



Tooele Education
FOUNDATION
 SERVING TOOELE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Chalk Talk

Happy Birthday America

By Ed Dalton

Thanks to Civics and History Teachers

As we celebrate the Independence Day of our Nation, the Tooele Education Foundation would like to ring our symbolic education bell as a Liberty Bell and to thank all those civics and social studies teachers throughout the school district for making America's history come to life in the minds and hearts of students.

Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education." We are fortunate to have many wonderful teachers who work very hard to advance the cause of democracy.

Democratic education and civic learning is an educational ideal in which democracy is both a goal and a method of instruction. It brings democratic values



to education such as patriotism, justice, respect, cooperation and trust. It also involves engagement and participation in the democratic process within communities, respect and appreciation of diversity, applied learning and social responsibility.

There are several essential ingredients in good education that helps promote democracy. One is a continual emphasis on teaching and learning knowledge of democracy, democratic government, and democratic society. Another is teaching and learning knowledge of the Constitution

and institutions of the democratic government and civil society in which the students live. It is important to development of the student's ability to apply or use knowledge to think and participate competently in a democracy.

It is also important to develop a basic knowledge, skills, and dispositions in the curriculum and instruction presented to students.

All these things require great teachers. On this 4th of July, I'm going to reflect back and enjoy a memory or two of those school teachers who helped me love America - one in particular - Mr. Dee Gowans. I didn't know it at the time, but he made a wonderful contribution to my life. Thanks to him and all those other civics teachers throughout the school district.



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