



# YOUR MURRAY SCHOOLS – Murray City School District Newsletter

MURRAY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
5102 South Commerce Drive • Murray, UT 84107  
Phone 801-264-7400 | Fax 801-264-7456

Website: [www.murrayschools.org](http://www.murrayschools.org) | Facebook: Murray School District UT

The Your Murray Schools section is a Murray City School District publication,  
under the direction of D. Wright, MCS D communications & public information.

SEPTEMBER 2018

## A Message From Superintendent Jennifer Covington



Jennifer Covington

Welcome to the new school year! The Murray City School Board has established the following four standards for our district: (1) Provide learning opportunities for students to excel personally, professionally, and academically (2) Foster a culture of mutual respect, leadership development, transparency, and collaboration (3) Integrate technology to impact student achievement (4) Ensure responsible stewardship over financial resources. Under their direction and support, the district has created an Action Plan centered on these standards. The overall focus of our Action Plan is to prepare students in our schools with knowledge and skills they will need to be successful in their future. We recognize that all students have unique needs, abilities, and interests, and we are continually looking at ways to provide our students with an engaging, personalized curriculum that will inspire and empower them to flourish as ethical and global citizens in the 21st Century.

This year we will be launching our Power Up initiative which will provide access to digital devices to our students in grades 3-12. Educational technology enables students to experience a personalized curriculum and helps them gain the skills necessary to be successful in a college and career setting. We believe that as we implement our Power Up plan, the result will be a transformation of our learning environments, which will accelerate student learning.

Another way we will be focusing on preparing our students of today for tomorrow is by promoting a rigorous understanding of content in all classrooms K-12. We want to ensure equitable access to learning for all students. We will focus on this through the use of learning targets, success criteria, and questioning strategies in our classrooms.

Sharing learning targets goes beyond just writing an objective on the board and telling students what the objective is in a sentence or two. Well-defined and articulated learning targets in our classrooms give students the ability to understand the learning goal and know what good work or mastery of the learning goal looks like.

In addition to our Power Up and learning targets initiatives, we are also looking forward to the following:

- Implementation of Focal Point K12 Data Management System to standardize the collection of student proficiency data on the Utah Core Standards and the Murray School District Essential Standards.
- Mental health professionals in all of our schools.
- District behavior intervention team.
- Security cameras upgraded across the district.
- Reunification drills in all of our schools allowing students and parents the opportunity to practice this important safety procedure.
- 1:1 technology purchased for grades 3-6, core content areas in grades 7-9, and all students in grades 10-12.
- Two technology educators to assist our teachers and students with our Power Up initiative and provide coaching and training as needed.
- Educators provided with online and on-demand professional learning in the use of technology and given the opportunity to earn an Educational Technology Endorsement.

**WE ARE**   
 optimistic cheerful  
 caring **INTERESTED IN HELPING OTHERS**  
**ENTHUSIASTIC**  
 helpful motivated  
**confident friendly**  
**WARM thoughtful**  
 authentic **patient**  
**COURAGEOUS**  
 kind supportive  
 forgiving encouraging  
**MURRAY**



- Implementation of the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grant which will allow Murray School District to focus on equitable access, rigor, and assessment for students in grades 4-9. (Murray was one of 11 Utah districts that received this grant.)
- Redesigned district website that is ADA compatible so that all patrons may access information as needed.
- The continued support of our Murray School District Board of Education in providing compensation to our teachers and classified personnel to remain competitive in recruiting and retaining effective educators.

We look forward to a wonderful 2018-2019 school year. Thank you for your continued support of your Murray Schools!

## 2018 MCS D Calendar Highlights

**Sept. 3 (Mon.)**  
Labor Day holiday

**Sept. 25-26 (Tues. & Wed.)**  
Junior High PT SEOP Conferences

**Sept. 26-27 (Wed. & Thurs.)**  
High School PT SEOP Conferences

**Oct. 18-19 (Thurs. & Fri.)**  
Fall Recess

**Oct. 26 (Fri.)**  
Teacher Work Day  
No school for students

**Nov. 7-8 (Wed. & Thurs.)**  
Elementary PT Conferences

**Nov. 9 (Fri.)**  
Teacher Comp or Work Day  
No school for students

**Nov. 21-23 (Wed., Thurs. Fri.)**  
Thanksgiving Break

**Dec. 21, 2018-Jan. 2, 2019**  
Winter Break

**Jan. 3, 2019**  
School back in session

The entire school year calendar is available on the District website, along with many other event listings. The Murray Board of Education reserves the right to alter or amend this calendar as may be necessitated by unforeseen events.

## New Teachers in the MCS D

WELCOME to all of our new MCS D employees! Thank you so much for choosing to come to the Murray City School District, and best wishes for a wonderful and productive upcoming year.

Marci Allred – Parkside KG  
 Aaron Allsop – Grant & RJH Speech/Lang.  
 Matty Barth – HJH Spanish  
 Jordan Beckstrand – MHS Instrumental  
 Laura Bettison – Parkside 6th  
 Cara Cerise – Parkside 3rd  
 Holly Chappell – Liberty Spec. Ed.  
 Paige Clark – Parkside 2nd  
 Brianna Hancock – Parkside 6th  
 Alyssa Hobbs – Horizon Spec. Ed.  
 Rochelle Horrocks – Parkside Spec. Ed.  
 Alison Jacobson – Parkside Spec. Ed.  
 Kevin Johnson – Horizon 4th Dual Im.  
 Alisa Lambertsen – Horizon Spec. Ed.

Morgan Lami – HJH English/French  
 Colleen Lawler – Parkside Spec. Ed.  
 Krystal Lee-Chin – MHS Science  
 Sara Lemcke – Horizon 3rd Dual Im.  
 Sarah Lunceford – MHS Spec. Ed.  
 Sierra Marsh – Grant Counselor  
 Jackie Martin – MHS Automotive  
 Katherine May – MHS Counselor  
 Kaylie McBeth – Liberty 3rd  
 Kylie McCurdy – Parkside KG  
 Whitney Morris – Grant Instructional  
 Crystal Norman – Grant 2nd  
 Seth Otteson – Longview 5th  
 Sarah Paul – Horizon 2nd Dual Im.  
 Jessica Pearce – HJH Theatre

Stephanie Ruiz – HJH English  
 Hannay Schulthess – Parkside 1st  
 Kalli Searle – Grant Spec. Ed.  
 Mikael Shields – HJH English  
 Gabriel Smith – HJH Spec. Ed.  
 Amara Spere – Horizon 4th Dual Im.  
 Matthew Stroshine – HJH Counselor  
 Trisha Syversen – Parkside Title 1 Coord.  
 Kimberlee Talbot – Parkside Speech Lang.  
 Drew VanAmen – MHS Spec. Ed.  
 Laura Wally – ECEC Spec. Ed.  
 Maddison Wardle – Liberty 1st  
 Jules Watson – Parkside 6th  
 Kendra Wimbert – Parkside 3rd

## NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR MURRAY SCHOOLS

MCS D purchased over 2500 new electronic devices for student use this year. We are making sure our students are technologically ready!

*Pictured: Craig Fisher, District Technology Specialist;  
Laura deShazo, MHS Assistant Principal*



## Teacher training at the DO before school starts.

