

January 31, 2024

I am the leader of the organization high school principals in the Granite School District. Collectively, we are working to reduce the failure rate of students in all their classes. This is an important measure of school effectiveness. An important factor to be addressed when trying to reduce the failure rate is the idea of rigor. If a teacher reduces their expectations or makes it easier to pass, the failure rate will go down, of course. Passing classes should be an indication that students have learned, to some degree what is being taught. Thus, teachers must maintain their high standards while helping more students access the rigorous curriculum of their course. Skyline has been so successful in addressing this issue that other schools are trying to mimic our efforts to benefit students. The Skyline failure rate remains below 2%. The evidence that the rigor or high expectations has not fallen is the corresponding test data for our courses. End of level tests indicate that students are learning more than ever at Skyline. Congratulations to the teachers and students at Skyline! As teachers work with students who are willing to try, fewer and fewer failing grades are awarded. More importantly, students are benefiting in terms of learning as demonstrated by high test scores.

In the coming months, Freshmen and Sophomores will be taking the ASPIRE+ exams. These consist of four exams in the areas of English Language Arts, Reading, Mathematics and Science. These tests help us identify the effectiveness of the teaching and learning process and help us as we work to measure our impact. We are anxiously striving to improve and provide the very best education Utah has to offer. This is the very best data available to help us determine the level of impact we are making and see if the things we are doing are as effective as they can be. We make goals each year and plan strategies to improve. Our hopes are that all students take these tests with fidelity. This ensures the data we rely on is valid and a true measure of our efforts. I am confident that we will continue to see the state's highest scores as we all work together to keep Skyline amazing. Go Eagles!

We want to hear from you about the teachers at Skyline. This is a great way to honor individual teachers who work so hard for our students. Please, take a moment each week and tell us about the great things happening in the classrooms of Skyline High School. This is the link to tell us about a great teacher at Skyline:

This week the Skyline community honors. Ms. Guijun Zhang

"For the second year in a row, Zhang Laoshi has orchestrated a splendid Lunar New Year Gala. This year, there were dances in both classical Asian and K-pop style, songs sung in Chinese to live instrumental accompaniment, a piano-violin duet of a classical Chinese piece, traditional red envelope gifts presented to the audience, brief informational sessions about the cultural significance of the Lunar New Year, and a Lion Dance. With the Gala, Zhang Laoshi gave her students the opportunity to share their understanding of the Lunar New Year with the whole school. SO, FUN! I'd like to acknowledge Zhang Laoshi's hard work with all of her Chinese language students. She truly cares about each one of them - and it shows". Thanks, Ms. Zhang, for all you do to help Skyline Eagles RISE.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mitch Nerdin, Principal
Skyline High School