

A slight breeze dislodges vibrantly colored leaves which gracefully fall to the ground. A tell tale sign one season is slipping quietly into another as it does in Salt Lake City beautifully. Unclipping my bike helmet still feeling the excitement facing through my body after another new bike ride. Countless bike trails from Sunday diver to thrill and spill, the endless opportunities in and around the Salt Lake valley. Driving home my mind is on fire, fueled by the events of the school day to follow.

The community of education can be a lonely place at times and can seem isolated from the larger adult world. Fortunately, the halls at Grantsville Elementary School each morning are buzzing with the voices of teachers sharing their ideas for a successful day. There are no secrets about best practice. The only secrets are those yet to be unlocked by the collaboration of our staff. Ideas are not the only noises jumbling through the halls but stories and laughter of constant surprises that are never ending in education. I feel lucky I have had the opportunity to teach not only with kids that have a desire to learn and the simplicity of rural life, but I have had the opportunity to teach with and among a highly cohesive group of unique individuals. The staff at Grantsville Elementary School has a single clear aim, working together for the mutual benefit of our students.

Leaving after a good week at school snow begins to fall resting itself on the windshield. What joy the first snow of the year. Soon the majestic mountains that scrape the heavens will be capped with white perfectly contrasting the blue sky that looks over Salt Lake City so often. Ski all weekend get lost in the waist deep powder only to drive 15 minutes into Salt Lake City a city coupled with a small town feel. Endless food, arts, sports, and adventure.

Why do I stay? Because my passion for teaching has not only grown but taken root in the community. A community of supportive parents who share a common goal student success. Also the principal I have had the distinct pleasure of working for over the last three years has fostered a learning based community, who strives for continual intellectual growth. Mr. Hamm, gives his staff the freedom to teach “in the moment” where action can flourish and stress is absent. He is open, supportive, and approachable. He encourages and provides an atmosphere which nurtures young teachers. He also encourages staff to improve their ability by providing meaningful professional development and creating building moral.