



R5 High School Phoenix Gazette

Hello R5 Community,

We want to celebrate you and the amazing opportunities we have to work with your children this holiday season. The second quarter will be over in a few short weeks and learners are making progress in their project work. Our staff is continuously working with all learners to support the development of essential skills to succeed beyond R5 High School. Many of those skills are built within the projects they complete such as creativity, critical thinking, career-readiness, civic responsibility, perseverance, communication, planning, and reflection. At first, learners often think a project is a one-and-done item but in actuality, real-world projects often require many revisions and adjustments to refine and create a complete final product.

Our staff continues to exude patience and support each day with every learner to build these skills and work through the challenges that arise. Teachers like Ms. Jay, who is our Rockstar Staff Member for the month of November, work tirelessly each day to provide the very best as a genuine model of these skills and attributes. As a result, we have seen tremendous growth with learners in these areas during this first semester which gives us reasons to celebrate. We continue to make refinements to the projects offered, along with the activities in them, to build new skills and we are thankful that learners have been resilient in working through the refinements with us.

As we celebrate this growth and work together, we will be having a holiday dinner on Thursday, December 21st. We would like to invite families to join us for this event as we connect and celebrate the progress we have made so far in the 2023-24 school year. We are needing families to RSVP with us to ensure we have enough to serve everyone. Please be on the lookout for a phone call from your child's advisor for the RSVP. If you do not receive a phone call within the first week of December, please reach out to our main office to RSVP for this event. We hope everyone can join us and all are welcome!

In conclusion, this is our final school newsletter before we head into the New Year. From all of us here at R5 High School, we wish you and your families the best and most joyous holiday season and a very Happy New Year. We look forward to our continued work together in 2024.



WHAT IS THE DISTRICT 51 FOUNDATION?

The D51 Foundation (D51F) raises money to support our local schools, prioritizing funding for professional learning, technology and innovation, and staff and student wellness. Our mission is to raise funds for academic growth and achievement while promoting outreach to benefit kids and our community.

WWW.D51FOUNDATION.ORG



Frenchtown Rural Fire District

Resident Firefighter Program

Resident firefighters live and work alongside professionally trained Career and Volunteer Firefighters while earning nationally recognized certifications and an Associate Degree in Fire and Emergency Services.



YOUR CAREER STARTS HERE!

100% Tuition Reimbursement Available!

Application Deadline 5/31/24

Contact Us Today!

recruiting@frenchtownfire.org 406-626-5791



FRENCHTOWN
RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
RESIDENT PROGRAM



FRENCHTOWNFIRE

HELENA COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

SENIOR PICTURES

NOW ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS FOR THE YEARBOOK

Seniors may submit photos via email to
Mrs. Casey at sutton.casey@d51schools.org or
Ms. Jay at candace.jay@d51schools.org

ALL PHOTOS ARE DUE BY JANUARY 31ST, 2024

Class of **2024**
Heights & Weights

Are you graduating in the spring?
Do you THINK you're graduating in the spring?
We need to know your height & weight ~
please click on the QR code and tell us!



Disclaimer: This **DOES NOT** take care of your
cap and gown order; this simply guarantees that
when you do order, your size will be in stock.



S T A F F H I G H L I G H T

Ms. Katherine O'Leary *Attendance Secretary*

I am Miss Katherine and this is my 7th year at R5 High School and my 19th year within District 51. I can typically be found hanging out with friends and family, at a heavy metal concert or in Disneyland. My motto is to always be kind and treat others like you want to be treated.

If you need a hug, come find me!

WINTER BREAK
December 22nd - January 5th

TEACHER WORKDAY
January 8th

INSERVICE DAY
January 9th

The GRAND JUNCTION HIGH SCHOOL Mock Trial Team WANTS YOU!

If you're interested in participating on GJHS's mock trial team, they would love to have you.

Their goal is to have multiple teams for the season and with more people involved, the more fun it will be!

Practices are Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays
from 3:15 pm - 5:00 pm

The cost to be involved is \$20.00

Case can be found here: <https://www.coloradohighschoolmocktrial.com/>



S T A F F H I G H L I G H T

Ms. Kassie Heit *Young Parent Program Director*



I am the Director of the Young Parent Program Child Care Center at R-5 High School. This is my second year as the director. I have been with R-5 High School for almost 5 years. I have been in the Early Childhood field since Oct 2016.

My family and I have lived in the Grand Junction area for 10 years. We came from Houston, TX. I have been married to my wonderful husband for 11 years. I have 2 children, my daughter just graduated from Cosmetology school and my son is in high school. I have a one year old grandson and he is my everything when I am not at work.

I volunteer with my church children's groups on Sundays working in the church nursery during morning service and Impact Girls during evening services and Wednesdays I am helping the infant/toddlers children's ministries.

In my free time, I love hanging out with my family, binge watching all different shows and movies, and I enjoy photography and traveling when I can.



PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE QUARTERLY MEETINGS

CONNECT * DISCUSS * REFLECT
11:30AM - 12:30PM

SEPTEMBER 7TH ~ NOVEMBER 2ND ~ FEBRUARY 8TH ~ APRIL 4TH

PLEASE EMAIL LINDSEY CHITWOOD AT LINDSEY.CHITWOOD@DS1SCHOOLS.ORG, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING



Families are Invited!

Please join us

Thursday, December 21st at 11:30 am

in the Harry Butler Board Room

to kick off the winter break

with a homemade holiday meal provided by the

First United Methodist Church

If you're interested in attending, please have your learner RSVP to their advisor by Friday, December 8th or, if you would like to surprise your learner, please call 970-254-6880 or email the Building Secretary, Lindsey Chitwood @ lindsey.chitwood@d51schools.org

ALL SCHOOL FIELD TRIP

Dress warm!
We are going ice skating!

Thursday, December 21st

9:30 am – 11:30 am



River City
SPORTPLEX

KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR
GRADUATION INFORMATION
AFTER WINTER BREAK!

STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Ms. Lindsey Chitwood *Building Secretary*



My name is Lindsey, I'm R5's Principal's Secretary which means that I take care of whatever Mr. Steinmetz asks me to! Although most of my work is done behind the scenes, you will see what I do all over the school. From purchasing the snacks for the vending machine to finalizing the paperwork for all of the field trips to the music for the bells and everything in between, I'll take care of it!

I was born at St. Mary's Hospital some years ago and have lived in Grand Junction my whole life (with the exception of living in Denver for a couple of years when I was in elementary school) and I love it here. I have two kiddos and a 12-year-old American Staffordshire terrier puppy dog that might as well be one of my kiddos too.

I love music and, in fact, my 2023 Spotify Wrapped let me know that I'd listened to over 70,000 minutes (not as much as Miss Dee - she listened to over 130,000 minutes!) of music last year, which I think is pretty awesome! My son and I recently took to paddle boarding and I have to say that we both find it quite enjoyable. I love being a Colorado native and I most definitely love being a part of R5 High School. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else!



If you need help outside of regular school hours and this is a crisis situation, please use one of the following resources:

- Call 9-1-1 Emergency Line
- Safe2Tell - call 1-877-542-SAFE to submit an anonymous report to law enforcement and school administration
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline @ 988lifeline.org or call 1-800-273-TALK
- Colorado Crisis: 1-844-493-8255 or Text: 38255



Post Secondary Points Of Interest

- FAFSA opens this December and it's supposed to be much more user-friendly. A new IRS data retrieval tool will easily connect your FAFSA to your 2021 Federal Tax Return.
- The CMU Promise scholarship guarantees tuition coverage for anyone in Mesa County whose family makes less than \$65,000 annually. This applies to anyone seeking a Certificate, Associate, or bachelor's degree through CMU or CMU Tech.
- Get started before graduation by taking a Tech Scholars program or just one or two classes at CMU for free while in high school!
- Community and Junior colleges are a great place to start!
 - Less expensive
 - Open enrollment (anyone with a diploma or GED is accepted)
 - More flexible schedule
 - Smaller classes

Let us help! Your school counselors (Liza Hines & Sierra Holtz) and our Career and College advisor (Gabby Salvia) are here to assist you in planning and applying for college and financial aid.

If you need assistance with anything at R5,
please visit the R5 website or
call the main office at 970-254-6880
during the hours of 8:00 am - 3:00 pm M-F

Save the Dates!

- January 8th – Teacher Work Day (no school)
- January 9th – In-Service Day (no school)
- January 10th – Beginning of Third Quarter
- January 15th – Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no school)
- February 19th – Presidents Day (no school)
- February 22nd – Student Showcases @ Eureka!
- March 13th – Last Day of Third Quarter
- March 14th – In-Service Day (no school)
- March 15th – Teacher Work Day (no school)
- March 18th – March 24th – SPRING BREAK
- March 25th – Beginning of Fourth Quarter

OUR STAFF IS COMMITTED EACH AND EVERY DAY TO THEIR WORK, OUR MISSION.

R5 USES RESTORATIVE PRACTICES AND PROJECT-BASED LEARNING TO SUPPORT LEARNERS IN BECOMING THRIVING CITIZENS. R5 IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING ALL LEARNERS WILL DEVELOP CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS, CULTURAL AND SELF-AWARENESS, AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP THROUGH AN INDIVIDUALIZED WHOLE-PERSON APPROACH, COMMANDING HIGH EXPECTATIONS AND PROVIDING MASTERY LEARNING WITH A COMPASSIONATE, RESPONSIVE, AND COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENT. . . TO GUARANTEE THAT 100% OF OUR GRADUATES WILL BE POST-SECONDARY READY.