

Dear WCSD Family,

The second week of the school year has been a bittersweet one as we happily welcomed our new kindergarten classes across the District and officially broke ground on John C. Bohach Elementary School in Spanish Springs.

We also unfortunately faced some tragedy as two of our students from Traner Middle School were seriously injured and another student from the Sun Valley area passed away. Additionally, a few of our schools dealt with rampant social media rumors regarding potential safety concerns. I understand how unsettling all of these events were to our school communities and I thank our principals, counselors, teachers, school support staff, school police officers, and students for handling these issues with professionalism, grace, and respect.

As of Friday, Aug. 23, our enrollment count is 63,847, compared with the same time last year at 63,467. This year, additional enrollment counts are scheduled for Aug. 30 and Sept. 3, and I will be sure to share those with you in an upcoming message.

Today I had the opportunity to start the week in Incline Village, visiting our three schools there as they started their school year. It was a wonderful visit and great to see more excitement for the school year!

As a reminder, I will be updating my Pathway to Positive Progress plan every two weeks, starting today. You can click [here](#) to review the details on what we've achieved so far. Some of the highlights include:

- I've calendared association leadership and association meetings to discuss low morale throughout the District and ways we can work together to improve it.
- I've begun monthly birthday cards to all employees with August birthdays to show my appreciation for your dedicated work.
- I've created a place online to receive employee and community feedback and I hope you'll provide your thoughts [here](#).
- Area Superintendents Dr. Parks, Ms. Van Tress, and myself attended the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) meeting last week and will regularly attend the Special Education Taskforce meetings in the future. We continue to focus on listening to special education stakeholders for areas of concerns and discuss possible solutions within special education services.
- The Office of Student Leadership is working closely with the Business and Human Resources offices to minimize as much as possible the need for teacher movement due to over/under student enrollment. Please review a draft of the overage process timeline [here](#).
- And, I'll be conducting five more staff meetings and five community meetings to learn more about your priorities and feedback. I've listed the staff meetings below and you can click on [this link](#) to view the community meeting times. I'd love for you to take a moment to attend one and share your thoughts with me on how you'd like to see the District progress.
  - **Thursday, August 29**, noon to 1 p.m., Administrative Building in the Board Room
  - **Monday, Sept. 9**, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., North Valleys High School Career Center
  - **Tuesday, Sept. 17**, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 .m., Reed High School Library
  - **Wednesday, Sept. 25**, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., Incline High School Theater
  - **Thursday, Sept. 26**, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Reno High School Library

To end today's message on a happy note, I would like to share with you a heartwarming moment in one of our schools. I know, I know... I said that I wouldn't be sharing images in this message, but I couldn't resist this one! In the photo attached to this email, from Principal Tierney Cahill at Maxwell Elementary, three boys push a boy in a wheelchair coming in from recess as they told the principal, "We got him, Ms. Cahill, he's our friend. We're taking care of him."

This has inspired me to share more good news with you about the positive teaching, learning, and kindness happening in our schools each day. If you have something you would like me to share, please send it to [goodnews@washoeschools.net](mailto:goodnews@washoeschools.net) so I can let everyone know about the amazing things happening all over our District.

Take care,

Kristen

