



Dear D51 Families and Colleagues:

Happy Friday! We had quite an eventful week here at District 51 as we experienced our first school delay due to hazardous weather conditions. Now I know what y'all are thinking...the guy from Texas takes over and delays school at the first sign of snow! The truth is a lot goes into making tough decisions like delayed starts, and it involves a lot of folks working together to make a decision that keeps student, staff, and family safety first.

I want to give a huge shoutout to our Snow Team at District 51 who were out on the roads before 4 a.m. checking on conditions. A lot of different departments, staff, and resources navigate the various moving parts that help us make the best decisions to keep our students and staff safe. From our Operations and Maintenance crews, to our Safety and Security Team, to School Administration and Communications, y'all did an awesome job in a very fluid and fast-moving situation. We appreciate your hard work ensuring our students and staff would arrive at school and work safely. Even if it meant a few extra cups of coffee that day!

If you aren't signed up to receive emergency alerts and informational updates via text, you can text YES to "67587" to opt-in. This is a great and convenient way to stay up-to-date with information from the school district and your child's school.

#### GOVERNOR POLIS VISITS CHATFIELD ELEMENTARY

Today, Chatfield Elementary received a special visit from Colorado Governor Polis. Read more about the visit [here](#).

#### ENROLLMENT UPDATE

This week, Shannon Bingham, our district demographer, hosted two Town Hall Meetings to discuss the current impact of declining student enrollment in District 51. Interested in the outcome of the Town Hall meetings and where D51 is in the process? Read more [here](#).

#### CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

Every February, the Career and Technical Education community celebrates CTE Month to raise awareness about Career and Technical Education's role in preparing young people for college and career success...a focus of our D51 Strategic Plan of having robust and aligned options for learning. We have many CTE Programs within D51 and are excited to recognize some outstanding CTE Program students. Read more [here](#).

#### NATIONAL COUNSELING WEEK

National School Counseling Week is *next week, Feb. 6-10*, and is a time for us to recognize the invaluable contributions of our school counselors and focus public attention on their hard work and dedication to a challenging yet rewarding profession. Read more [here](#).

#### D51 SPEECH AND DEBATE/NATIONAL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT

Our D51 Speech and Debate team is gearing up to host the National Qualifying Tournament in Congressional Debate *next week, February 10 - 11*. Several Board of Education members and I are signed up and looking forward to judging the competition. Read more [here](#).

#### WCCC APPLICATION HELP SESSIONS

District 51 sophomores recently visited Western Colorado Community College (WCCC) to explore college-level career and technical learning opportunities available to them as Juniors. Next week, "Application Help Sessions" will be available for interested students. Read more [here](#).

#### FRUITA MONUMENT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

Fruita Monument High School is hosting the 2023 CHSSA Student Leadership Winter Conference this weekend, where students from across Colorado will join together to connect, learn, and share valuable knowledge about student council and student leadership. Learn more [here](#).

#### FIRST TECH CHALLENGE

The D51 STEM team competed in the FIRST Tech Challenge, a robotics competition for students in 7th-12th grades. Read more [here](#).

#### FBLA

Congratulations to our Fruita Monument High School students who qualified for the FBLA state competition, which will be held in April in Denver, CO. Read more [here](#).

#### INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY, CO LEAGUE OF CHARTER SCHOOLS

Three staff members at Independence Academy were selected as finalists in the Colorado League of Charter Schools 2023 Hall of Fame. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to Independence Academy. Learn more about these extraordinary teachers [here](#).

*Brian Hill*

Dr. Brian Hill  
Superintendent of Schools  
Mesa County Valley School District 51  
brian.hill@d51schools.org  
970.254.5193



2115 Grand Ave.  
Grand Junction, CO 81501  
d51schools.org  
(970) 254-5100