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Snow Canyon Middle School Students and Families,

My name is Jerrod Dastrup and I'm excited to be coming back for my 2nd year as the Principal at Snow Canyon Middle School! The most important thing I can do as your Principal is to ensure every student feels safe, loved and cared for. I love kids. I love seeing them accomplish things they never thought they could do. I love seeing them work together as they strive for greatness. I love seeing them get up after they fall. I love supporting them as they compete! You've all heard the saying "Tough love." I believe that's true. But I believe love comes first. "Love tough" is my motto. If kids know how much we love them, then we can have the tough, courageous, conversations that will inspire them to be great Warriors! I will strive for excellence in academics, activities, athletics and everything that we do here at SCMS. But we can't sustain excellence if students don't feel the love we have for them. I can assure you that I will love and care about your kids.

I believe in the proven results and power of the Professional Learning Community At Work Process. Sustained growth and achievement, in any avenue of life, doesn't happen by chance. I believe in the power of collaboration to increase student learning and achievement. In the PLC process Big Idea #1 of a PLC is to "Ensure That All Students Learn." We do this through Big Idea #2 "Collaborative Culture," and Big Idea #3 "Focus on Results." As we collaborate and use data to drive our next steps we will ensure high levels of learning for all students. I promise we will do everything in our power to ensure that your child feels loved, safe and learns at high levels while attending SCMS.

I believe that collaboration between home and school are essential elements for a successful school experience. You have a standing invitation to visit with me in person, email or call anytime. We are partners in the education of your child and by working together we can make this a successful year!

In an effort to improve Warrior Nation there were a handful of significant changes made during the 2023-24 school year. We made adjustments to our expectations for staff and students around use of cell phones and technology, inappropriate language, dress code, tardies and overall school attendance. We communicated these expectations with our students and families. These changes are included in our updated Student Handbook. I would encourage you to read through this policy prior to returning to school.

[Student Handbook - SCMS - 2023-24](#)

My goal for Warrior Nation is no status quo. My efforts as your Principal will be to focus on what is best for all students daily. Our newly hired Assistant Principal, Andy Carlsen, shares the same vision. You will see administration at SCMS building positive relationships with students daily. This next year you will see more student led spirit assemblies and a more positive school climate. I will strive to create a

culture at SCMS where every student can thrive. It's not easy, but it's worth it. I need your help. We need your help.

Here's a little more about our new Assistant Principal, Mr. Andy Carlsen:

I have been an administrator for the past 9 years in Tooele County School District as well as Granite School District in the Salt Lake Valley. I have been a principal for 4 years and an assistant for 5. I spent 3 years as a high school and elementary school counselor and started my educational career as a 5th grade teacher. I grew up in Bear Lake, Idaho. In the 8th grade I moved to Coalville, Utah and attended North Summit High School. From there I served an LDS mission in Argentina where I learned to speak fluent Spanish. After my mission I attended Utah State where I was offered a scholarship to play football. I received my bachelors, masters, and administrative certificate from Utah State University. Go Aggies!!!!

My wife just finished graduate school at the University of Utah and will be working in Washington County School District as a school psychologist. We have 4 boys: Christian 14, Jax 12, Keller 10, and Oakland 8. We love sports and being outdoors while hiking, riding motorcycles and 4-wheelers, fishing, hunting, and everything to do with being outside. We also love watching movies and going to the theater. We are excited to move to Washington County and get away from all of this snow in the Salt Lake area. We are DIE HARD Raiders fans and are excited to be close to Las Vegas to cheer on our team!!!

I am very excited to be a Warrior and to join the Warrior community in helping students and parents through the education journey. I am excited to get to know the students, staff and families of Snow Canyon! My family and I are very grateful to Mr. Dastrup and the faculty of Snow Canyon for this amazing opportunity. We are ecstatic to become Snow Canyon Warriors!

I hope every one of you is making the most out of your summer break. We are incredibly excited to see you all soon for another wonderful year! Here is some information that might help as you prepare for the return to school in the Fall.

- **Friday, August 4, 2023**
 - By the end of the day student schedules will be available to view in PowerSchool. Parents, please be sure to review the contact information in your parent PowerSchool account and make any updates or changes. Please note, we will not be printing paper schedules for students this year. Schedules may be printed on your own from the student or parent PowerSchool account. You may use the following link to access [PowerSchool](#)
- **Tuesday, August 8 thru Friday, August 11, and Monday, August 14, 2023**
 - The school building will be open from 8:30am-11:30am and 1:00pm-3:00pm to pay fees, and apply for fee waivers or free/reduced lunches. There will also be self-serve computers available at the school to set up parent PowerSchool accounts, view schedules and to pay fees and lunch money online.
 - Class changes will be available at the following times and require a \$10 class change fee:
 - Tuesday and Wednesday, August 8 and 9, from 1:00pm-3:00pm
 - Thursday and Friday, August 10 & 11, from 8:30am-11:30am and 1:00pm-3:00pm
 - Monday, August 14, from 8:30am-11:30am and 1:00pm-3:00pm
 - Class changes will also be available once school starts through Friday, August 18.
 - School fees may be paid and fee waivers submitted through PowerSchool at this time. If you wish to avoid long lines and want to save time, we recommend paying school fees online through PowerSchool. Once you log in you can select to pay fees in the menu on the left side (you must log in through a web browser, and not through the app). Once you have selected the link to pay fees, you will be able to pay school fees and/or submit a fee waiver.
- **Wednesday, August 9, 2023 from 5:30pm–7:00pm.**

- o Hot Dog Hello Back to School Night for Snow Canyon Middle School and Snow Canyon High School. Hot dogs will be served. It's a fun night for students and families to come and tour the school, try out their lockers, meet SCMS teachers and staff, and sign up for the PTSA.
- **Tuesday, August 15, 2023**
 - o First day of school for students! The school will open at 7:40 am. First Period begins at 8:20 am. School will be excused at 2:40 pm Monday thru Thursday. Fridays will follow an early out schedule. Students will be released from school at 12:25 pm on Fridays. A grab and go lunch will be provided on these days for students who desire one. Buses will leave the school by 12:45 pm on Fridays.
 - o Students need to bring their school ID from last year (it can be from their previous WCSO school; e.g. Lava Ridge). You will be able to use that card until new cards are available. If you lost your card, don't stress. We can make-do without the card until a new one is issued.
 - o Please note, we will not be printing paper schedules for students this year. Schedules may be printed on your own from the student or parent PowerSchool account. You may use the following link to access [PowerSchool](#)
- **Friday, August 25, 2023 Friday August 25, 2023?**
 - o School Picture Day! Please plan to have your child's picture taken even if you don't intend to buy a picture package. Pictures taken on this day will be used for student ID cards and in the school yearbook. More information concerning school pictures will be sent out during the first few days of school.
 - o Welcome Back SCMS Spirit Assembly!!!

Enjoy the rest of your summer. We are glad that you will be with us for the coming school year and look forward to seeing you!

TOUCH GOLD! WARRIOR NATION!!!

Jerrod Dastrup, Principal