



Dear D51 Families and Colleagues,

We've had a great first few weeks of school, and I'm looking forward to all of the upcoming events and activities in September as we enter the Homecoming season.

This week, CDE released School Performance Frameworks and District Performance Frameworks based on last year's data. One of the Year 1 goals in our community-driven 3-Year Strategic Plan was to have 80% of our schools rated in the top 2 categories ("Performance" or "Improvement") by the end of last school year. We are excited to report that we met our Year 1 goal! You can read more below about our results. As we head into Year 2 of our Strategic Plan, we are working hard to meet our Year 2 goal of having 90% of our schools in the top 2 categories. Shoutout to Mount Garfield Middle School for inviting me out to their staff meeting yesterday to celebrate their school not only achieving the top level of "Performance," but also jumping two bands from "Priority Improvement" to "Performance" in 1 year! Congrats to the Gators for all of y'all's hard work. I look forward to getting out and celebrating all of our schools and their achievements this fall.

As you know, one of our Focus Areas in our 3-Year Strategic Plan is to have more Engaged & Supportive Community Partners. We cannot do all that we do in the district to support our students, staff, and families without the support of our community. I want to take some time to shout out a couple of our amazing community partners that we had the opportunity to interact with this week. Throughout the late spring and into the summer, the Clifton Community Leaders worked on securing funds to donate a brand-new piece of playground equipment for our Rocky Mountain Elementary students, and earlier this week we were able to join them at Rocky Mountain to celebrate the installation of the equipment! The excitement and cheers from these children said it all, and we know that it's through efforts like these that we can create more vibrant outdoor spaces that foster a positive environment where our students can grow, learn, and play! In addition, last night I attended the United Way of Mesa County's "Unity in Community Event" in downtown GJ. The event showcased a variety of kid-friendly activities, and it was awesome to see so many D51 families out and about participating in the fun. Thanks to United Way for being a great Engaged & Supportive Community Partner and continuing your work of bringing together numerous organizations and nonprofits throughout the Grand Valley to collaborate and build a better city for all of us. Shoutout to our D51 Communications Department for welcoming students and families at our D51 booth, too! The hair tinsel at the D51 booth was a big hit with the students!

#### **School Performance Framework Scores**

The Colorado Department of Education has shared School Performance Frameworks, which act as the state's "report card" for schools. We are pleased to report that District 51 has improved our District Performance Framework scores for many schools across our district. The hard work and dedication of our students, staff, and families has led to several accomplishments, including more D51 schools achieving the top rating of "Performance School." Read more [here](#).

#### **Network Improvement Communities**

This week, I had the opportunity to swing by a round of our elementary school Network Improvement Community meetings. NIC weeks serve as a dedicated period for our school administrators and teacher leaders to come together, analyze data, and strategize on how to provide the most comprehensive academic, social, and emotional support for our students. Read more [here](#).

#### **JOY Celebration**

The District 51 Foundation has always been an incredible advocate for our students and staff, and last night they kicked off their first JOY celebration, a new initiative to build connections among our staff. Read more [here](#).

#### **Healthy Kids Colorado Survey**

On August 23 an email was sent informing families about the Healthy Kids CO Survey that students in grades 6-12 will have the opportunity to complete between September 18-29. Middle and High School parents/guardians will be receiving information related to the importance of the survey to our community and state, survey questions, and the opt-out form within the next two weeks from their student's school. We encourage you to discuss the survey questions with your students. If you choose to opt your student(s) out of the survey, please submit the opt-out form to your student's school office. To access information on all student surveys administered by the district, visit [d51schools.org/surveys](https://d51schools.org/surveys)

#### **Labor Day/No-School Days**

Just a friendly reminder that there will be no school on September 4 in observance of the Labor Day Holiday for all grade levels and staff. Labor Day is an annual celebration of the social and economic achievements of American workers. The Labor Day holiday is rooted in the late nineteenth century, when labor activists pushed for a federal holiday to recognize the many contributions workers have made to America's strength, prosperity, and well-being. We are proud to observe this day and recognize the hard work and contributions of our workforce.

Additionally, there will be no school for elementary and middle school students on Tuesday for Elementary Planning and Middle School Conferences.

We hope you and your families enjoy a refreshing and relaxing weekend, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Wednesday, ready to dive back into learning!

#### **Upcoming Events**

Sports and various events continue to happen throughout the district. We encourage you to come out and support our students!

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

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