



Dear D51 Families and Colleagues,

As we approach the end of the semester, I want to take a moment to pause and acknowledge the positive momentum and achievements of our students. Y'all continue to make progress in both academics and extracurricular activities, and it's exciting to see improvements in various areas across the district. I also want to acknowledge the hard work our dedicated D51 staff members have been putting in. Thank you for your commitment to our students and families.

We started off the week meeting with all of our elementary, middle, and high school leaders at our D51 Leadership Academy. This is an opportunity to come together with our amazing school leaders to review data and plan for the January in-service with all school staff. Heading into the meeting, I was reminded of this quote. "We don't rise to the level of our goals...we fall to the level of our systems." We have many goals in D51, at the district level through our Strategic Plan, and at the campus level through our Network Improvement Community work. But, it's the systems we develop and put in place to reach those goals that matter most. Our school leaders and teacher leaders continue to create and make adjustments to systems within their buildings to ensure better outcomes for students and to reach their individual school goals. I'm proud of the work of our school and district leaders who work hard to make sure we are a district focused on continuous improvement.

I also had a blast this week at our Student of the Quarter Luncheon. I look forward to this quarterly event where our schools are able to recognize exceptional 8th and 12th grade students in their buildings. I love getting to hear our staff brag on our students, and I love seeing the smiles on the faces of our families as they celebrate their kiddos. Congrats to our students who earned the Student of the Quarter recognition, and shoutout to Alpine Bank and CMU for sponsoring the event and gifting the students with scholarship money.

I encourage everyone to stay both focused and engaged as we head into our last school week of the fall semester. Your dedication is key to making these last days before Winter Break both productive and rewarding. I appreciate the ongoing efforts of our students, our staff, and our D51 families. Keep up the great work!

#### All-State Choir and All-State Jazz Choir

As our fall semester wraps up, high school students from across the district put their skills and talents to the test. These students work all semester, dedicating hours of practice and sacrificing many evenings to perfect their craft, and after a rigorous audition, the following students were selected for All-State Choir and All-State Jazz Choir. Read more [here](#).

#### All-Conference Athletes

We are excited to proudly acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of our D51 All-Conference athletes who have demonstrated exceptional skill, dedication, and sportsmanship. These athletes embody the spirit of continued growth, success, and excellence that defines our athletic community. Read more [here](#).

#### December Student of the Quarter Luncheon

On Tuesday, we hosted another Student of the Quarter Luncheon for the 2023-24 school year. This event helps D51 recognize the accomplishments and leadership of our 8th- and 12th-grade students who consistently excel academically and provides a platform to honor their outstanding achievements and recognize their remarkable influence within their peer community. Read more [here](#).

#### Nocturnal Madness at Taylor Elementary

This week, students at Taylor Elementary engaged in family-friendly fun, gaining a hands-on understanding of the wonders of the nocturnal world. Read more [here](#).

#### MESA Club Competition

This week, our MESA Club students showcased their talent during the second MESA Club Challenge of the year - Cybersecurity! These challenges are great opportunities for our students to delve into one of the fastest-growing fields in today's workforce. Read more [here](#).

#### Independence Academy STEAM Competition Day

Every year, Independence Academy hosts highly anticipated competition days where their middle school students showcase their creativity and problem-solving skills through the culmination of their STEAM challenge projects. Read more [here](#).

#### Pear Park Elementary Student Council Visits Solstice Senior Living

Today, Pear Park Elementary's student council spent their afternoon spreading holiday cheer and goodwill at the Solstice Senior Living Center at Grand Valley. Read more [here](#).

#### D51 Robotics Teams Place at FIRST Lego League State Competition

Last weekend, over 50 District 51 students competed on six robotics teams at the FIRST Lego League State Competition in Denver. For the first time in recent D51 history, we had two teams place and win awards. Read more [here](#).

#### District 51 Foundation Technology Grants

The District 51 Foundation recently announced the recipients of its inaugural Technology and Innovation Grant Awards, allocating over \$10,000 to support 11 District 51 staff members. Read more [here](#).

#### Board of Education Recap

On December 12, the Board of Education held a Work Session in the Harry Butler Board Room. For highlights from this meeting, click [here](#). To watch the live stream of the meeting, click [here](#).

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **CORRECTION: The Theatre Project presents "Elf the Musical"**  
Last week, we mentioned that "Elf the Musical" is playing at Grand Junction High School. We need to make a correction that this *is not* a high school student musical. It is only being hosted at Grand Junction High School but is being presented by The Theatre Project. We apologize for the confusion.
- **Warrior Classic Wrestling Tournament**  
*December 15-17 at Central High School*  
Central High School will host the 2023 Warrior Classic Wrestling Tournament, the largest Wrestling Tournament in Western Colorado. The tournament will bring over 40 of the top-ranked teams from across Colorado and neighboring states. Good luck to all our wrestling teams; go get 'em!
- **Palisade High School "Sounds of the Season" Choral Performance**  
*December 16, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church*
- **Wunder Night at Rocky Mountain Elementary**  
*December 18, 5:30 p.m., Rocky Mountain Elementary Cafeteria*  
Experiencing holiday stress? Enjoy presentations from Marillac Health and the Colorado National Monument, followed by a performance from the Wunder Club. Food and refreshments will be provided.
- **Fruita Monument High School Student Art Show**  
*December 18, 6 p.m. at FMHS Library*  
Student art from Beginner to Advanced Placement will be on display.
- **High School Social Studies Curriculum Open House**  
*December 20, 4:30 - 7 p.m. at R-5 High School/Harry Butler Board Room*  
We are adopting new resources to support social studies instruction in our high schools. Community members are invited to view the resources under consideration and offer feedback to the selection committee.
- **Central High School Mariposa Theater Presents A VERY Spontaneous Combustion - Christmas Improv Show**  
*December 20, 6 p.m. at the Mariposa Theater - Central High School, Free Admission*

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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