



PO Box 57880
Murray, Utah 84157-0880
Tel: 801-266-4461
Fax: 801-265-2249
myUEA.org

Heidi Matthews, *President*
Renee Pinkney, *Vice President*
Jennifer Boehme, *Executive Director*
Michael Harman, *NEA State Director*
Mindy Layton, *NEA State Director*

July 22, 2021

Dear Utah Educator:

Congratulations and welcome to the teaching profession! Please accept the warmest of greetings and the highest regards from your Utah Education Association! Whether this is your first year teaching or you are embarking on a new adventure as an experienced educator, you come to this work because you believe in the promise of our students and public education. The Utah Education Association is here to support you in your new career. As a member of the UEA, you join with thousands of professional educators across our state in uniting for our students and the strong public schools they deserve.

What an adventure this school year promises! Last school year's unique and dare I say 'unprecedented' time of challenges and opportunities reinforced the power of education professionals and our commitment to student success. As we enter this school year, we will again draw upon our collective to guide and transform our schools into vibrant and safe places for our students and colleagues to thrive. You are joining amazing community of Utah educators!

Belonging to the Utah Education Association assures your voice is heard in all the arenas where decisions are made that impact your classroom and your profession. At all stages in the continuing COVID-19 pandemic the UEA has advocated for student and educator well-being, equity, funding and resources – all so you can be the best possible teacher, counselor, nurse, librarian, psychologist, educator for your students. Our UEA has been instrumental as we see record level investments in our schools and elevated credibility as we advocate for the promise of public education.

Just the other day I was asked by a reporter how I would describe the current state of teachers and educators in one word. My answer: hope and determination. (I know, two words.) I see undeterred commitment to professional learning and listening – all so we can ignite that spark, the ah-ha moments in each and every one of our students. After over three decades in education, I have so much hope for our impact on our students and am determined – like you – to see all our students thrive.

Thank you for your decision to join the teaching profession. Thank you for your hope and determination to make this school year remarkable!

Heidi Matthews, M.Ed.
UEA President