



## Message from the Superintendent, Lori Haukeness

Dear Staff,

It does not seem possible that we will soon be entering into the last trimester/quarter of the school year. Spring is traditionally the longest instructional time we have with students and every minute counts.

Our district schools have revised their 90-Day Plans to reflect priorities each school is focusing on for the remainder of the year. Through each school's effective implementation of their 90 Day Plans and the District Accreditation Plan implementation the last three years, the district is celebrating an increase in student learning and accreditation. These results are attributed to the laser like focus on student achievement and the hard work of all staff in the district.

We will continue to focus on these strategies. However, it is also time to evaluate what is working well in the district and what are Board level strategic long-term goals for the students and community in the Montezuma-Cortez School District. It is time to be creative, examine and evaluate the support systems we have for teachers and students in our schools. As we begin to think outside of the box and examine our district's practices to reflect the current needs of the students and staff, I hope you will be an active participant and voice as we move forward. We have demonstrated not only that we can climb the mountain, but together, we can move the mountain!

I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every staff member for committing to our district and the students we value greatly. The staff and students in our district is the most important part of our organization. As we move into the budgeting process, it is still a priority of the Board of Education to address the recruiting and retaining of quality staff.



**HAPPY  
VALENTINES DAY**

## Assessment Committee

In early March, a committee will be formed to review the District's Assessment Strategy. The committee will look at the current assessments used in the District and to evaluate how well the assessments meet our State and District needs.

## Building Academic Language Class

There is still room to sign up for the Building Academic Language Training. This training is applicable to all grade levels and supports all students especially ELL students and students of poverty. There is a one day Saturday training on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> and five (5) follow up lessons and book study sessions. Please sign up with Trina Lee, [tleec@montezuma.k12.co.us](mailto:tleec@montezuma.k12.co.us)

## CMS Redesign Planning

In order to expand strategies that have been successful, CMS staff has been planning ways to incorporate looping into the whole school and to provide a better transition for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Research from people like Eric Jensen supports looping for high poverty schools. Looping helps to develop relationships and to accelerate learning by avoiding the summer slide. In addition, applications for the looping program have tripled over the last year. In an effort to gather feedback from key stakeholders, CMS has held informational meetings with teachers, parents and the school board. Additional opportunities for feedback include accessing a link on the CMS website or contacting Kate Ott, CMS Principal. In March, CMS will use the feedback to refine the redesign plan.

## K-12 Science Program Evaluation

A science program evaluation will be completed this school year. The last science program evaluation was completed seven years ago. The purpose of the program evaluation is to improve academic achievement by evaluating the current curriculum and instruction and to identify resources and professional development that is needed to strengthen the instructional curriculum and programming. The process will include convening science committees to evaluate the current program and to make recommendations for resources.

## District Strategic Planning

The District School Board held an initial strategic planning session in January to begin the process of developing the District's three-year strategic plan. This will build on the existing District Strategic Plan ("Pathways Plan"). The Board has requested that the Superintendent convene a subcommittee with representatives from each school to provide input into the District goals, outcomes, and strategies. This subcommittee will meet in February and the School Board will hold another strategic planning session in late February to consider their input and create a draft strategic plan, which will be shared more broadly for additional input. If you have questions about the strategic planning process or how to provide input, please contact the Superintendent's office.

## Aspiring leaders' pilot

The District is excited to be offering our first-ever aspiring leaders professional development series. This is an extension of our District work with UVA and is focused on supporting individuals in our District who aspire to assume greater levels of leadership in their schools or in the District. Congratulations to our first cohort of leaders: Lisa Baer, Beth Benavidez, Melanie Cook, Brittany Lang, Kathleen Nelson, Andrew Pearson, Paulette Porter, Amanda Robinson, Whitney Stewart, and Michelle Waltman.

## RE-1 is hiring – tell your friends!

Did you know that most people find jobs through referrals from their friends, family, and colleagues? RE-1 is hiring teachers and other positions. Can you help us find the right people? Please share job descriptions and openings with your friends and colleagues or on your Facebook. Help us get the word out! If the person you referred to us for a position is hired, you will receive a \$50 gift certificate for dinner!



Teachers, log into CDE Communications Division and search for **The Spark**, a newsletter filled with information and inspiration for Colorado Teachers.

### District Administration

Lori Haukeness, Superintendent  
Dan Porter, Assistant Superintendent  
Carla Hoehn, Director of Finance  
Jeanette Allen, Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
Carol Mehesy, Director of School Improvement & Grants

## BRIEFLY...

### Boettcher Teacher Residency

The Boettcher Teacher Residency prepares people to have exceptional teaching careers through a hands-on licensure program.

We believe the classroom is the best place for teachers to develop the skills they need, so we place them in teaching positions alongside master teachers right from the start. Every day, our resident teachers pour themselves into teaching students, all the while fulfilling their own coursework requirements for licensure.

We help them every step of the way with outstanding mentors, peer groups, and expertise because we know that when teachers are well-trained and energetically supported, their commitment to the careers soar and students thrive as a result. For more information visit [www.boettcherteachers.org](http://www.boettcherteachers.org)

### AVID

CMS and MCHS have implemented AVID into their schools. AVID has five core strategies that help students be career and college ready. These strategies are writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading (WICOR). During this first year of implementation, organization and focused note taking were selected as the priority strategies. In addition, there are two AVID electives at CMS and MCHS to deepen skills for students who are at-risk but show the potential to be college ready. Teachers are reporting that students are seeing the benefit for keeping an organized binder and having notes for studying. Statement from a student: *Oh I hate doing that...but it works.*

**National School Counselor's Week** – we want to extend a huge **THANK YOU** to all our school counselors and social workers and recognize you for all your work with our students and families. School counselors/social workers play a critical role in supporting our students' academic and social-emotional success. Thank you again for all you do!

Cathy Allen Lewis — Kemper  
Sally Ann Brown — CMS  
Robyne Cote — CMS  
Carrie Schneider-LeMay – CMS  
Crystal Ruiz — Manaugh  
Jill Duncan — Mesa  
Amanda Higgins — MCHS  
Carmen Maness — MCHS  
Tammi Slagle — MCHS  
Diane Dettloss — SJBOCES  
Christian Sanders — SJBOCES  
Della Pope — SJBOCES

