



Dear D51 Families and Colleagues,

We had another exciting week in District 51. Last weekend, my family and I were able to enjoy watching our amazing students perform in extracurricular activities. Saturday, we attended a great theater performance by the award winning Central High School theater team under the direction of Ms. Meltzer. Shoutout to the CHS theater students, and shoutout to the families and community who came out to support them.

On Sunday, we drove out to Glenwood Springs to watch the Grand Valley Youth Cycling high school teams from D51 race in the high school mountain bike state championships. Our D51 students competed hard, and I'm proud of all their efforts. We had many D51 student athletes qualify for state and compete in the individual and team competitions. The Grand Junction High School team finished on the podium in 3rd. We had TOP 10 finishes from Alma McGowan (3rd) and Beck Sharp (8th) in the Sophomore Girls race, Riley Grimes (6th) in the JV Boys race, and Ben Garmany (7th) in the Varsity Boys race. You can see all of the D51 results [here](#). Congrats to all of these student athletes and their coaches and families for supporting them.

I've also enjoyed getting to visit schools and present them with their Performance School banners. We had over two-thirds of our D51 schools earn the highest academic rating in the state as Performance Schools, and I'm so proud of the students and staff who worked hard to earn those ratings. Tuesday I visited Mount Garfield Middle School and Appleton Elementary School to present them with their banners. MGMS not only received the Performance rating, but they also jumped two levels from Priority Improvement to Performance in one year! And Appleton continued its tradition of earning the highest rating in the state, with this being their 14th year in a row! Wednesday I visited Chipeta Elementary School to present them with their Performance School banner. Chipeta has been a Performance School two years in a row, and was a Governor's Bright Spot Award winner for math growth last year! Thursday I visited Shelledy Elementary School and Independence Academy Charter School to present them with their Performance School banners. Not only did they both move from Improvement to Performance, but Shelledy grew 15 points and IACS grew over 14 points on their School Performance Frameworks! Today I got to visit Redlands Middle School, Scenic Elementary School, and STEAM@Tope Elementary School to present them with their Performance School banners. RMS has been a Performance School for 14 years in a row, and they scored the highest on their SPF out of all D51 middle schools! Scenic Elementary has also been a Performance School for 14 years in a row, and they scored the highest on their SPF (97.7) out of ALL D51 schools! And STEAM@Tope received the Performance School rating for the sixth year in a row, continuing their tradition of excellence! Congrats to Principals Bagwell, Hafey, Chiaro, Kidd, Gonsalves, Davis, Scott, and Bollinger for your leadership. And, shoutout to all of the students, staff, and families at these schools for your hard work. I look forward to getting out to the rest of our Performance Schools soon to celebrate their success.

Lastly, I had a couple of opportunities this week to share about the great things happening in D51 to different stakeholder groups, as well. On Tuesday night, we continued our public tours of the new GJHS building with families and community members who helped donate and support the YES on GJHS bond campaign in 2021. It was a great opportunity to highlight the work happening at the new GJHS site and to talk about the opportunities our students, staff, and families will soon have in this 21st-century learning environment. Thanks to Dr. Christensen from the D51 Foundation for organizing these opportunities. We can't wait for the entire community to see the finished product, soon. And, on Wednesday, I had the opportunity to present to the 2nd Leadership D51 cohort. These are community leaders who have committed to attending classes over this school year to learn more about the district and help spread the word about the ins and outs of our D51 community. I enjoy opportunities like these to be able to highlight the great work happening across our district, and to better educate the community on the Focus Areas and goals within our 3 year community-driven Strategic Plan.

As we finish the month of October, and head into November, I want to thank each of you for all that you do. Thank you for your support, and thank you for believing in public education in the Grand Valley. It's an honor to serve this community, and we thank you for being a part of the D51 Family.

Athlete Shoutouts

As our student athletes wrap up their fall sports seasons, I continue to witness them showing tremendous grit...leaving it all out on the fields, courts, and trails. I've thoroughly enjoyed watching these students compete and grow, both on and off the field. Though sports are not our sole focus in District 51, they are a large part of our culture. We know that, for many of our students, sports are an outlet, and participating in sports helps many of our students stay engaged academically. This week, I'm excited to share another round of our student athletes named to the [2023 Southwest League All-Conference Softball Team](#).

FMHS Football Coach Named Broncos High School Coach of the Week

Fruita Monument High School Football Coach Cameron Ross was named the Broncos High School Coach of the Week! Read more [here](#).

Hats on for Pear Park

Today was an incredible day of action, where students turned a negative into a positive. Fifteen District 51 schools united to raise funds for the reconstruction of Pear Park Elementary School's playground, which was tragically destroyed due to vandalism. Read more [here](#).

CBA State Championships

All four of our talented high school marching bands will compete at the Colorado Bandmasters Association State Championships this weekend. Our high school bands, their band directors & staff, and families have put in countless hours, long days, and late nights to get here, and we are excited to cheer them on as they perform and compete with the best of the best. I commend you for your determination and hard work, and we wish y'all the best of luck this weekend! For more information on the competition, visit the CBA website [here](#).

Chipeta Elementary Makerspace

Chipeta Elementary recently held its ribbon-cutting event for the grand opening of its new "Makerspace," which was funded in part by the \$50,000 grant they received through the CO Governor's Math Bright Spot Award. Read more [here](#).

GJHS Wins Quiz Bowl Tournament

Congratulations to the Grand Junction High School Academic Teams, who placed first and fourth at the state-wide Dinosaur Ridge Science Quiz Bowl Tournament last weekend. Read more [here](#).

College & Money Info Night

On Monday night, our Counselor Alignment Team hosted another College and Money Info Night at Colorado Mesa University, where students could learn about various topics related to applying for and attending college. Read more [here](#).

Senior Work Days

In preparation for their post-graduation plans, each high school conducts its own version of *Senior Work Days*, which varies based on school, but typically spans 2-3 days. During these sessions, counselors and Career and College Advisors (CCAs) gather all seniors in small work groups and then organize those students into specific support groups based on their Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP), which outlines their post-graduation intentions. Read more [here](#).

Leadership D51 Class

On Wednesday, we had the opportunity to host the first session of our 2023-24 Leadership D51 class, and we are looking forward to engaging with these community and organizational leaders as we explore our community-driven, three-year Strategic Plan and district operations. Read more [here](#).

Burlington Stores to Donate \$5,000 to Dual Immersion Academy

Each time Burlington Stores opens a new branch, they celebrate by adopting and funding local classrooms in their new store community. District 51 is excited to announce that Burlington Stores, a national discount retailer, has generously donated \$5,000 to Dual Immersion Academy through its partnership with AdoptAClassroom.org. Read more [here](#).

United Way Pacesetter Campaign

We're gearing up to launch our annual United Way Pacesetter Campaign. Each year, School District 51, in collaboration with various local organizations, participates in the annual United Way Campaign to set a positive example and contribute to the cause. Currently, United Way provides crucial funding to approximately 40 local programs in our community, offering support to these initiatives and collaborating with numerous community groups across Mesa County to drive positive change. We eagerly anticipate the start of this fundraiser every year. Your impact as a district continues to make a significant difference in the lives of many. We can't express enough how much your efforts mean to us. For more information or questions, please contact your United Way Building Coordinator.

Inclement Weather Updates

I sure hope y'all have had a chance to enjoy the beautiful weather the last few weeks because it looks like there may be a few storms headed our way. With winter approaching, we want to ensure our families and staff have the information you need to stay informed about potential school delays, early dismissals, and closures. Read more [here](#).

Upcoming Events:

- **Halloween Reminder**
Tuesday, October 31st, is Halloween. Dress code and costume guidelines vary by school, so contact your child's school for any Halloween-related questions. A friendly reminder: weapons are strictly prohibited on campus, regardless of whether they are part of a costume. Your cooperation in ensuring a safe and enjoyable Halloween is appreciated.
- **High School Trick or Treat Street Events:**
 - Central High School Trick or Treat Street (open to all ages)
Monday, October 30, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- **Career Center Craft Fair**
Saturday, November 4, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Career Center

For more events happening across the district, visit:

- [Fall Athletics Schedule](#)
- [District Upcoming Events](#)

If you have good news to share with us, we'd love to highlight your program, event, story, and more. Please share it with our communications department by emailing communicate@d51schools.org.

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