



Dear D51 Families and Colleagues,

It's hard to believe we are just a couple of weeks away from the end of the first quarter. I have been so impressed with everything our students, staff, and families are doing and how y'all have jumped in and made the most of the first months of the school year.

My calendar can easily get filled up with meetings, which are important, but keep me from getting to visit schools. This week, though, I was able to carve out time to visit many of our campuses, visit with principals and staff, and see the great things happening in our buildings. Shoutout to Mrs. McKelvey (Scenic Elementary PE Teacher) & Dr. Alexander (Scenic Elementary Principal) for letting me jump in on a game of Hula Hut Knockdown with the Scenic 5th graders! It was a great workout, and I got to witness outstanding teamwork amongst students. Some of those students are going to be future pro athletes, because they had cannons for arms! Physical activity is important in the development of our students, and our teachers find fun and creative ways to make sure our students are active on a daily basis.

Rocky Mountain PBS Kids Fest

Don't forget to come out and support the Rocky Mountain PBS Kids Fest this Saturday at Longs Memorial Park from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. District 51 will have a Lunch Lizard Truck, goodies, a bean bag toss, and a dunk tank. I'll be at the dunk tank from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., so come on out and sink the superintendent.

National Translation Day

Today is National Translation Day, and District 51 has the honor of celebrating the translators on our staff who work tirelessly to make sure letters, social media posts, documents, and school information are translated for our families. They also provide interpretation services for meetings so that our Spanish speaking families can join in on the conversations. Thank you to Jesus Raffo, Karla Marin, Luz Weeks, and Consuelo Aranda-Salazar for all of your time and effort making sure our families feel welcomed in D51. We are proud to have y'all as part of the D51 Family.

National Custodial Appreciation Day

October 3rd is National Custodial Appreciation Day. It truly takes a team to make sure that our students are successful. Ensuring that our buildings are clean, safe, and inviting is a big part of that success. Our custodians work tirelessly to make sure our schools and buildings are healthy environments for all of our over 21,000 students, over 3,000 employees, and our families. Our custodians also go above and beyond, many times providing support and mentorship to students who may be struggling throughout the day. Let us take a moment to recognize our amazing custodial staff who are part of the D51 Family and all that they do. Thank you to KC Roberts and his team of heroes for your hard work and support.

Homecoming Weeks

Homecoming weeks for D51 students will be wrapping up next week with Palisade's HOCO. Tonight, you can come out and cheer on your FMHS Wildcat team at 6 p.m. at Stocker Stadium.

Next week the Palisade Homecoming Parade will be in downtown Palisade on Friday at 1 p.m. with their Friday night homecoming football game at 7 p.m. at Stocker Stadium.

Western Colorado High School Performing Arts Festival

Today, students from our D51 high schools participated in the Western Colorado Performing Arts Festival hosted by the CMU Theater Department. This all day event gave students from Western Colorado the opportunity to participate in workshops about acting, stage combat, stage makeup, or dance during the morning sessions. In the afternoon students had the opportunity to be scored on acting, dance, and design, along with other categories. From these scores they also had the opportunity to be offered scholarships to the CMU Performing Arts Department. Shoutout to all of the D51 students who participated in the festival today, our D51 teachers who accompanied our students and supported them, and thanks to CMU for hosting!

District 51 Program Spotlight

Having Robust and Aligned Options for Learning Experiences is a Priority Area in the D51 Strategic Plan. District 51 offers many programs and educational choice opportunities for our students, and I want to take the opportunity to share about some of these programs in my upcoming letters.

This week, we are highlighting the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at Palisade High School. Palisade IB not only provides a great option for our D51 students, but the program also consistently outperforms the rest of the world when it comes to the passing rate on the IB exams. This is due to the hard work of our D51 IB students, but also to the commitment that Principal Bollinger and the PHS staff have to the program. Shoutout to Kim Popick (Palisade HS IB Diploma Programme Coordinator) and her team for all of their hard work.

The International Bachelorette (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) is a unique educational option that gives students access to seven college-level courses throughout the Junior and Senior years of high school. In addition to experiencing a high-level academic study that offers both breadth and depth across subject areas, the DP creates opportunities for interdisciplinary learning, allowing students to develop enduring skills that can be transferred across learning experiences. Intellectual curiosity and inquiry are primary tenants of the program as students engage in authentic assessments and design personalized explorations. The DP also allows our students to be a part of a global community of learners as they study multiple languages, works of Literature from across the world, and complete assessments based on conceptual understanding and global issues. The IB philosophy is centered on the importance of using education to foster a better, more peaceful world, by cultivating understanding and connection.

The IB Diploma Programme also establishes a cohort in learning where students work together in a shared program experience. This cohort leans on each other, learns from each other, and celebrates the differences that make us all unique as learners and people. Additionally, students in the DP gain unique experiences working with their teachers who also collaborate to promote student success and wellbeing.

Students in the IB Diploma Programme have the opportunity to graduate from high school with two distinct diplomas, one from D51, and one from the IB organization. An IB Diploma allows students to earn college credit from their studies, access more scholarship opportunities, and have higher acceptance rates at many institutions across the Nation. Additionally, students who earn the IB Diploma can transfer college credit abroad if they wish to continue their studies outside the United States. Students who apply to college with the IB Diploma signal to institutions a high capacity for success and preparedness for the challenges they will face at the collegiate level. PHS celebrates the ability of the program to build lifelong learners who are more caring global citizens, above all else.

D51 PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

IB Diploma Programme Palisade High School

What is the International Baccalaureate Programme?
The International Baccalaureate® (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) is an assessed programme for students aged 16 to 19. It is respected by leading universities across the globe.

How do D51 Students compare in global examination rates?
District 51 students participating in the IB programme show a higher percentage of passing rate vs. the global passing rate.

Palisade Pass Rate	Global Pass Rate
2022- 97%	2022- 85%
2021- 93%	2021- 88%
2020-96%	2020- 85%
2019- 82%	2019- 77%

These passing rates represent the percentage of students who have earned the IB Diploma because they have passed 7 college level classes.

Want more information on the International Baccalaureate Programme?
If you have a student that is entering into high school next year and are interested in finding out more about the IB program at PHS please contact Kim Popick the IB programme coordinator at kim.popick@d51schools.org or by calling PHS at 970-254-4800

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