



Willow Elementary

August 10, 2016

Dear Parents and Students of Willow Elementary,

Welcome to a new school year! I hope you have enjoyed the summer break. I am extra excited to start another year at Willow Elementary! **I love our school! I BELIEVE our school has the best students, parents, and staff!** Everyone works hard as a team and is very dedicated to make sure that every student succeeds. We are focused on setting goals, student learning, and success. I am confident that this year will be a positive learning experience for every student. This year we will continue to focus on goal setting and using data to drive our instruction to ensure student growth. We plan to have students tracking their own data and progress to share with you. Students will be leaders and important team members in their education. They will set goals and work toward them. We are all a part of the wolf pack and the magic of learning!

One of the things that I love most about this school besides the students and staff is the wonderful community. I have enjoyed getting to know you and your children. We continue you to grow and I look forward to meeting all of our new students and parents. It is wonderful to have your support as we work together to help your children succeed. What a great community! This year our staff will continue our commitment to working as a Professional Learning Community (PLC). We believe that educators working collaboratively will achieve better results for the students they serve. **Our goal is that all students will achieve high levels of learning and play an active role in their education.**

We are welcoming some new members to our Willow team...in kindergarten we have a new aide Nicole Ortiz. In first grade we welcome Mrs. Drake and Mrs. Hall – we were provided another FTE from the district to allow us to have four first grade teachers. Mrs. Palmer moved to second grade. In third grade we have Mr. Robinson. In fifth grade we have Mrs. McNeill and in sixth grade we have Mrs. Jones.

I would like to encourage all of the parents to become involved in their child's education. Please read and practice math with your children every day. I would like all of the students to

come to school every day and try their best. Please ask your students about their goals and progress.

As important members of our team I encourage you to volunteer if you can. Volunteer forms/background check forms are available at the office and are good for five years once they are complete. Let's work together. Feedback and communication are essential and I welcome any input or questions you may have. We have an outstanding PTA and Community Council. I know that together we will make this another very successful year.

The following information about upcoming events may be helpful to parents as you plan for the beginning of school. Additional information can be found in the school handbook available online. Please look for the updated version (2016-2017). Parents may access the information by going to Tooele School District website and follow links to schools, then Willow Elementary.

The first day of school is August 22 for students in grades 1-6. Students in first grade will follow a shortened (half day schedule- released at 12:30) the first week in order to complete assessments. Kindergarten assessments will be scheduled for August 22-25, and the kindergarten reception will be on Friday, August 26. Kindergarten students will begin school on Monday, August 29.

Arrival and Dismissal: The best time to arrive for school is between 8:40 and 8:50 a.m. unless the student is eating breakfast. Breakfast is served from 8:30 a.m. until 8:50 a.m. The front door opens at 8:30 a.m.

Student safety is my top priority. We are working hard at Willow to make sure that all students want to come to school and that they feel safe. We will continue with our Second Step curriculum that teaches problem-solving and social skills. We have a Buddy Squad that promotes friendship. They also look for students sitting on buddy benches on the playground and invite them to play. We will continue to add more activities monthly promoting buddies this year. At Willow, we are "Buddies Not Bullies."

Student Drop off and Pick-up: Parents who drive students to school are asked to follow our safety procedures. Traffic flows in one direction only. We ask that students are picked up and dropped off in front of the building in the green zone only. Please use the crosswalk when walking to cars that are parked. Help us make our school safe by using caution when driving through the school area.

Safety: Tooele School District and Willow Elementary have a safety plan that addresses what to do in an emergency. Every effort will be made to notify parents during an emergency. It is important that we have a current telephone number where we can reach a parent at all times. Please notify the school of any change in information. **Please make sure that you have registered your students on-line. We need up –to-date contact information.**

In the event of an evacuation of the building the staff has the responsibility of leading students to a safe area. If the students from Willow Elementary are evacuated from the school

location, the reunification site is Grantsville High School. The secondary evacuation site is Deseret Peak Complex.

We encourage parents to review the school walking plan Parent/Student Handbook available online (and in the paragraph below) with their children. This will be gone over at Back to School Night. Teachers/Principal will talk to students about the safe walking plan in the classroom the first week of school.

Willow Elementary Safe Walking Plan

Respect of the crossing guards, police officers, teachers, and parent volunteers supervising safety at the school and surrounding areas is expected of the community. Please obey all traffic laws when walking or driving to the school.

Students living east of Race Street and north of Main Street should cross Main Street with the crossing guard at the intersection of Willow and Main Street. They should continue south on Willow Street and cross Durfee Street with the adult crossing guard and then continue south on Willow using the sidewalk until they reach the school.

Students living on the south side of Main Street and east of Quirk Street should walk towards the intersection of Willow and Durfee and cross the street with the crossing guard and then continue south on Willow until they reach the school.

Students living in the southwest area should walk along Durfee to the corner of Willow and Durfee and then continue south on Willow Street until they reach the school.

Students living east of Quirk Street in the southeast area should walk along Durfee Street or South Street until they reach Willow Street and then continue on Willow until they reach the school.

Crossing Streets-Parents should carefully review with their children the safe routes to school and review the safety procedures for crossing streets. Main, Willow, and Durfee Streets have many students walking along these routes and crossing at these intersections. Students should cross with the help of crossing guard.

Communication is essential and I welcome any input or questions you may have. We have an outstanding PTA and Community Council. I know that together we will make this another very successful year.

As I stated earlier, communication is very important to me. I will try to keep you informed and your child's teacher will as well. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. We will send notes and newsletters electronically through Peachjar, and update our marquee and website. The PTA will have a list on Back to School Night that you can sign to receive emails (electronic copy of monthly principal's letter). Peachjar is a link on our website in which we will be able to post flyers for you to access to help save the cost of printing and paper. Once you are registered you will receive email notifications when a flyer is posted. I have also created a Willow Facebook page that you can like at <https://www.facebook.com/willowelem>.

Back- To- School Night for Willow Students will be on August 24, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Teachers will be in their classrooms to meet with you and give you an overview of the expectations for the upcoming academic year. We welcome your involvement in your child's education.

In order to accommodate parents with more than one child in our school, teachers will give two presentations during the evening.

5:00-5:30 Principal welcome/meet teachers and PTA general meeting in the school gym

5:30 Transition to classrooms

5:40-6:00 First presentation by classroom teachers

6:00 Transition to next classroom

6:10-6:30 Second presentation by classroom teachers

6:40-7:00 Question and Answer for any classroom that you may have missed or need to revisit

PTA and Community Council: Please support our Willow PTA and Community Council. They are AWESOME!! The PTA helps with the box tops, field trips, field day, Grandparents' and Guests' day, and many more activities. The Community Council makes recommendations about school improvement (90 day) plans and oversees the School Land Trust monies. The meeting schedule is posted on the Willow website. Willow Elementary is looking for two Community Council parent voting members to serve a two year term beginning fall of 2016. Any parent of a current Willow Elementary student is eligible to serve. The parent may submit their name in for nomination by notifying the school principal at 884-4527 or email agillette@tooeleschools.org., then come in and fill out the school community council candidate form. This needs to be done by August 26, 2016. Elections will be held the first week in September, on the 6th through the 8th, and voted on by parents.

Thank you for all of your support! I am positive that this will be another great year! If you have any questions, or concerns please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Angie Gillette

Principal