



## ***Breaking News! The State Board of Education voted on Wednesday, April 13 to approve our Pathways Accreditation Plan***

### **What is the Montezuma-Cortez District “Pathway” Plan?**

The state law states that no district or school shall be allowed to go more than five consecutive years with a rating of Priority Improvement or Turnaround. The law further states that if a district or school exceeds five consecutive years “on the clock” (with a rating of Priority Improvement or Turnaround), then the school or district shall be required to pursue school or district improvement using one of the five state-approved “Pathways”.

Our District entered Year 6 on the “Accountability Clock” this year and we were therefore required to develop and submit a “Pathways Plan” to the Colorado Department of Education and State Board for review and approval. The School Board decided to submit a plan for an Outside Management Organization Pathway to continue to deepen and expand our work with the University of Virginia (UVA). The Board and Superintendent Haueness chose this pathway because we believe it most closely aligns with the work we are doing that has demonstrated improvements in Kemper and Manaugh. Kemper improved from Turnaround Year 5 to Performance this year.

The work with UVA has supported the District greatly in several ways that have helped us focus our work on the highest leverage areas for driving school improvement – our “Big Rocks”. Our Big Rocks are research-based best practices for turnaround and high performing schools – Data Driven Instruction, Positive Culture of High Expectations and Performance, and Teacher leadership. We have made progress in putting these systems in place but need to deepen our implementation and expand it more broadly to truly accelerate student growth and achievement.

Our district “Pathways” plan has several key components: Board training and strategic planning, Community and parent outreach, Improving recruitment and retention of teachers, and providing differentiated support for schools. The district will enroll the Cortez Middle School and the Montezuma Cortez High School in the two-year UVA turnaround cohort starting in 2017-2018

The Pathways plan also includes enhanced accountability. The University of Virginia and CDE team will be conducting site visits here annually and evaluating our progress on our Pathways Plan goals as well as on the UVA Turnaround Rubric.

### **What are our Pathways Plan Accountability Goals?**

The District proposed the following goals in order to move the district and all schools off of the “clock” within two years while also ensuring we are ensuring students are growing and achieving.

- Maintain Montezuma Cortez High School’s (MCHS) graduation rate at 85% or above (meets expectations) and improve Southwest Open School (SWOS - alternative education campus) best-of completion rate from 34% to 45% (from does not meet to approaching expectations on AEC SPF);
- Reduce MCHS Drop-out rate from 5.3% to 3% and reduce SWOS (alternative education campus) Drop-out rate from 17.2% to 10%;
- Demonstrate consistent growth in math and ELA with a minimum PARCC MGP of 50 at the elementary and middle school levels;
- Demonstrate improvements in achievement in math and ELA by increasing the percentage of students scoring at “meets” or “exceeds” on PARCC by 5%/year at the elementary and middle school levels (note: for MCHS we proposed goals associated to graduation)
- Ensure students are meeting early literacy benchmarks by increasing the percentage of students scoring at/above benchmark on DIBELS by 10%/year; and
- Close growth and achievement gaps with students qualifying for Free and Reduced lunch as well as Native American and Hispanic students by attaining a minimum MGP of 50 for each subgroup of students by 2018.

**2** teach is  
**2** touch lives  
**4** ever

**TEACH**  
encourage  
instruct  
MENTOR  
**PRAISE**  
influence  
**GUIDE**  
INSPIRE

## TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Next week, officially recognizes the impact that teachers have daily on the lives of our students. How do we effectively measure the impact of teachers in student's lives? At times, the answer is immediate every day. Most often, the acknowledgement happens years after the student has continued on their educational path. Teaching is the medical field of learning. Teachers are the practitioners designing the future one student at a time. Thank you to every teacher whose dedication is evident every day.

**A Special Treat**—Next week, May 1-5, during Teacher Appreciation Week...**WEAR JEANS!** You will find snacks in all of the teacher lounges.

**Ms. Susan Ciccia, MSN, RN, NCSN-CO** is receiving recognition this year by the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) for Excellence in School Nursing. This award comes on the heels of Sue being named the School Nurse Administrator of the Year for the Colorado Association of School Nurses. Each School Nurse Administrator of the Year is a registered professional nurse, has demonstrated excellence in school nursing practice, and has made a significant impact on student, staff and the community. Sue will be publicly recognized at the NASN Annual Conference in June at the San Diego Marriott Marquis Marina Hotel in San Diego, California. Our sincere congratulations goes to Sue Ciccia.

### 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  
Mark Knox, Director of Technology  
Sandi VanHouten, Director of Food Services  
Lena Galloway, Director of Transportation  
Ray Lopez, Director of Maintenance

## BRIEFLY...

### District Health Fair Drawing Winners

Adrianna Brungardt, \$250 Gift Certificate, Mtn. West Ins.  
Tamara Samora, \$250 Gift Certificate, Mtn. West Ins.  
Julie Wallace \$50 Gift Card, Bealls  
Sarah Merlino, \$30 Gift Card, Cliffrose  
Cathy Stone, \$30 Gift Card, Cliffrose  
Joe Kelly, Venita Kyle, Carla Hoehn, Coldstone Gift Card  
Mark Knox, 20 Punch Ticket, Cortez Rec Center  
Beth Domenichini, 20 Punch Ticket, Cortez Rec Center  
Deb Laymon, Electric Toothbrush, Delta Dental  
Karen Weber, \$50 Gift Card, EBMS  
Cindee Gapp, \$15 Starbucks Card, EBMS  
Leah Greenlee, \$65 Gift Card, Flat Belly Organics  
Sandi Farlow, 6 Class Pass, Heart/Core Yoga  
Paulette Porter, 6 Class Pass, Heart/Core Yoga  
Robert Laymon, \$60 Gift Card, Hibbett Sports  
Amanda Higgins, \$60 Gift Card, Hibbett Sports  
Carrie Sneider-Lemay, Ear Plugs, Montezuma Hearing  
Shirley Ramsey, \$100 Gift Card, Mountain Chiropractic  
Canto McPhearson, \$30 Gift Card, Pepperheads  
Linda Diffendaffer, \$30 Gift Card, Pepperheads  
Dan Smith, \$30 Gift Card, Pepperheads  
Teresa Reynolds, \$30 Gift Card, Sonic  
Evelyn Phelps, \$30 Gift Card, Sonic  
Tina Calliham, \$30 Gift Card, Sonic  
Layne Statezny, Trena Quick, Alex Ramirez, \$30 Gift Card from Stonefish  
Michelle LaPaz, \$60 Gift Card, The Abundant Life  
Susan Fryhover, Clavin Klein Sunglasses, VSP

**Unity in Community**— The district will be conducting a series of district and community focus groups to elicit feedback to better understand how the district is perceived. We want to gain a better understanding of what the community really needs from the district, increase community awareness of the district of who we are and what we do. The Board of Education prioritized a series of questions to elicit feedback from the district and community. This feedback will be used to create a strategic plan on how the district can better engage our community. The first district focus groups are scheduled on May 16 - 17. Specific information on the focus groups will be forthcoming.

**Testing Participation Rate**—Students taking the series of state assessments will be finished this week. Last year, the district experienced a high level of student non-participation in taking the state assessment. Due to the dedication of teachers, administrators, parents and students, the district will have well above 90% participation rate. This is but one representation of the ongoing dedication and support from district staff and parents in educating our students.