



Dear D51 Families and Colleagues:

It was another great week at District 51. As teachers and students are settling back in for the busy semester, we continue to look for ways to better engage with and support our students, families, and staff.

We wrapped up our Network Improvement Communities this week with our middle and high school admin, teacher leaders, and instructional coaches. NIC Weeks create dedicated time for our school staff to come together and put in the hard work necessary to support our students and propel our schools forward. The time is spent focusing on academic and culture & climate data, developing a plan to address gaps in the data, and formulating steps to bring that plan back to the wider school staff. Shoutout to our Director of Professional Learning, Dr. Medved, and his team for their hard work organizing and facilitating these professional learning opportunities. We are getting better at getting better thanks to the work of our dedicated school and district staff.

I also met with some of my Superintendent Advisory Groups this week, including my Superintendent Principal Advisory Group and Superintendent Teacher Advisory Group. Both meetings focused on ways to better support our students with behavioral needs. We discussed what is working, what isn't working, and generated ideas for how we can better serve our students experiencing behavioral challenges. I'm thankful for our school leaders and teachers for dedicating their time after a busy day at work to share with me, and I'm proud to have them as part of the D51 family.

Great things are happening throughout the district, and I would encourage you to get out and cheer on our winter sports. Over the weekend, I had the opportunity to watch the D51 Girls Phoenix Wrestling team win the MLK Wrestling Tournament at Central High School. As a fairly new CHSAA Varsity sport, these student athletes are working extremely hard to make a name for themselves. With three tournament wins under their belts, I look forward to them competing at the state level soon. Shoutout to Coach Dare and his staff for being a great role model for our wrestlers, and shoutout to all of our coaches throughout the district for supporting our student athletes during winter sports.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

We are halfway through the first year of our community-driven 3-year Strategic Plan, and I am excited to share that our staff continue to work hard at integrating our strategic plan goals into their day-to-day work. Click [here](#) to watch a short video update on our progress, and click [here](#) to learn more about the Strategic Plan.

#### DISTRICT ENROLLMENT & FRUITA GRADE CONFIGURATION SURVEY

Last week, I briefly mentioned some information presented to our Board of Education regarding a nationwide enrollment decline across school districts that is impacting us in D51. As we begin to move forward as a district, we are seeking community input. Click [here](#) to learn more.

#### WHITE ICED CELEBRATION

The annual D51 Foundation White Iced Celebration is on February 4th. Click [here](#) to learn more, and click here to [purchase tickets](#).

#### ORCHARD AVENUE ALL KIDS BIKE PROGRAM

On Tuesday, Kindergarten students at Orchard Avenue Elementary got to take a spin on their new balance bikes as part of the [All Kids Bike](#) program! Click [here](#) to learn more.

#### CAREER CENTER CULINARY TEAM SPOTLIGHT

Exciting news! The Culinary Arts program at the Career Center has received accreditation from the American Culinary Federation Education Foundation Accrediting Commission. Click [here](#) to learn more.

#### SCHOLASTIC ART SHOW AWARD WINNERS

Fruita Monument High School had seven Wildcats earn awards at the 2023 Scholastic Art Show. Click [here](#) to learn more.

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