

Dear WCSD Family,

I hope that you are having a great start to your week! I enjoyed seeing some of you at the Nevada Wolf Pack game on Saturday. It is always nice to see our employees cheering on the home team...Go Pack!

Many of you likely noticed that the star rankings from the Nevada School Performance Framework were released by the state today. We had some great improvement in our one- and two-star schools. These are known as our Acceleration Schools and we as a district have directed a lot of energy and focus there. I'm proud to share with you that the number of our one-star schools halved, from 12 to six. Also, 25 of our schools improved their star classifications! While there are some great success stories here, I do fully recognize that the star rating is only one indicator of a school's success. The rating can never tell the full story of what is happening at a school and in the classroom. All of our educators are digging into data and celebrating successes. We are proud that you create your school performance plans to ensure success and improvement for all of our students. It's really encouraging to see so many one- and two-star schools demonstrating growth and I look forward to visiting schools throughout the year to see all of the real life stories behind this data. We will also continue to partner with the Nevada Department of Education and other districts throughout the state to look into possible refinement in some areas of the Nevada School Performance Framework.

On another note, I'd like to thank everyone who has come to ask questions and provide feedback at my casual conversation meetings so far. There are still more opportunities to attend if you'd like to give your input. Additional meetings include:

- Sept. 17, at noon at The Chamber of Commerce in the Basement (community focus)
- Sept. 17, at 5:30 p.m. at Reed High School in the library (staff focus)
- Sept. 18, at 5:30 p.m. at Wooster High School in the Career Center (community focus)
- Sept. 25, at 4 p.m. at Incline High School in the Theater (staff focus)
- Sept. 26, at 4:30 p.m. at Reno High School in the Library (staff focus)
- Oct. 21, at 6 p.m. Virtual Forum, details on how to login will be shared closer to the event (community focus)

Last Friday, 385 staff members received a scam email that looked like it was coming from me. Please read all emails carefully and if you note anything suspicious or out of the ordinary, do not click on attachments or enter any login information. We also advise that you forward the email to spamscam@washoeschools.net. If you enter your login or password information, please change your password immediately or contact the IT department to assist you in changing your password. It's also very important to have a strong password that includes numbers, symbols, and uppercase and lowercase letters. You can also email security@washoeschools.net if you have questions or need assistance in setting up passwords.

Additionally, I want to thank all of you for submitting good news to share with your colleagues. There are so many exciting and happy stories of success in our District and I hope that you keep them coming! You can submit items at goodnews@washoeschools.net. I've included a great example below, and if I didn't get to yours, I will try to include it in the future! We also feature some great news examples on our [Facebook page](#).

- Larson Rivera, a senior at McQueen High School is one of 30 finalists nationally and in the running to win a \$250,000 college scholarship. His school could also get \$100,000 for a STEM lab

and a \$50,000 prize for his math teacher Carrie Hair. Larson submitted a video entitled [“A Brief Introduction to Integral Calculus”](#) and he shines in this creative explanation of integral calculus, which he wrote, produced, and narrated himself. The finalist with the most likes/loves, comments and shares on their video goes on to win the popular vote. You have until Sept. 20 to like, love, comment, and share.

This week I will also have the pleasure of attending the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Desert Skies Middle School at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 18. This is the final ceremony celebrating the opening of our three new schools and I couldn't be prouder to celebrate this with our community.

Take care,

Kristen