



Dear D51 Families and Colleagues,

As we round out the second full week of the school year, I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all our students, staff, and families for your hard work and dedication to academic excellence in D51. Seeing our school campuses buzzing with energy again has been exciting as our students enthusiastically engage in their learning journeys and reconnect with friends and staff. Our teachers and staff have been working hard to create a sense of belonging for our students and a welcoming environment conducive to learning. I am hopeful that everyone is settling into the new year with a sense of belonging and purpose.

Fall is an exciting time for extracurricular activities in D51. We offer so many different opportunities for students to experience things like fine arts, sports, robotics, etc., and I love getting out to see our students in action. Last night I got to take in the excitement of fall football with an in-district game between Fruita Monument HS and Central HS. Both teams played hard, and didn't let the rain bother them as they showcased their athletic skills and teamwork on the field. Shoutout to both teams; D51 Athletic Director Paul Cain, the coaches, school athletic directors, school admin (I witnessed some impressive high kicks from FMHS Principal Klumire with the FMHS dance team), and staff who work those evening games; the band, color guard, cheerleaders, and dance team; and the students and families who came out to support our student athletes and cheer them on. It's always a great environment to be a part of. Be sure to come out tonight to Stoker Stadium to cheer on our Palisade High School football team as they take on the defending state champs at 7 p.m.!

#### **CMAS Testing Results**

The Colorado Department of Education has recently released the results of the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) state standardized tests for Mathematics and English Language Arts, and District 51 is thrilled to announce we have seen advancements in student proficiency and early literacy initiatives across our entire district. Read more [here](#).

#### **Long-Range Facility Plan**

The district has begun a comprehensive long-range facility plan, which will serve as a strategic roadmap, guiding the district's effective allocation of resources toward future facility enhancements. Read more [here](#).

#### **Kids Aid Backpack Check Presentation**

Yesterday, Western Colorado Pediatrics presented a \$5,000 check to the Kids Aid Backpack Program, which addresses weekend hunger among children in Mesa County. Read more [here](#).

#### **Grand Valley Youth Cycling**

Many might remain unfamiliar with the Grand Valley Youth Cycling High School Program, but through this program, students from our D51 high schools train together and compete as individual school teams throughout the fall against other riders from across the state in the Colorado High School Cycling League. Read more [here](#).

#### **CDE Awards up to \$1000 to New Projects from CO Teachers**

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and DonorsChoose are partnering together to allocate \$11 million in federal COVID-19 relief funds to aid pre-K to 12th-grade public school education in combating COVID-19 learning setbacks. This initiative enables teachers who qualify the ability to purchase necessary classroom resources of up to \$1,000 per teacher, as long as the funding lasts. In partnership with DonorsChoose, the program covers various classroom needs that address pandemic-related learning challenges, from science experiments and reading aids, to interactive activities and learning tools. To learn more about the program and how educators can qualify, click [here](#).

#### **United Way - Unity in Community**

*Thursday, August 31 - 4:00-8:00 p.m., Downtown Grand Junction, 7th and Main*

Come be a part of an enjoyable evening filled with kid-friendly activities, all while discovering more about United Way of Mesa County and their incredible partnership with organizations throughout the Grand Valley, including District 51! The event will showcase a variety of activities, including a climbing wall, food trucks, live music, face painting, balloon twisting, a photo booth, and so much more. District 51 will also be present, so swing by and say hello!

#### **Upcoming Events**

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

*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