



Dear D51 Families and Colleagues,

I want to start this week's Friday Update from a place of gratitude. I'm grateful for our over 3,500 hard working D51 staff who show up every day to serve our students and families. I'm grateful for our over 20,000 students and their families who choose D51 and allow us the opportunity to educate them. I'm grateful for our Board of Education who work hard to serve our district and community through a volunteer position. And I'm grateful for our community partners who invest time, money, resources, and support to D51 to help us realize our goals.

We have a lot to be grateful for in D51, and I feel very lucky to have the privilege of serving our school district as the Superintendent. I hope you'll take some time this weekend to reflect on what you're grateful for, and maybe even take an opportunity to send a note of gratitude to someone, be it a teacher, principal, community partner, etc. to thank them for their hard work and the impact they are having on you and/or your family. As we close out the month of September in D51, let's make sure we celebrate the great things happening in our community (many of which are mentioned below), and let's recommit to our D51 Mission of engaging our community, families, and staff to deliver individualize, collaborative, and challenging educational experiences to prepare each and every student for their brightest future.

#### **Central High School Awards Ceremony**

Wednesday night marked the 35th Annual Academic Awards night at Central High School, and all in attendance had a fantastic time! With an impressive turnout, Central High School recognized over 200 students for their remarkable academic achievements. Read more [here](#).

#### **Dual Immersion Academy Multicultural Carnival**

On Thursday night, Dual Immersion Academy hosted its Annual Multicultural Carnival, a beloved tradition that brings our community together in a vibrant celebration of diversity and unity. Read more [here](#).

#### **D51 Foundation JOY Celebration**

More than 80 District 51 staff members joined the D51 Foundation on Thursday evening for a relaxed 1K stroll along the riverbank with delightful treats. Read more [here](#).

#### **Palisade High School Homecoming Parade**

Earlier this afternoon, our Palisade High School community united in a fun and vibrant parade that paid tribute to the school's historical past. Read more [here](#).

#### **STEAM at Tope Elementary Partners with the Department of Energy**

Fantastic things continue to happen across the district, and I always look forward to sharing the hard work of our teachers and staff. This week, I'm excited to share with you that D51 teacher Rochelle Morrison, a dedicated Gifted and Talented & STEM teacher at Tope Elementary was awarded a \$2,000 grant from the US Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management. Read more [here](#).

#### **Orchard Avenue Kindergarteners Celebrate Teddy Bear Week**

It's always a delight to connect with our elementary schools and our young learners. They are at such a wonderful age, just beginning their educational journey and exploring the realms of math, reading, writing, and science. It's a critical time when we can nurture and foster their love for learning. This past week at Orchard Avenue, their enthusiastic kindergarteners had a blast celebrating "Teddy Bear Week." Read more [here](#).

#### **State Tennis Qualifiers**

The Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) has announced the 16-team brackets for the 4A and 5A Boys Tennis Team State Championships, and both our Fruita Monument High School and Grand Junction High School boys tennis teams qualified for the team state tournament. Read more [here](#).

#### **D51 Foundation Bloom Where You're Planted Grants**

The District 51 Foundation is thrilled to announce the launch of the 9th round of "Bloom Where You Are Planted" Grants, designed to support K-12 students facing financial challenges, enabling them to pursue enriching extracurricular activities. Since its inception in 2020, this program has granted approximately \$20,300 to 241 children. Read more [here](#).

#### **Family Partnership Roadmap**

The Department of Access, Opportunity, and Family Partnerships recently concluded its fifth and final community task force meeting. The task force, comprising 27 individuals, including D51 staff, community organization representatives, and parents, collaborated to develop our new D51 Family Partnerships Roadmap. Read more [here](#).

#### **Appreciation Days**

Every day across our district, we have remarkable achievements and milestones to celebrate. However, none of these accomplishments would occur without the dedication, support, and exceptional hard work of our D51 staff.

**Each year, on September 30th, we recognize International Translation Day**, celebrating the valuable contributions of translators and interpreters in bridging the language and cultural barriers. D51 is fortunate to have four dedicated translators/interpreters who are pivotal in our educational community, serving as a vital connection for our non-English speaking families to the resources and support they need to thrive within our district. They ensure effective communication, fostering an inclusive environment where all our D51 student voices are heard and understood. Thank you to all our translators/interpreters for doing what you do, ensuring every family feels heard, supported, and a part of our D51 community. You are truly making a difference, and our work would not be possible without your invaluable support.

**Monday is Custodian Appreciation Day**, a day to recognize the invaluable contributions of our custodial team here at D51. These dedicated individuals are the unsung heroes who work tirelessly behind the scenes, day and night, ensuring our schools are clean, safe, and conducive to learning. As we take a moment to recognize and appreciate their hard work, we know that their commitment to maintaining our facilities is an integral part of our educational system and provides our educators, administrators, and students the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive in our schools. Thank you to our exceptional custodians for everything you do to support our D51 family!

#### **D51 Upcoming Events:**

- **Colorado Marching Band Festival**

*Saturday, September 30, Stocker Stadium*

Join us for this unforgettable event as bands from across Colorado come to showcase their first performance before a panel of ten judges, aiming to enhance their show before the regional competition, a crucial state-qualifying event.

- **Central High School**

- Orchestra Concert, October 3, 7:00 p.m., CHS Auditorium
- Fall Bands Concert/8th Grade Clinic, October 4, 7:00 p.m., CHS Auditorium
- Choir Concert, October 5, 7:00 p.m., CHS Auditorium

- **Fruita Monument High School**

- Choir Concert, October 3, 7:00 p.m., FMHS
- Orchestra Concert, October 5, 7:30 p.m., Fruita Middle School

For more events happening across the district, visit:

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

If you have good news to share with us, we'd love to highlight your program, event, story, and more. Please share it with our communications department by emailing [communicate@d51schools.org](mailto:communicate@d51schools.org).

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