



June, 2018

Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members,

As we reflect on the past school year and look forward to the years ahead, we first want to thank you for the important role you play in the many successes at Tuacahn High School. What an exciting time to be a member of the THS family! We are so proud of the accomplishments of our students, as well as the incredible skills (and numerous college scholarships) they have amassed while at our school. These students will be change-makers in the world.

We are similarly thrilled about our school's national recognition in the recent school rankings by US News and World Report, and by our important partnerships with the professional talent at Tuacahn Center for the Arts and Disney Theatrical.

This year's extraordinary graduation ceremony reflected the commitment to excellence by our students, parents and faculty. With the Class of 2018 now off to take on the world, we turn our attention to the incredible educational opportunities awaiting our students this upcoming academic year.

While we have much to celebrate and anticipate, we recognize that THS has experienced much recent change, especially among our faculty. This process has not always been easy, but as we aspire to reach our potential to become a nationally recognized performing arts high school, some change was inevitable. We recognize and respect the work that so many administrators and teachers have made throughout the years and want to publicly thank them for their service while at THS.

A few months ago, our Board conducted its biennial evaluation of the school, which, in part, focused on some of these recent changes. Our evaluation included numerous interviews of students, teachers, staff, and parents, as well as analyzing data provided by the state and our school. Overall, we are very pleased with the results. Among other things, we determined that our school is on the right track. The current administration is running THS in a mission-consistent way and our students are generally very happy with their educational experience. Our students especially appreciate the way they are treated by the faculty, the administration, and, in particular, their fellow students.

In addition to learning about all the good things now happening at THS, we also made a series of recommendations to Principal Williams that we feel will allow our positive trajectory to continue. Many of our recommendations already have been implemented and others are in process – all designed to achieve our collective vision of becoming a nationally recognized performing arts high school.

We recognize that even Tuacahn High School has its detractors. Some are those we had considered members of our school family, which has been personally disappointing. We want every faculty member who comes to THS to feel valued and respected, even those who choose

to leave us. Unfortunately, a very few of our former faculty members have taken to social media and conversations in the community in an apparent attempt to disrupt what we hope and expect to accomplish at THS. This type of negativity is not supported by the Board and unfortunately has tainted the legacy of some who have left.

We have high expectations of our administrative team as well as our teachers and staff, and will continue to work side-by-side with them to achieve the incredible potential of Tuacahn High and its students. We believe that we have hired the right principal and team to achieve our lofty goals, and we support them in their service to our school.

We are excited about the teachers who have joined this journey and plan to be a part of something incredible. We can emphatically say that these educators are deeply devoted to the school. They care about our students' hopes and dreams, working around the clock in selfless dedication to try and make those hopes and dreams a reality.

Tuacahn High School exists to give our students a first-class academic and performing arts education in a positive and innovative environment. We look forward to what all of us can accomplish together.

Thank you again for your many positive contributions to Tuacahn High School. The world will be a better place as a result of what you do for THS.

Sincerely,

Tuacahn High School for the Performing Arts Board

Jonathan Hafen
Vicky Wilson
Lew Cramer
Margaret Archibald

Hyrum Smith
Tom Dearden
Andy Cox
Christine France

Sue Cox
Lisa Holm
Dave Pugsley
Rob Simmons