



Dear D51 Families and Colleagues:

It is hard to believe that we have reached the final two days of the school year! This time of year is always filled with mixed emotions. We say goodbye to our graduating seniors who are embarking on a new chapter beyond the walls of D51, while also eagerly looking forward to, and making preparations for, the return of our students next year.

The past few months have been full of growth and resilience for our students, faculty, and staff. We've overcome challenges, celebrated achievements, and forged lasting memories. Our students have embraced new ideas, pursued their passions, and spent the year learning and growing into the best version of themselves. We are immensely proud of each and every one of them.

I'd like to take some time to shout out our amazing, dedicated educators, support staff, and administrators who have played an instrumental role in supporting, guiding, and nurturing our students' growth. Their unwavering commitment to education, and their tireless efforts, have made a profound impact on the lives of our students.

We celebrated our over 1,300 graduating seniors with 8 school graduation ceremonies throughout the week. They included Palisade High School, R-5 High School, Fruita Monument High School, In-Steps at Career Center, Central High School, Grand River Academy, Grand Junction High School, and Mesa Valley Community School. This was an opportunity to acknowledge the many sacrifices, long nights, hard days, and hours of hard work and dedication they poured into their high school careers. They have all left an invaluable mark on our school communities through their accomplishments, leadership, and unwavering spirit. They excelled not only academically but also made a lasting impact on their schools through their involvement in extracurricular activities, community service, and creative endeavors. I have no doubt they leave the D51 Family as engaged, equipped, and empowered community members, and they will make positive contributions to the world around them. Thank you to our D51 families for allowing us the opportunity to educate your children, and thank you to our D51 staff who have helped support our students over the years to get them to this point. Congratulations, D51 Class of 2023!

I also had the privilege of attending several end-of-year events at some of our school sites this week. This morning I visited STEAM @ Tope Elementary, which received a \$1,000 donation from Elevate Kids for their PE Program. I also got to celebrate their students who won awards along with their 5th Grade Students of the Year. It was great to see all of the families and staff celebrating the accomplishments of their students. Shoutout to Principal Bollinger and the Tope students and staff for a great event. I also was able to attend the East Middle School time capsule ceremony. The 7th grade GT class purchased it for their Community/Design Challenge Project, and it will be dug up in 50 years. Great words were shared by students about their growth at EMS and the continued growth they'll have in their new schools next year. It was a positive message from a great group of kids. Shoutout to Ms. Sleigh, Principal Thomas, and the EMS students and staff for a great ceremony to celebrate and remember the history and traditions of EMS.

As our students head off to summer break next week, know that we are so proud of all that they have accomplished this year. We are excited for them to get a break, along with our hard working and dedicated staff, and we will be ready to greet them at the school doors next August. Enjoy time with your family, and thank you for being a part of the D51 Family. We love y'all.

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE WINS BOBBY G AWARDS

Last night, at the Colorado Musical Theatre Bobby G Awards, Central High School went home with THREE wins! Read more [here](#).

FAMILY PARTNERSHIP ROADMAP & STATEWIDE CONVENING

District 51 held the RISE and Colorado Statewide Family & Community Engagement Center Convening this past Monday and Tuesday. Learn more about the event [here](#).

ALL-CONFERENCE SPORTS

Every season, countless student-athletes across D51 commit themselves to endless hours of practice perfecting their craft and striving for excellence. I am always amazed by the incredible talent, unwavering work ethic, and resilience exhibited by these remarkable individuals, both on the competitive field and in their everyday lives. While spring sports have not quite wrapped up, and this isn't the entire list of our All-Conference teams and athletes, we want to congratulate the following athletes named to [All-Conference teams](#) so far this season.

WESTERN COLORADO CHILDREN'S WATER FESTIVAL

On Monday and Tuesday, Ute Water Conservancy District and community partners held the 28th Annual Western Colorado Children's Water Festival. I had fun attending the festival that has grown to be recognized as the largest of its kind in the state of Colorado. The festival organizers invite our 5th Grade students to engage in and learn about all things water. Read more [here](#).

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