-31: Winter
Recess - No School

Note From Melanie Dawson

"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn." - Hal Borland

I'll admit it- winter has never been my favorite season. I don't like driving in the snow and I prefer wakeboarding to winter sports. Sometimes it is hard for me to appreciate winter as I long for the weather to become warmer.

Over time, I have learned to appreciate the changing of seasons and how it signals the cyclical nature of our lives. Now, as the weather turns colder and nature slows down a bit, it prompts me to turn inward and reflect on the progress and small successes of the school year so far. Conversely, the many celebrations and gatherings encourage us all to reach outward, expressing gratitude to those who matter most to us, both personally and professionally.

So whether you are a "winter person" or just longing for the spring, I encourage you to find something specific about the current season to embrace. Remember, like all seasons, this is a temporary period of time and one that we can make the most of before the world- and our lives- evolve yet again.

As we approach the upcoming winter break, the district special education team wishes you all a peaceful and rejuvenating holiday season.

Melanie Dawson

Important Notices

In our recent review of random files, we've observed discrepancies between documented service minutes and what is actually delivered. Please ensure that you accurately account for specially designed instruction, rather than just bell-to-bell minutes.

In Compliance

Notice of Meeting

- A *Notice of Meeting* should be sent home at least 10 days prior to the IEP meeting. An IEP meeting may be held earlier at parent/guardian or adult student request or agreement.
- All of the names of the IEP team members must be listed on the *Notice of Meeting*. Only persons who are expected to attend the IEP meeting should be listed on the *Notice of Meeting*. Non-attending IEP members' names should not be on the *Notice of Meeting*, unless at the parent's request or to interpret results. **Mark all or the applicable boxes of topics to be discussed on the notice!** (This includes Assessment, Eligibility, Develop an IEP, Placement etc.)
- When attempting to contact a parent/guardian or adult student to schedule a meeting, at least three different methods (e.g., email, telephone call, certified mail, texting apps [Remind, Google number], home visit) in conjunction with three written *Notice of Meetings* must be attempted. Without a parent/guardian or adult student response, the team may send a fourth *Notice of Meeting* at least 10 days before the scheduled meeting. A team may move forward with the meeting if a certified return receipt letter has been sent and documented that notifies the parent/guardian or adult student that the team will move forward with the IEP meeting. The 4th attempt letter must be documented in Embrace and a *Notice of Meeting* must be sent for each attempt.
- When additional participants, such as teacher specialists or Special Education department administrators, are invited but not part of the required IEP team, add them to the Notice of Meeting but remove them from any signing documents.

Teachers Toolbox

Teaching Tidbits

[A Mathematical Mindset Approach to Student Learning](#) (Jo Boaler) This article talks about how to improve students' mathematics learning in and out of school. Within the article are some links but I went through [free online course](#) and gained so much insight on How to Learn Math.

If you haven't checked out [youcubed.org](#), please do. There are a lot of ideas, tasks, resources you can use within your Math classroom.

A **Special Education PD** course has been created for you to view the recordings of our different PDs over the year. Teachers can self-enroll in the course by clicking on the following link: <https://jordanpd.instructure.com/enroll/TYDLCH>.

Each training has its own module. Within each module, you are given two choices:

- The **relicensure option** will require you to complete a quiz after looking at/viewing all the materials. Once you complete the quiz with 75% or better, your certificate will be emailed to you for your records.
- The **viewing option** allows you to look/view some or all the materials. There is an exit survey at the end to collect feedback to help us if you still have questions.

Current modules -

- Start of the Year "To Do" Reminders
- Data to Direction
- The Great 8 Classifications
- The Elephant in the Room - Let's Talk Study Skills
- District Supports and Resources to Support Student Progress

Transition Corner

Join Us for the 2025 Transition Fair!

We're excited to announce our upcoming Jordan School District Transition Fair, a fantastic event designed to support students and families as they plan for life after high school. Please share with students and families so that they can explore a variety of resources, programs, and services tailored to help students successfully transition to college, career, and independent living.

This event will feature representatives from colleges, vocational programs, community organizations, and support services who can provide insights and answer questions.

Date: Wednesday February 26th, 2025

Time: 4pm to 7pm

Location: South Jordan Middle School

Please share this information with your students and families so they can come and gather valuable information to plan the next steps for their bright future.

Behavior Byte

The Coercion Cycle



Jordan Behavior Assistance Team
behavior.jordandistrict.org

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATORS

Lauren Mata,
Occupational Therapist
District Wide

Lauren goes above and beyond to plan fun and engaging activities for the students she works with. She plans ahead, always knowing when IEP's and evaluations are due so she has adequate time to collect the data she needs to make a plan. Lauren is always willing to help with extra duties on the Motor Development Team and shares new ideas with others. Lauren is also a member of the Utah Assistive Technology Team, she goes out of her way to learn about new tools and technology and does a great job evaluating students to determine the best tools to support their education. Lauren is a great asset to the district and we are so grateful to have her on our team!

Scott Trammel
Resource Teacher
Herriman High School

Scott is a dedicated special education teacher at Herriman High School, renowned for his ability to connect with all students. His calm demeanor creates a welcoming atmosphere where students feel comfortable and supported. Scott goes above and beyond to tailor his teaching methods to meet the individual needs of each student, fostering both academic and personal growth. Through his unwavering support and empathy, he cultivates a classroom environment that encourages students to reach their full potential.

Lauren Peacock
Principal
Copper Mountain Middle School

Lauren is the principal at Copper Mountain Middle School. She is a huge support to her Special Education team, always advocating for them and working to seek solutions to her school's unique needs and ever-evolving demographics. Under her leadership, the school has implemented innovative programs tailored to meet the diverse needs of all students. Her commitment extends beyond administrative duties, as she regularly engages with both students and teachers to foster an inclusive and supportive learning environment.

Casey Pehrson
School Psychologist
Herriman High School

Casey is the school psychologist at Herriman High School. She has been working in the mental health field since 2007. In addition to serving students and families at Herriman High, Casey teaches parenting classes at the Jordan Family Education Center. She is also the creator and published author of the SELFIE method, an acronym for self-care and a powerful arsenal against depression geared toward children and youth. The Utah Association of School Psychologists (UASP) voted Casey the 2024-2025 School Psychologist of the Year. Her students and co-workers describe her as "compassionate," "exceptional," and "tireless." We are fortunate to have Casey as part of the Jordan District Team and Family!

Courtney Duckworth
Speech-Language Pathologist
Aspen Elementary

Courtney rejoined our staff this year after several years away and was immediately met with a staffing shortage at her school. She made it a priority to make sure all of the students were receiving services, and services were appropriate for the students. She has been very professional in managing this workload and we want to acknowledge her incredibly hard work! Thank you. We are thrilled to have you back in Jordan District.

Cyndi Thomson
Resource Teacher
Eastlake Elementary

Cyndi is an amazing educator. She is hard-working and an advocate for all of her students. She is an amazing support for her team at Eastlake. Cyndi is creative in her practice. She looks for quirky sayings or songs to help students remember what is being taught in her class. Thank you for all of your wonderful work in supporting your staff and the students you work with.