

April 2018

Welcome to the month of April in Weld Re-8 School District. As we near the end of the school year, I want to take a moment to describe for you who we are in our district. As a reminder to our purpose, our Board of Education begins every meeting by saying aloud, "I am here representing the 2,421 students in Weld Re-8 School District." While the number changes over the course of the school year, it is a great reminder of the fact that we have some 110 square miles in our district and it encompasses many communities such as Fort Lupton, Aristocrat Ranchettes, Wattenberg, and Dacono. It is easy to identify with our individual places of residence, however, we are one district dedicated to insuring each child is safe and challenged to learn and achieve their individual best.

The month of April begins a season in each of our schools of state and federal assessments. I have been in education for thirty plus years and have watched these assessments change throughout those years. There has been and remains one constant in these testing platforms: students are measured against one another in their performance. It provides an opportunity for you as a parent to help monitor your child's academic progress as normed with other students from Colorado and the United States. I often speak regarding the different world that our kids are growing up in today. We have the ability to communicate across all continents and with all nations of people in an instant with the technology available to our children. Our kids will compete in a true global society and will need the skills to navigate their careers unlike any generation before. As such, these state assessments are a great opportunity to help us as educators determine how best to assist your child in their academic needs.

There is another side to the story in these assessments. Since arriving in Weld Re-8 five years ago, I have repeatedly been involved in conversations with the theme of past excellence in our schools. While it is amazing to hear individual stories of greatness in years past, I want our kids to be able to share those same stories with the future children in Weld Re-8. I believe we are a GREAT school district with a great community of support and care, and desire our kids to learn all the needed material for their success in life. These assessments allow us to proudly monitor and improve our daily instruction for your child, and help us identify any area of needed growth. I would encourage each of you to encourage your child give their best effort on these tests in order for us to accurately address their future needs.

Please visit your students' school website for an updated schedule of these assessments. I want to close out with a saying that has resonated with me personally for my entire adult life and ask you to reflect on it. Ralph Waldo Emerson stated, "Treat a man as he is, and he will remain as he is. Treat a man as he could be, and he will become what he should be."

I am humbled and honored to serve as your Superintendent of Schools,
Alan