



# SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



November 16, 2020

I have been thinking about and discussing the concept of “checks for understanding” a bit over the past few weeks. In the education world, this can take many forms ranging from formal assessments or quizzes to informal conversations where students demonstrate their current understanding and teachers are then aware of what holes need to be filled. With this new, clearer picture of what students currently need, teachers can adjust instruction to ensure all students gain the requisite skills or knowledge. It is a powerful tool in helping teachers make instructional decisions. Teachers might review a concept again to help more students grasp the concept. They might pull a few students into a smaller group and provide them with a different teaching method that helps them gain understanding. They might also realize that everyone has gained proficiency in the concept and move on to something new. Master teachers vary their instruction based on checks for understanding because they know all students do not learn at the same pace nor from a single method of instruction.

This week, Skyline High School has a unique opportunity to get free testing for COVID-19. This real-life assessment will help the community “check for understanding” and make adjustments. We have taken a two week pause from being together to help curb the spread of the virus. The next step is to take full advantage of this free testing so that we can identify as many of the current positive cases as possible. This will enable us to ensure, when we come back together, that our school community is free from the virus so that the spread can be slowed significantly within our school.

As part of this project, the Utah Health, Economic, and Recovery Outreach (HERO) Project team would like to thank those that participate in the onsite questionnaire and testing with a \$10 Smith's gift card. This is an extra incentive to come get tested. There are limited slots available for the free testing, however, additional slots have recently been added if you have not yet registered your student. My hope is that we can fill all these slots. Please, complete the registration by following the instructions in the e-mail you received from Granite School District. The deadline for registration is 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17, 2020.

We all recognize that there is no way to eliminate the spread of the virus by our actions alone. However, I am committed to doing everything we can to mitigate the spread and make attendance at Skyline High School as safe as possible. I know our families are also striving to help curb the transmission of the virus. I hope we can come together and do what is possible to keep Skyline High School safe.

The pandemic has pushed our teachers to provide instruction in ways they are not used to. They are learning and improving at distance learning as fast as they are capable because this adjustment to instruction is what some students need. The very arduous task of providing instruction in various ways simultaneously is overwhelming. To meet the needs of students in person and from afar is a bigger job than teaching has ever been. They are working very diligently to prepare a teaching and learning experience that is meaningful and impactful. I hope we all demonstrate our support of them in our communication with them. They, like you, maintain a strong focus on helping our students find success through these very different and unsettling times.

Sincerely,  
Mitch Nerdin, Principal