

# Cedar North Elementary School

“Learning Today for a Better Tomorrow”

*Iron County School District*

December 5, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The purpose of this letter is to reaffirm our commitment to the success of ALL students and to inform you that we are still working to improve. We are busy implementing state, district, and building-level initiatives including:

- A major emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) integration into all subjects
- The new Utah Core Curriculum in ELA and math.
- Leader in Me citizenship program
- Writing using a new evidence based approach called “Write from the Beginning”
- Better reading instruction using a strategy called “Tier 1 reading” to help kids understand difficult text
- Applying for official STEM school status designation by the State of Utah
- A closer partnership with Southern Utah University
- STEM endorsement for all teachers at North Elementary
- The district math program (Go Math)
- The district language arts program (CKLA)
- ***A VERY FOCUSED EMPHASIS ON EVIDENCE-BASED INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES***

*As you probably know, North Elementary has been identified by the state of Utah as a Title I Focus School based on an analysis of student achievement in relationship to how we compare with other schools in our state. This analysis specifically identified that North Elementary did not meet expected goals on end-of-level state assessments (SAGE) in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics this past spring—this in spite of excellent improvement on the test compared to our 2015-16 scores.*

To increase learning outcomes for all of our students, we are also taking the following action steps over the course of the school year:

- Participate in a needs assessment to identify strengths and challenges in our school; the assessment will also include recommendations for improvement.
- Identify next steps we will take to improve learning outcomes for our students, by completing our “Student and School Success Action Plan” to be handed in to the state office
- Implement our plan and examine a variety of data to ensure we are making progress.
- Engage parents/guardians and our school community in our improvement efforts.

We are committed to continued growth as we work together to support our most valuable resource, our children. Parent support is essential to the success of the school improvement efforts. Parents can effectively assist student achievement improvement in the following ways:

- Communicating frequently with your student’s teachers
- Checking PowerSchool for student work, grades and attendance
- Making sure your student attends school regularly
- Helping your student with homework
- Monitoring your student’s television and computer time
- Encouraging your student to read
- Volunteering in the classroom

Your help in our continuing school improvement efforts is always appreciated. Please see our most recent school improvement plan on the back of this letter.

Sincerely,  
Ray Whittier  
Principal