



## Principal's Message – August 2016

We have had a great start to our 2016-17 school year starting with Freshman House August 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 4th. I want to thank the students who came and participated. I enjoyed meeting the parents and being able to show you our school. I am looking forward to spending much more time with you over the course of this year and the several more to follow.

The teachers spent two days before school in professional development that you will see and hear more about over the year. The “keys of success” that will be promoted include: Balance, Commitment, Integrity, Failure Leads to Success, This is it, Speak (and text) With Good Purpose, Flexibility and Ownership. We have been using these keys for some time now with our Freshman House. We also continue to endorse GRIT - which to an AMESian means passion and perseverance towards a long-term goal.

Cottonwood High School is still dealing with construction and approximately 500 new freshmen as school moved through the first two weeks. We have a full staff and we are fortunate to have Mr. Carter Jensen as a math teacher replacing Mrs. Touchet who moved to California with her family.

We will have some changes this year. All our math teachers are endorsed as level 4 math teachers and will begin teaching some of the University of Utah math classes. Mr. Miller and Mrs. Strong will be teaching University of Utah classes along with Mr. Nordstrom. Additionally, we will be offering two new University of Utah math classes, 1040 and 1070. The addition of these two classes may allow students to complete their general math requirements for the University of Utah while here at AMES. We are also not as full as we were to begin last year. We currently are at 480 students as opposed to 508 last year. We have chosen to reduce the count to lower our class sizes and to allow for some unique co-teaching of classes this year.

While there is discussion and controversy regarding the Student Assessment of Growth and Excellence (SAGE) summative measurements, these assessments allow me as an administrator to view our strength areas and areas of improvement and to gauge whether our students are making consistent growth. Thank you for supporting the teachers and the students in continuing to take these tests. I encourage you to go to [www.schools.utah.gov/main](http://www.schools.utah.gov/main) and click on the Data Gateway. Our student's scores in both proficiency and growth are impressive and they are a testament to the effort of our teachers and students.

Thank you,

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