



Biography



School Director

Sarah
Kerr
School
Director

I was born and raised in Southern California and knew I would become an educator when I was very young. My father served on a board of education for 12 years, so I was very involved in the organization of schools. I moved to Utah to attend college on a Future Teachers of America scholarship in Provo and graduated from BYU in Elementary Education with a minor in Child Development. I began my teaching career in Salt Lake City as one of the first teacher interns and met my husband, Jonathan that fall. I taught in Jordan School District for several years and then moved to Tooele, where we have raised our five children. Our family lives throughout the county and with our children and grandchildren we enjoys sports, camping, fishing, and boating and I also love theater and traveling.

I received my master's degree and administrative endorsement from Utah State University. As a two time Tooele County Teacher of The Year, I moved into administration from teaching to create learning environments for students that offer the best education possible. During my career I have been a teacher, reading specialist, principal of a large high school, junior high, alternative high school and elementary charter school. I advanced to Tooele District Office as Director of Elementary Education, Gifted and Talented and English as a Second Language. I also obtained my ESL endorsement. I coordinated 15 elementary school sites and developed strong mentoring and Performance-Pay programs through impressive state and federal grant programs.

I was very pleased to leave secondary administration as a Utah Principal of The Year runner-up and return to my love of elementary education. I have an extensive background in educational programs and practices and bring with me valued educational experiences with children of all ages. I took a charter administrative position at Wasatch Peak in North Salt Lake City because I believed in the mission of charter schools. I believe parents should have choices and be a part of the decision making process in their child's education. I loved the Mission of WPA and incorporated our goals to teach students service learning and a second language while providing a rich learning experience and incorporated those values in the Scholar Plan. I took Wasatch Peak from a good to great school, earning an "A" grade from the Utah State Legislature in 2012-13.

I like to have fun with students and believe academics should be engaging and challenging. I want them to laugh and sing and learn about our country and civic duty through service. I believe in a balanced approach of teaching strong academics, character education and citizenship. I want students to problem solve and use technology. I expect them to behave appropriately and attend school regularly. I will hire and lead a staff of caring and educated individuals. I will work to form an educational community in Tooele that all parents, staff and students will be proud of. I simply love what I do and hope that all of you will enjoy our journey together as we educate your children!

Sandra Shepard
Scholar Academy Director