



R5 High School Phoenix Gazette

Hello R5 Community,

As we roll into February we are excited to let you know that our upcoming Student Showcases will be held at the Eureka McConnell Science Museum this month. Student Showcases at R5 take the place of Parent-Teacher Conferences allowing R5 learners to showcase the amazing work they are doing to their families. In partnership with Eureka, on February 22, 2024, we invite you to join us at the Museum anytime between 3:15-6:15 pm to explore exhibits, connect with teachers, and hear about the great things your kids are doing at R5 High School. We look forward to seeing you there!

The first month of 2024 has been very successful at R5 High School. We are excited to announce that early attendance data shows our attendance is up 10% as we start the second quarter. This is great news for us to highlight as there are direct links between the success of graduating high school and attendance. We can't improve attendance rates without your collaboration so we want to thank you for your continued support in making sure your learners are coming to school on-time on a daily basis. Our teachers are working hard each day to provide them with the very best educational experiences that are engaging and exciting.

February brings with it early graduation planning for R5 High School. On Wednesday, February 7th at 9:45am, all R5 seniors will be invited to attend our Senior Class Meeting. In this meeting we share with our seniors items needed for graduation and upcoming deadlines. Seniors will get information on how to purchase their caps and gowns for graduation along with other items such as invitations and class rings. The R5 High School graduation ceremony will be on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 9am. Graduates wanting to walk at graduation are required to attend the R5 High School graduation rehearsal on Monday, May 13, 2024 at 9am. If you have additional questions about graduation for 2024, please contact our main office.

One final thing to share with you as we kick off February is our continued work to support learners in developing personal and character skills for life beyond high school. This month we are working with all learners to complete a unique project envisioning their 25 year old self. This project will be combined with an activity to learn about 5 things that support goal achievement and growth in our lives. These 5 things consist of maintaining boundaries, predictability, consistency, kindness, and transparency in everything we do. Learners will learn about these 5 things and then be challenged to create a project that showcases what they want to be by the time they turn 25. This great activity supports learners with learning how to set goals for themselves and reflect on how they can become who they want to be. We encourage you to ask them about their project and goals.

From our R5 family to yours, we wish you a wonderful February and hope your family and loved ones stay safe and healthy. Thank you again for your continued support and partnership in helping learners succeed throughout the R5 journey.

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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



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 15TH, 2024



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.



STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Mr. Nick Steinmetz *Principal*

Now in my second year as the lead learner at R5 High School, I love being with my family and spending time engaging in outdoor activities. I grew up in Colorado and enjoy hiking, camping, biking, skiing, and everything else Colorado offers. I've also developed a love of reading which took me many years to grow. I enjoy reading books about how to improve myself as a person and learning from the experiences of other people.

I am an autodidact who loves to learn and grow which has led me to the amazing work I am blessed to be able to do at R5. I have been in education for two decades now and I continue growing each day. I believe everyone can become whomever they want to be and I deeply enjoy encouraging our learners each day to pursue their dreams and become their best selves. I believe there's nothing better in life than helping others.



IMPORTANT DATES

February 7th - Senior Class Meeting

February 19th - No School - President's Day

February 22nd - Student Showcases @ Eureka Science Museum

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/>



STAFF HIGHLIGHT
Amy Hrubec *Special Education*



This school year is my 5th year at R-5 High School and my 13th year of teaching!

I was born and raised in the Seattle area, but have lived in the Grand Valley since 2007.

My background is in teaching Math, English, and Special Education. I truly love my job and working with the learners and staff at R-5! When I'm not working, you can find me enjoying the outdoors hiking, paddleboarding, camping, and skiing with my family. I absolutely love being in the fresh air, watching college basketball, and cheering our three kids on in all their favorite activities.



The District 51 Communications Office recently sent our Annual Communications Survey to all families, staff, and the community.

The survey is through Google Forms, but if you would prefer a paper copy, please contact R5 at 970-254-6880 and we would be happy to get you one.

The data collected from this survey will help our communications office and your schools communicate, connect with, and serve our learners and families better.

All surveys are due back by February 1, 2024.



**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

GRADUATION

R5 High School

2024 GRADUATION INFORMATION

Here are some critical dates for graduation – so mark your calendars!

- **FEBRUARY 23RD DEADLINE** – Parents and/or students are responsible for purchasing learner caps and gowns. You can order your basic package (approximately \$50.00) from Jostens at www.jostens.com or you can call 970-242-5030.
 - Jostens needs your height and weight ahead of your order so they can ensure they have your correct size on hand. Watch for the Height and Weight QR code (on the announcements, in the Phoenix Gazette, and at the front office) and please enter your information as soon as you can. Entering your height and weight in the QR code **DOES NOT ORDER YOUR CAP AND GOWN**.
 - **FEBRUARY 7TH @ 9:45 AM** – SENIOR CLASS MEETING – Meet in the Harry Butler Boardroom (at R5) at 9:45 a.m. We will provide you with important details about graduation; nominating/voting on a class song, flower, and motto. A representative from Josten's will be available for questions regarding caps, gowns, rings, and special orders. **Your parents and/or guardians are welcome to attend this meeting.**
 - **MAY 3RD – DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING YOUR GRADUATION SPEECH.** If you would like to make a speech at graduation, please prepare a 3–5 minute speech, type it out, and email your submission to Mrs. Nesbit @ denae.nesbit@ds1schools.org or Ms. Casey @ sutton.casey@ds1schools.org by this date.
 - **MAY 3RD – LAST DAY TO TAKE WORKKEYS TEST. THIS IS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION.**
 - **MAY 8TH** – All assignments that are due for credit, must be turned in to your teachers by 3:00 p.m.
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- **WEEK BEFORE GRADUATION** – Pick up your cap and gown from the front office at R5. **TAKE IT OUT OF THE PACKAGE AND HANG IT UP!** To remove creases: put it in the dryer (on a low setting) for a short time with a wet washcloth.
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- **MONDAY, MAY 13TH, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m. @ Stocker Stadium – GRADUATION REHEARSAL**
 - **BRING YOUR CAP AND GOWN (CLASS PHOTO WILL BE TAKEN).**
 - Young men – please dress in long pants and nice shoes.
 - Young women – please dress in long pants, dresses or skirts, and nice shoes.
 - **PRACTICE IS MANDATORY IF YOU WANT TO WALK IN THE CEREMONY**
 - Once rehearsal is finished, graduate speakers will meet at the stage to go over and practice their speeches.
 - **TUESDAY, MAY 14TH, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m. – GRADUATION DAY!**
 - **BRING YOUR CAP AND GOWN!**
 - Young men – please dress in long pants and nice shoes.
 - Young women – please dress in long pants, dresses or skirts, and nice shoes.
 - Please arrive at Stocker Stadium by 8:30 a.m. for the Graduation Line-Up.

INFORMACIÓN

Escuela Preparatoria R5
2024 INFORMACIÓN DE GRADUACIÓN

¡He aquí algunas fechas importantes para la graduación, así que apúntelas en su calendario!

- **23 DE FEBRERO ÚLTIMO DÍA PARA COMPRAR** - Los padres o estudiantes son responsables de comprar los gorros y capas de graduación del estudiante. Usted puede ordenar su paquete básico (aproximadamente \$50.00) de Jostens en www.jostens.com o puede llamar al 970-242-5030.
 - Jostens necesita su estatura y peso antes de su pedido para asegurarse de que tienen su talla correcta. Busque el código QR de estatura y peso (en los anuncios, en la *Phoenix Gazette* y en la oficina) y por favor ingrese su información tan pronto como pueda. Al ingresar su estatura y peso en el código QR NO ORDENA SU GORRO Y CAPA DE GRADUACIÓN.
 - **7 DE FEBRERO** – REUNIÓN DE ESTUDIANTES DEL GRADO 12 (Senior) **a las 9:45 a.m.** en *Harry Butler Boardroom* (dentro de R5). Proporcionaremos detalles importantes sobre la graduación: nominación/votación para elegir una canción, una flor, un lema, etc., para la clase que se gradúa. Un representante de Jostens estará disponible para responder a preguntas relacionadas con gorros, capas, anillos y pedidos especiales. **Sus padres o tutores pueden asistir a esta reunión.**
 - **3 DE MAYO** - **Último día para entregar sus discursos de graduación.** Si desea dar un discurso durante la ceremonia de graduación, por favor, prepare uno que dure entre 3 y 5 minutos, escríbalo en la computadora y envíelo por correo electrónico a la Sra. Nesbit a denae.nesbit@d51schools.org o Srta. Casey a sutton.casey@d51schools.org antes de esta fecha.
 - **3 DE MAYO** - **ÚLTIMO DÍA PARA TOMAR EL EXAMEN WORKKEYS. ES OBLIGATORIO PARA GRADUARSE.**
 - **8 DE MAYO** - Todas las tareas que deben recibir crédito necesitan ser entregadas a los maestros antes de las 3:00 p.m.
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- **UNA SEMANA ANTES DE LA GRADUACIÓN** - Recoja su capa y gorro de graduación en la oficina de la escuela R5. ¡EN CASA, SÁQUELOS DEL PAQUETE Y CUÉLGUELOS! Para quitar las arrugas: póngalos en la secadora (a temperatura baja) junto con un paño/trapo húmedo durante pocos minutos.
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- **LUNES, 13 DE MAYO DEL 2024** – PRÁCTICA DE CEREMONIA DE GRADUACIÓN en *Stocker Stadium* a las 9:00 a.m.
 - TRAIGA SU CAPA Y GORRO DE GRADUACIÓN. (SE TOMARÁ UNA FOTO DE LA CLASE).
 - Hombres - deben traer pantalón y unos zapatos bonitos.
 - Mujeres - deben traer pantalón, vestido o falda y unos zapatos bonitos.
 - LA PRÁCTICA ES OBLIGATORIA SI DESEA PARTICIPAR EN LA CEREMONIA
 - Una vez finalizado el ensayo, los oradores que se gradúan, se reunirán en el escenario para repasar y practicar sus discursos.
 - **MARTES 14 DE MAYO DEL 2024** - 9:00 a.m. – ¡DÍA DE LA GRADUACIÓN!
 - ¡TRAIGA SU CAPA Y GORRA DE GRADUACIÓN!
 - Hombres - deben traer pantalón y unos zapatos bonitos.
 - Mujeres - deben traer pantalón, vestido o falda y unos zapatos bonitos.
 - Por favor llegue a *Stocker Stadium* a las 8:30 a.m. para formar una fila para la ceremonia de graduación.



R-5 HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT SHOWCASE



Thursday, February 22nd
3:00pm - 6:00pm



- Pizza provided
- 100+ exhibits to explore
- Teacher check-in opportunities



1400 N 7th St
Grand Junction, CO
81501

This event is free and open to all R-5 students and their families.

STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Forrest Diaz

Math



Hi I'm Forrest. I teach math here at R5.

I am a second-generation American who runs a small ranch.

The river is my second home. If I'm not working that is where you can probably find me.



"We have an unknown distance yet to run, an unknown river to explore."
- John Wesley Powell



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



STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Kauai Fitt *Math*



Hi! My name is Kauai Alpha Fitt and I was lucky enough to grow up in Grand Junction, taking full advantage of everything the Grand Valley had to offer!

I graduated from the Engineering College at CU Boulder and accepted a job that moved me straight up to Alaska. I spent over a decade living in Alaska and loved every minute of it, but once our family began to grow, we decided to move back down to the "Lower 48".

This is my first year teaching, and I am thrilled to be sharing my passion for Math with our R5 Students. I believe feeling comfortable with Math is crucial in life, and I am looking forward to helping our students along their individual High School Math adventures.

Grand Junction is, and always has been, my home. There is no place in the world that I would rather play outdoors and raise our boys! When I am not working, you can find me trying out a new recipe, landscaping our never-ending yard, practicing yoga, falling trees at the cabin, or attending our boys' basketball games.

The light in me sees the light in you. Namaste.

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!!

- 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
- April 12th - Teacher Compensation Day (no school)

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.