

**Mr. David Jenkins - I Love Teaching Award - Candidate - October 2020**

Do you remember in your school years that night before the big, long awaited, field trip where you just couldn't sleep due to all of the excitement you were feeling? You had your boots, coat and gloves set out by the front door just waiting to be utilized as you raced off the next morning to your big adventure. This field trip was to be no ordinary event! You knew you would soon be on cross country skis and snow shoes in a winter wonderland. And as if that were not enough, you were also anticipating the chance to draw your compound bow to full length and let your arrow fly downrange looking for the bullseye on the straw targets set up along a hillside. You also knew that you'd spend a whole day in the mountains where, although you were learning science, history, math and a host of other subjects, it just didn't feel like a regular school day because you were deeply involved in experiencing educational moments, one after another in a breathtaking mountainous setting. Well, you have probably guessed, this scenario has played out in the minds of students in the Weber School District over, and over again, year after wonderful year! As you have probably guessed the place and field trip were The North Fork Environmental Center of Weber School District.

So who is overseeing this magical land of learning and enjoyment? Well, it is our pleasure to nominate Mr. David Jenkins as a candidate for the Weber School District "I Love Teaching" Award! Mr. Jenkins serves as the facilitating teacher and director of the Swansons Environmental Center. He is a master teacher and his classroom is the outdoor arena on the back side of Mount Ben Lomond. His work involves all grades K-12 in Weber School District as well as extracurricular groups and outside groups that frequent the center each year.

Mr. Jenkins has worked at the Env. Center now for 18 years with a total of 26 years in the district. He teaches children of all ages with expertise and patience. His energy, kindness and enthusiasm are as boundless as his skill sets. He can disassemble and repair broken hydraulic systems on a snow cat, update and refresh highly utilized skis, bows, GPS tracking devices, snowshoes, and a plethora of other equipment that need attention. He is truly a multi talented educator!

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck Utah, the ability for schools to come to the center was impacted due to varying regulations and travel on buses. This did not discourage Mr. Jenkins, he vowed to take his show on the road! He soon was signing up classes all over the district for Env. Center experience at their schools. He arrives with a huge trailer full of "opportunities" for children. He sets up hatchet throwing, and arrows and GPS tracking experiences for the kids right in their school gym and on their playgrounds!

Mr. Jenkins emits a genuine love for learning and children! He is motivated by the good he can do and he moves rapidly from school to school leaving in his wake a host of smiling and inspired children and teachers. Even during a pandemic when children can't get to the Env. Center, they still get to experience the thrill of dreaming about "tomorrow's" field trip, because Mr. Jenkins brings the field trip to them!

It is our privilege to recommend David Jenkins as a candidate for the Weber School District "I Love Teaching Award"!!!!!!

Sincerely,  
Cami Alexander and Dave Hales - Elementary Education