



# In The District

The official newsletter of the SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

440 East 100 South  
Salt Lake City, Utah

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## In the District 2005-2006 Publication Schedule

In the District, the employee newsletter for Salt Lake City School District, will be published twice a month during the coming school year (with the exception of November and the summer months). The newsletter is designed to bring information to employees about various programs, awards, and schedules. It contains tips on improving communications and teaching practices. It is also a forum for employees to share ideas. If you have information you would like to share, please e-mail it to [jason.olsen@slc.k12.ut.us](mailto:jason.olsen@slc.k12.ut.us) or [lanett.dial@slc.k12.ut.us](mailto:lanett.dial@slc.k12.ut.us).

The newsletter will be published on the following dates. Articles or information are due one week prior to publication.

August 18  
September 8  
September 22  
October 13  
October 27  
November 10  
December 1  
December 15  
January 5  
January 19  
February 9  
February 23  
March 9  
March 23  
April 6  
April 20  
May 4  
May 18  
June 15

## Real Salt Lake Partnership

Salt Lake City School District has announced a new partnership with Real Salt Lake aimed at encouraging children to attend school. Real Salt Lake has generously donated tickets to its game on September 3. Every student who is on time and ready to learn on the first day of school will receive a free ticket. One ticket is also available to each employee.

Many of the activities at the game on September 3 will focus on Salt Lake City School District and education. Superintendent McKell Withers is scheduled to take the ceremonial first kick to start the game, students will participate in half time activities, and more. Please plan to spend an entertaining evening with the district and Real Salt Lake.

Thank you to Real Salt Lake and our wonderful employees who are making this partnership possible. Companion tickets will be available for a discounted rate of \$10 each.



*Superintendent McKell Withers and Real Salt Lake General Manager Steve Pastorino publicly announce the partnership between the district and RSL.*

## Welcome Back

Mark your calendars now to attend the Welcome Back on Monday, August 22, at Highland High School. The day begins at 8:00 a.m. in the auditorium with a presentation from Superintendent McKell Withers.

Job Alike follows the Welcome Back. Teachers and administrators can choose from a long list of available classes. The Job Alike schedule is available on the district Web site.

## Community of Caring USE the Term-MODEL the Value

The five Community of Caring values are Responsibility, Family, Trust, Respect, and Caring. Throughout the year, when talking to students, know and use the vocabulary and model the values.

## Timeline

### Calendar Dates:

Aug 1 - Year Round School Begins  
Aug 22 - Welcome Back 8:00a.m.-  
10:00 a.m.  
Aug 24 - School Year Begins  
Sep 3 - Real Salt Lake Game

### Board Meeting:

Aug 16 - Business Meeting/Tax  
Hearing 6:30 p.m.

### Newsletter Deadlines:

Aug 11 - Articles Due  
Aug 18 - Publication

# Teaching Tip

## Learning From Mistakes

### ‘Cushion’ your students’ anxieties

We know students can’t learn well when they’re fearful of making mistakes. Yet renowned educator John Holt points out, “Even in the kindest and gentlest of schools, children are afraid ... some of them almost all the time.”

That’s why it’s important for teachers to constantly “cushion” their students against anxieties with steady reminders and support. Cushioning helps students relax, learn with confidence, and participate more fully.

Before each lesson or assignment, reinforce learning truths about mistakes. Ask



students these questions:

- **Will it be okay** if someone gives a wrong answer today?
- **Why do you think** I don’t care if you make a mistake?

Make these points with students:

- **As you do your homework**, remember you don’t have to understand it all tonight. Just do your best.

**Making mistakes** is how we learn. Mistakes show that students are trying and taking risks and they learn more when they’re willing to take risks.

Source: Merrill Harmin, *Strategies to Inspire Active Learning*

**Quote:** \_\_\_\_\_

It is the province of knowledge to speak, and it is the privilege of wisdom to listen.

~ Oliver Wendell Holmes~

## Communication Corner

### Take the pain out of confrontations

Occasional workplace conflicts are inevitable, but they need not be destructive. *Follow these basic tips to smooth confrontations:*

**When dealing with a grumbler, be honest and direct.** Stick to the facts, and resist raising unrelated topics. If you stray from your main point, you may unintentionally signal that you don’t consider the core issue serious.

**Caution:** Don’t judge or speculate about the person’s motives. That indicates you’re predisposed to opinion, not fact.

**Act immediately.** Confrontations aren’t pleasant, but don’t make excuses not to speak up. Example: “The end of the week is a better time to deal with it,

after we meet this deadline.” **Solution:** Meet early to address problems, or you risk letting productivity suffer.

**Choose the most appropriate moment** to discuss issues with difficult employees. Example: If you’re upset, wait until you’re calm. Impulsive confrontations often leave lasting scars. But if you’re criticizing someone for a specific action or behavior, it’s best to meet as soon as that behavior occurs.

**Relax.** A confrontation is just like any other important conversation. There’s no need to resort to threatening edicts or theatrical displays.

**End your discussion on a positive note** to stress that it’s

professional, not personal. Say: “Thanks for listening and telling me your side. I’m sure we can get past this and work together productively.”

Adapted from *Coaching, Mentoring and Managing*, William Hendricks, career Press, [www.careerpress.com](http://www.careerpress.com)

### QUICK TIP

**Cool a heated discussion** by saying, for example, “I’d like to hear both sides.” Ask one person “What’s your view?” When you get that answer, ask the other “How do you see it?”

Adapted from *Wooing and Winning Business: The Foolproof Formula for Making Persuasive Business Presentations*, Spring Asher and Wicke Chambers, John Wiley & Sons Inc.