



Dear D51 Families and Colleagues:

Welcome back to school, and for those of you who are new to the district, welcome to the D51 Family! This is the first in a series of weekly updates I will be sending on Fridays throughout the school year. These updates will share information about upcoming events, district news, and announcements important to families and staff members.

Last week, we welcomed back thousands of District 51 employees for district and campus in-service and work days. They have been working hard, along with our campus and district administrators, to prepare for a strong start to the school year. You can watch the Back to School video for staff [here](#).

I have enjoyed visiting buildings this week and seeing the joy and excitement of students and staff reunited in our 47 schools and programs. On Wednesday morning, I had the pleasure of visiting Rocky Mt. Elementary School and joining in their Welcome Tunnel, then headed over the New Emerson for their playground ribbon cutting. You can find photos and videos of both events on our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) pages.

I am proud to be your superintendent, and look forward to working together to make this one of the best years yet in District 51.

100 Day Plan

In order to make my initial weeks as superintendent as effective and impactful as possible, I have created a 100 Day Plan. This plan includes goals for meeting and collaborating with students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members to embrace new possibilities and reach the district's strategic goals. I encourage you to read the full plan at d51schools.org.

Curriculum Open Houses

District 51 will implement new reading, writing, and phonics curriculum materials in all of our elementary schools in 2023-24. A dedicated team of 47 teachers and staff from across the district have carefully narrowed the resources being considered for adoption to two, strong options. You will have the opportunity to review the two options at public open houses on Aug. 12, 15, or 19. All three open houses are open to the public from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. and will take place in the Harry Butler Board Room at R-5 High School, 455 N. 22nd St.

Surveys

In an effort to be as transparent as possible, we want to provide you with information about each district-administered student survey that will be given in 2022-23. While individual schools also provide this information, we wanted to make sure that you had the information in one location for the year.

This year, there will be a Panorama Wellness Survey in August and November for students in grades 3-12, a Panorama School Climate & Culture Perception survey for all grades in September and March, and a Gifted Program Perception survey for students in our Gifted and Talented Program in November. School Board policy provides opportunities for families to opt their students out of surveys. If you would like to learn more about each survey or opt your child out of one or more surveys, [click here](#).

I hope y'all had a wonderful start to school, and I look forward to the year to come.

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