



Dear D51 Families and Colleagues,

What an incredible week it has been at District 51. Just over a month into the new academic year, it's been clear that the enthusiasm and dedication of our students, staff, and families is second to none. This week, I've been able to engage with the vibrant and diverse community we have the privilege of serving, and we have a lot to share with you about what's happening across D51.

Something I love to do is get out to different extracurricular activities that our students participate in to see them in action. Our teachers, staff, coaches, and sponsors all work together to provide opportunities that enrich the lives of our students every day. Last weekend, I had the opportunity to travel to Glenwood Springs to watch the Grand Valley Youth Cycling Teams compete at Colorado Mountain College against other teams in their division. All our D51 student-athletes did great, with many of them finishing on the podium, and it was fun to watch how determined and competitive they were on the course. Thanks to all the families who came out to support us and our coaches who continue to work hard all season long to support and teach our athletes. It's always fun to watch our students excel both in and out of the classroom.

I also had the privilege of attending the Grand Junction High School Homecoming Parade on Wednesday. There was a strong showing of support for our students and the exhilarating spirit of our community. Tonight at 7 p.m., GJHS Football will take on Mountain Range High School at Stocker Stadium for their Homecoming Game. It's been great getting out to the Homecoming football games this year, and we encourage you to come out and join us in cheering The Tigers on to victory! GJ All Day!

We also recognize that sometimes the remarkable accomplishments and talents of our students don't always receive the recognition they deserve. That's where you come in! We want to hear from you, our dedicated students, families, coaches, staff, and community members, about the outstanding clubs, teams, and programs that often operate behind the scenes, quietly shaping the future of our students. A D51 parent emailed me last week to share how hard the middle school cheerleaders have been working this year, and it was great to hear about their passion and dedication to the sport. Shoutout to the middle school cheerleaders, and thanks for sharing about their accomplishments! We encourage all y'all to share your stories, experiences, and successes with us and help us shine a spotlight on the hidden gems within our district. Together, we can celebrate the diversity of talent and passion that makes District 51 the best place to learn and grow.

Hispanic Heritage Month

Today kicks off the start of Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated from September 15th to October 15th, to recognize the rich cultural contributions and achievements of Hispanic and Latino Communities in the United States. District 51 is proud to celebrate the diversity, traditions, and vital role the Hispanic and Latino communities play in shaping not only our nation's history and future, but the future of our educational community as well. In D51, all are welcome, and when we say all, we mean all. Read more [here](#).

Patriot Day Recognition

In the spirit of remembrance and gratitude, our local schools marked the solemn occasion of Patriots Day in meaningful ways. Scenic Elementary conducted a flag ceremony, while Rim Rock Elementary organized a heartfelt First Responders Parade. Read more [here](#).

Grand Valley Bands Extravaganza

On Tuesday night, District 51 hosted the 27th Grand Valley Marching Band Extravaganza, and what a fun event it was! Every year, this cherished tradition unites our four high school marching bands in celebration of the dedication, passion, and artistic talent of our young musicians. Each D51 high school showcased its unique and creative style, performing a diverse range of songs from classics like "Come Together" to the ever-so-popular "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." Read more [here](#).

Day/Night College Fair

This week, Central High School held the annual Day/Night College Fair for all D51 students. Read more [here](#).

FMHS Club Fair

On Thursday, Fruita Monument High School hosted a Club Fair during their advisory time to educate and engage students in the various clubs available at FMHS. Read more [here](#).

Preparing for Picture Day

This week, Thunder Mountain Elementary School went above and beyond to prepare for picture day by extending a helping hand to our students in need. Read more [here](#).

New Emerson Purple People Day

I was honored to get to participate in Purple People Day at New Emerson Elementary this week. Sporting some purple shoes, a purple cape, and a purple mask, I had the opportunity to join Principal Schmalz, the staff, and students to read "*The World Needs More Purple People*." Read more [here](#).

National Merit Scholars

This week, one of our Grand Junction High School Students earned the prestigious title of National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist! Alexander Chang, a Senior at GJHS, stands as the sole District 51 student to be considered for this distinguished scholarship. Read more [here](#).

Noche Informativa

Last night, our Access, Opportunity, and Family Partnerships Department held another Noche Informativa event for our families whose first language is something other than English, and it was a huge success with many in attendance. Read more [here](#).

ILA Translation Devices

ILA translation is a tool that aims to bridge the communication gap between staff, students, families, and community members who speak different languages. It is one of the world's most knowledgeable translation devices, featuring more than 120 languages and dialects, and can translate speech to text in real time, creating natural back-and-forth conversations between multiple people. Read more [here](#).

Suicide Prevention Month

September is nationally recognized as Suicide Prevention Month and District 51 is steadfast in our commitment to the well-being and safety of our students. We have much work to do to better support our students, staff, and families through mental and behavioral health support, and we have taken steps to increase that support. We understand that discussion of the topic of suicide is incredibly sensitive and can be challenging. However, it's important to remember that seeking help is a fundamental aspect of taking care of yourself, and it is entirely normal to need help. ***We want to remind our students and staff that they are not alone.*** Read more [here](#).

Elementary Declining Enrollment Committee Update and BOE Presentation

This week marked a significant step in the path to addressing declining enrollment in District 51 at the elementary level. On Tuesday, we concluded the Elementary Declining Enrollment Committee meetings, which were initiated following a resolution passed by the D51 Board of Education. The committee's efforts in exploring how to address this issue have been extensive, and we've been committed to maintaining transparent and open communication regarding the process. Read more [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