



SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



November 22, 2021

I am so grateful to the teachers and families of Skyline High School who provide such amazing support for our students. As has been said by me and many others, these students have experienced unprecedented times over the last couple of years. These events have been difficult for normalcy in school and life. In fact, I would assume that no one feels like life has been or is normal. During the school disruptions last year, we had much evidence that school was not normal. Particularly, evidence of learning showed a marked decline. Due to the data indicating that students were struggling to succeed, Skyline teachers really stepped up and made some pretty drastic efforts to help students and accommodate their individual needs. We all got through last year, in no small part, thanks to the efforts of Skyline teachers.

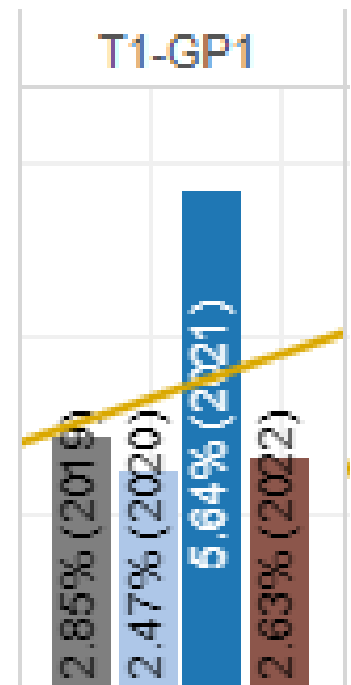
A little context might be helpful. The graph shows the percent of all grades given that were failing during the first quarter in the previous three years and this year. Skyline has a tradition of working very hard to help all students find success academically. You can see, last year was much more of a struggle and many more students encountered difficulty. I will say, teachers did heroic work to help students find success. They also have done a great deal to help students recover some of the credits lost during last year.

Given the difficulty of last year, the number of students who were away from the classroom, and the heightened issues we have seen this year in terms of adjustment back into school, I thought we would see a rate that was higher than what was our norm prior to the pandemic. Instead, you can see that we have reduced the rate of failing grades to be back in line with the norm.

I want to say that having students back makes things a lot easier for teachers and especially students. However, I don't think that is it alone. Teachers have continued to work with students and find solutions to obstacles. Teachers have set high expectations and provided scaffolding so more students can overcome difficulties and find success.

Much praise and adoration are due to our teachers for all they do for our students. I am grateful we have so many teachers who fight for their students to succeed despite whatever stands in the way. I know it is a constant struggle, but it is a work of love that helps all Eagles to RISE.

Skyline teachers do so much above and beyond to help students. Please, tell us about your experiences with our great teachers. We will honor a staff member each week based on your feedback. Please, take a moment and tell us about the great things happening in the classrooms of Skyline High School. This is a link for the feedback: <https://forms.gle/mDQPY7xybBCKnpg97>.



This week we are honoring Ms. Kelsee Kellogg. Ms. Kellogg teaches the Special Education Unit at Skyline and coached the Special Olympics Unified Soccer Team that included her class and other students. Coach Kellogg's team got to play at Rio Tinto Stadium in the Unified Champion School (UCS) Soccer Tournament with Utah First Lady Abby Cox' "Show Up" initiative and Real Salt Lake (RSL). They did a fantastic job!

Here are some comments about Ms. Kellogg:

"My son is in Ms. Kellogg's class and he enjoys talking to her and loves that she is funny. He makes my son smile and what else could a mom ask for. When she takes the time to talk to her students, or praises her students that is an excellent teacher. It takes an amazing person to work with special needs students."

Sincerely,
Mitch Nerdin, Principal