



Dear D51 Families & Colleagues,

This week, our D51 community hit **100 days of school**, marking a significant milestone in our academic year! Various schools and classrooms recognized this day with activities, reflections, and celebrations for how far we've come, the progress made, and the achievements accomplished in the first 100 days of our 2023-24 academic journey. It was fun to learn about the creative lessons, engaging projects, and even some fun dress-up activities for our younger kiddos that captured the spirit of reaching 100 days of academic learning! Thank you to our teachers, admin, staff, students, and families for all you have done this year to engage, equip, and empower each and every student, each and every day. I look forward to seeing our continued growth throughout the remainder of the year!

This week I was able to experience the electric atmosphere that is created when two of our D51 high schools battle it out on the court in a cross-district rivalry. Tuesday night, I joined hundreds of FMHS and GJHS students, staff, and families in the sold out GJHS gym to watch the girls and boys basketball teams compete against each other. I loved experiencing the energy in the gym and seeing our D51 Family show up to cheer on our student athletes. Shoutout to the players, coaches, cheer squads, and band for working hard and providing some entertainment for the entire community. Thanks to Principal Sorensen, Principal Klusmire, and the GJHS and FMHS staff who were in attendance for interacting with our students while making sure they are safe. I also had a great time at the Palisade High School MYP Personal Project Expo! You can read more about it below, but I just want to reiterate how proud I am of our hard working high school students for the effort they put into their projects and the confidence they showed when presenting. Shoutout to Principal Bollinger and the PHS teachers and staff for continuing to provide this rigorous educational opportunity to our students from across the district.

As I wrap up the week, I want to congratulate our D51 students and Orchestra Directors currently in Denver for the Colorado All-State Orchestra. Your hard work and talent are truly commendable. I wish y'all the best of luck in your performances, and I hope this experience adds another proud chapter to your musical journey!

CTE Month

February is National Career & Technical Education Month...a month designed to celebrate the CTE community and raise awareness about Career & Technical Education's role in preparing individuals for success in both college and various career paths. We want to take some time to highlight our Career & College Readiness Department and the work they are doing to ensure our students have access to robust and aligned options for learning, a priority area in our three-year, community-driven strategic plan. Read more [here](#).

District 51 Spelling Bee

The recent District 51 Middle School Spelling Bee highlighted academic excellence from 25 D51 middle schoolers who came together to compete in a friendly battle of spelling. Read more [here](#).

Palisade High School MYP Personal Project Expo

I joined Principal Bollinger and his Sophomore Class on Tuesday for their Palisade High School MYP Personal Project Expo. This event represents a significant milestone for all our PHS sophomores as they demonstrate their growth and have an opportunity to share their learning with their peers and the school community. Read more [here](#).

D51 Safety & Security Officers Earn Life-Saving Award

This week, two of our District 51 Safety and Security Officers were honored at the Mesa County Sheriff's Office Awards Ceremony for their heroic actions in helping to save the life of another fellow law enforcement officer. Read more [here](#).

Scenic Elementary One Book, One School

This week, Scenic Elementary participated in the One Book, One School program, a literary initiative that brings school communities together through the shared experience of reading the same book. Read more [here](#).

7th/8th Grade Honor Choir Festival

On Thursday, D51 had nearly 45 talented 7th- and 8th-grade students from across the valley gather at Fruita Middle School for the Annual D51 7th/8th Grade Honor Choir Festival. Read more [here](#).

Snow & Hazardous Weather Update

Have you been watching the forecast lately? Our D51 Snow Team anticipates the onset of some winter weather in the coming weeks. We want to remind our students, families, and staff how you can be prepared and stay informed on any delays or closures:

- **Updated Contact Information**

Make sure your phone number and email address on file with your child's school are up-to-date.

- **Text Alerts**

Text messages are one of the easiest and quickest ways to receive information from D51 regarding emergencies, school delays/closures, etc. If you're not signed up to receive emergency notifications with D51, **text "YES" to 67587** to sign up now. Make sure to save the number on your phone!

- **D51 Social**

District 51 Communications Department sends out snow day information, including communications regarding delays or closures. Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X \(Twitter\)](#) for the latest updates! You can also check our local news outlets for information.

- **D51 Website**

Alerts and notifications regarding snow delays and closures are posted on the [D51 website](#). Be sure to check the website regularly for updates.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The D51 Challenge Program at Orchard Mesa Middle School is now accepting applications. Click [here](#) for more information and to apply.
- Colorado All-State Choir
February 8 & 9, Middle School / February 8-10, High School at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver
Wishing middle and high school students great success as they perform at the All-State Choir Festival. Thanks for being such a great representative of our district!
- Speech and Debate National Qualifying Tournament
February 9, 4 - 7 p.m. and February 10, 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at CMU

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.

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