



# Orion Junior High School

370 West 2000 North Harrisville, UT 84414

Phone: (801)452-4700

Fax: (801)452-4777

Scott Elliott, Principal

Ashley Blaisdell, Assistant Principal

March 20, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my distinct pleasure to recommend Mr. Jacob Heywood for the First Year Teacher of the Year Award. As principal at Orion Junior High, I have had the privilege of observing many outstanding educators throughout my 28 years in education, and I can say with confidence that Jacob stands out as one of the most exceptional new teachers I have encountered.

Jacob's passion for music is evident in everything he does. This enthusiasm not only fuels his teaching, but also inspires his students to achieve at the highest levels. Under his direction, our choirs have consistently received the highest marks in every competition, a testament to his skill and dedication.

One of Jacob's most remarkable accomplishments in his first year has been almost doubling the number of students enrolled in choir. This growth is a direct result of the positive, welcoming environment he creates and the genuine care he shows for each individual student. Jacob is deeply committed to helping all students succeed, and he works tirelessly to ensure that every child feels valued and supported.

Communication is another of Jacob's strengths. He keeps families informed and engaged through a weekly newsletter, building strong partnerships with parents and fostering a sense of community within our school.

Jacob's journey with music began in 9th grade as a student in Weber School District, and it changed the course of his life. Now, as an educator, he is dedicated to providing his students with the same transformative opportunities that inspired him. His unwavering positivity and ability to see the good in every situation make him a role model for students and colleagues alike.

In my career, I have never seen a teacher enter the profession as prepared and as committed to student success as Jacob Heywood. I wholeheartedly believe that he deserves the honor of First Year Teacher of the Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Scott Elliott', written in black ink.

Scott Elliott  
Principal, Orion Junior High