



Dear D51 Families and Colleagues:

We've reached the end of another great week of learning in D51, all while state testing is happening in many of our buildings. I always enjoy getting to be a part of the amazing things happening throughout our district, whether it be during the school week or over the weekend. Last weekend was packed with extracurricular activities and celebrations. My family and I had a lot of fun at the Cesar Chavez Festival, celebrating the life and legacy of Cesar Chavez and learning more about different cultures and traditions. It was great to see so many D51 students, families, and staff in attendance, and I appreciate the committee who helped put on the event. D51 is a proud sponsor. I also got to attend the FIRST Lego League Festival at Orchard Mesa Middle School last weekend, as a parent and the Superintendent. Students from elementary schools throughout the district worked on teams to present models that involved coding and teamwork. The students did an amazing job! Shoutout to Jessica McDivitt (D51 Coordinator of STEM Programming) and all of the students, families, and volunteers for providing this opportunity for our D51 Family!

On top of visits to school events, I was able to check in on the progress of the work we are doing to continue to operationalize our community-driven 3-Year Strategic Plan. I am proud of the amount of work being done by district staff, school staff, and our community partners who are dedicating their time and energy to ensure that the goals we have set in the Strategic Plan are realized. It takes a lot of work to move an organization our size in a unified direction towards shared targets, and we are committed to the continuous improvement work it takes to reach our one-, two-, and three-year goals set out in the plan.

This week also presented some complex challenges for our school communities. We know that the safety of your children and loved ones at school is at the forefront of everyone's mind, and the safety and security of all D51 students, staff, and families is our top priority. I want to acknowledge that we had some safety incidents this week that caused worry, anxiety, and frustration for many of our families. The decisions made this week were not taken lightly, and we want to assure our families that the decisions were made in the best interest of the safety of our students and staff. We have a dedicated team of security officers in our Safety and Security Department who work diligently every day, fostering relationships with our schools and collaborating with our local law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety of our students and staff on campus.

The news that has surrounded the nation the last few weeks on the topic of school violence continues to take a toll on our community, and we want to assure our families we are doing everything we can to keep your children safe while at school. We encourage you to have those important conversations with your children and reach out to your school site if you need additional support or resources.

CHS MILITARY SIGNING DAY

On Thursday, D51 honored several Central High School students who have chosen to enlist in the Military after graduation. Read more [here](#).

D51 STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

High school seniors receiving scholarships is a significant accomplishment and a cause for celebration. Every year, students across District 51 are recognized for their academic achievements, extracurricular activities, and community involvement, and this year we have several students who have earned outstanding recognition.

- **DANIELS FUND SCHOLARSHIP**

The Daniels Fund announced its 2023 Daniels Scholarship Recipients, which is awarded to students who demonstrate exceptional character, strong leadership, and a commitment to improving the communities they serve. District 51 had three students among the 238 selected. Read more [here](#).

- **BOETTCHER SCHOLARSHIP**

The Boettcher Scholarship is one of the most sought-after scholarships in the state of Colorado, and this year, we're excited to announce a D51 recipient was one of the few chosen to receive it. Read more [here](#).

I continue to be amazed at the work ethic of our students. The District's strategic plan is grounded in our Graduate Profile of creating "Prepared and Supported Students," both academically and socially. I can see the investment our school communities have in ensuring that we engage, equip, and empower each and every student each and every day.

And a special shout out to our teachers, school administrators, mentors, and coaches for continually supporting, guiding, and encouraging our students along the path to success.

EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPETE IN NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

East Middle School had 21 students participate in National History Day in Colorado and qualified 17 for the State competition at the end of April. Read more [here](#).

SCHOLASTIC ART SHOW WINNERS

Congratulations to Fruita Monument High School students Maddie Bullock and Ellie Lintott on receiving awards in the 2023 National Scholastic Art Show! Read more [here](#).

D51 FOUNDATION UPDATES

- **D51 FOUNDATION RECEIVES LARGE DONATION**

Earlier this week, representatives from the District 51 Foundation and Red Rock Auto Group gathered to celebrate a BIG check presentation in the amount of a \$104,600 donation from Red Rock Auto Group. Read more [here](#).

- **D51 FOUNDATION STRATEGIC PLAN**

The D51 Foundation is in the midst of working on updating our Strategic Plan, and we would sincerely appreciate your input. We are seeking input on additional funding opportunities, improved communication and outreach, and feedback on ways we can grow. Please take a few minutes to fill out this [survey](#). Thank you in advance for helping us grow.

GRAND VALLEY CHORAL SHOWCASE

On Monday, choir programs across the District came together at the Grand Valley Choral Showcase, which was held at the Grand Junction High School Auditorium. The Showcase featured top ensembles from GJHS, FMHS, CHS, PHS, and Colorado Mesa University. Bringing all these choirs together for a mixed choir performance is about human connection and the goal of performing music that connects with the audience. Each of our musical programs has a unique style and talent, and it is always so fun to see our musical students from across the district come together under one roof and perform with so much enthusiasm. Shoutout to our Choir Directors for your collaboration on this event and for continuously moving the needle for our students to excel!

D51 UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Fruita Monument High School Musical, "The Marvelous Wonderettes"**

April 6 through 8 at 7 p.m., FMHS Auditorium

Join us for a fun jukebox musical comedy that showcases 50s pop music!

- **D51 Athletics**

Spring sports continue throughout the weekend. Click [here](#) for the D51 athletic calendar.

BOARD UPDATE

On April 4, the Board of Education held a Work Session in the Harry Butler Board Room. For highlights from the meeting, click [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