



**LETTER FROM THE  
PRINCIPAL  
Week of  
NOVEMBER 29, 2021**

Dear Families,

I hope you had a wonderful, peaceful break and are happy to be back. We are still in the midst of the mask mandate, at least for the first day back from break. At that point, Summit County Health Department will evaluate where we are with cases and determine if we will continue or not with the mask mandate. We will have an update for you as soon as we hear. Thanks for your cooperation with the current mask mandate. The students have done an admirable job following the county order.

### **Science**

The science RISE data were released recently. There has been somewhat of a delay in reporting these results because the test is new. USBE took time to review the results before sending them out as final. 4th and 5th graders are the only students who take the RISE science. We will be sending home RISE science results for those students who have them.

If your child is in 5th grade this year, please watch for them to come home and let us know if you have questions.

Last year, 37% of our 4th graders (who are now 5th graders) scored proficient on the science RISE. 64% of our 5th graders (who are now 6th graders and gone from TSES) scored proficient. Overall, **50% of our students were proficient on the science RISE last year.** We have set a goal to increase this to 52% proficiency. We believe we can do it. Here is what we are working on to make this a reality:

### **STEMScopes**

Even though 4th and 5th grades are the only grade levels officially tested in science, everyone has a science core and a responsibility to master that core. This year, PCSD has chosen a program called STEMScopes that provides teachers with the tools to effectively teach science. Science has moved away from the approach where students learn isolated facts. Instead, they are taught to think like scientists and engineers. They are presented with a phenomenon, a natural happening in the world.

The students then conduct investigations, collect data, look for patterns, and study systems in order to better understand and explain this phenomenon. Students also engage in engineering tasks around phenomena where they generate possible solutions to problems using their developing knowledge and understanding. Science has really shifted in the last few years. For more information, visit <https://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/science>

### **School Community Council**

The School Community Council met earlier this month. The minutes, which are unofficial until the council approves them at the next meeting, can be found at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TAT3kXItnUpiV78EALgBjJXML1hpi81qUTA9S4OSDN4/edit?usp=sharing>

The council welcomes feedback. Watch at the site above for information about upcoming meetings and how to join our SCC meetings. We currently hold our meetings over zoom. The next meeting is scheduled for December 9th at 9:30 am.

If you have any questions  
or concerns, I can be  
reached at  
[jmartin@pcschoools.us](mailto:jmartin@pcschoools.us) or  
by phone at  
435-618-0579.  
Sincerely,  
Jim