



The Husky Herald

February 2021

Good afternoon, Horizon and ATEC West Community,

We have the first month of 2021 under our belt! That deserves a pat on all of our backs! As I mentioned last month, I am very hopeful for this new year.

Even though COVID-19 continues to affect us, both in and out of the school at times, I'm grateful for those who work hard to keep us safe and well. I'm so grateful for our wonderful school nurses, JaNae and Cassidy, who do so much to meet the health needs of our students and have the expertise to help me make difficult quarantine decisions when the coronavirus affects our staff and students. I express thanks to our teachers and staff who take care of students and work so hard to teach and support them even in this unique time. This year we have noticed far fewer students coming to school sick, so we express our gratitude for the judgment and help of parents and guardians who keep their sons and daughters home who display symptoms. My heart goes out to those families and staff who have been on the receiving end of a notice of quarantine call. We understand that it is very inconvenient to suddenly have your children at home (especially if these parents/guardians work), but at Horizon and ATEC-West we are committed to the safety, health, and wellbeing of our students and following the health department's guidelines. Especially since many of our students don't wear masks consistently, this impacts the quarantine decision-making significantly, as does the more fragile nature of many of our student body. We appreciate your patience, kindness, and understanding through these difficult times!

Even though we are still battling Covid, we continue to move forward as a school community. Over the past couple of months, I've had the chance to work collaboratively with our staff to create a shared school vision. We then took that vision draft and sent it out to all of our patrons and received some great feedback. I am so pleased with this collaborative effort! A vision statement expresses where we want to go and what we want to become in the future to fulfill our purpose (our purpose is our school mission). A shared vision guides and inspires our work and will enable us to achieve great things for our students and community!

Horizon School Vision

We envision a positive, engaging, and collaborative school culture, which prepares and inspires our students to achieve their maximum potential.

The attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors of the adults in our building is what creates our **culture** (both positive or negative). In a book by Jimmy Casas entitled “Culturize: Every Student. Every Day. Whatever It Takes”, he talks about the importance of creating the right conditions and culture within a school community to increase our positive impact on student wellbeing and learning. He defines his term culturize: “To cultivate a community of learners by behaving in a kind, caring, honest, and compassionate manner in order to challenge and inspire each member of the school community to become more than they ever thought possible.”

Our vision’s focus is on our school culture because that is what will make the *difference* in the lives of our staff and students. What we believe about what our students can accomplish matters. Our attitudes towards fellow staff and students matters. What we do every day matters. We strive to create a positive and engaging learning environment for all of our students. We seek to expect greatness from them and from each other. As we continue our collaborative work to achieve this vision, I expect to see growth in learning, progress, and wellbeing. What a wonderful school community of which we have the privilege to be a part. Thanks to each and every one of you for your efforts to make this the best place to learn!

Sincerely,

Dan Heaps, Principal

Upcoming Dates

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| February 3 | Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:00pm-6:30pm |
| February 8-12 | Bus Appreciation Week |
| February 12 | Valentine fundraiser pick up from 1:00pm-3:30pm |
| February 15 | President’s Day (No School) |
| February 17 | School Community Council @ 1:15pm in the Conference Room |
| February 19 | Dress up Friday: Dress like a super hero! |
| February 25 | Lock down drill @ 9:45am |

Important Items

Valentine Fundraiser: We are partnering with Brades Place, an organization committed to supporting kids with medically-complex challenges and their families, to do a Valentine fundraiser. See the attached flyer with more information and the link where you can order. Pick up is Friday, February 12th in the front office. Any unclaimed items will be redistributed 😊

Valentines: If you choose to send valentine treats, please make sure they are individually wrapped and store-bought (preferably items that won’t make a large mess ;)).

Parent Teacher Conferences: Conferences will be held online/over the phone or in person once again. Teachers will reach out to parents beforehand to set up appointments. Appointments will be for 15-minute increments. If you have a need to discuss that will exceed that time frame, please coordinate with your teacher about another day and time to review any items of interest. Teachers will take a break for dinner from 5:00-5:30pm. We look forward to celebrating progress and discussing the needs of our students!

Utah Parent Center: The Utah Parent Center is a great resource for families! Here is a little bit about them:

The Utah Parent Center has partnered with Alpine School District to provide free assistance to families of children with special education needs. The Parent Consultant serving families in Alpine School District offers:

- training
- information
- referral
- assistance

Services are offered to parents and professionals through the provision of one-on-one consultations. Maria can help you by:

- Providing a private consultation in-person, by e-mail or over the phone regarding questions or concerns about the special education process.
- Providing information about what supports and services that may be available to help your struggling student.
- Providing information on the IEP process and your rights and responsibilities under IDEA.
- Helping you prepare for IEP meetings and providing support during IEP meetings.
- Connecting you to resources and supports in your community.
- Providing information about upcoming events in the district and statewide.

***All services provided are free and confidential. No information will be released without your consent.*

Link: <https://utahparentcenter.org/projects/districts/alpine-school-district/>

Contact info for Maria Wiscombe (our district liaison with the center):

Email: maria@utahparentcenter.org

Phone: [\(801\) 318-1959](tel:(801)318-1959)

Facebook Group: We have a private Facebook group for our school! We encourage any and all parents, guardians, and staff to join. We use this Facebook page to send out reminders, information, upcoming events, faculty spotlights, highlights from classes, and more.

Facebook Link:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/289655102455482/?multi_permalink=305455714208754¬if_id=1598468796536556¬if_t=group_activity&ref=notif

Substitutes: The district is in need of substitute teachers. Feel free to go to or share the following link to get set up for substituting: www.ess.com/alpine. If you know of someone who is specifically interested in subbing at Horizon, please let us know so we can put them on our preferred sub list.