

# LEARNING FOR LIFE

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



**Adam Hartman**

Our students returned to school on August 16th, but that doesn't mean the year just magically takes flight on Day One. In fact, our entire workforce returns to work prior to Day One, and we use a customary All-Staff Kick-Off to set the stage for the upcoming school year.

This year I leveraged the Kick-Off to speak openly with our staff about the value of in-person education. During the pandemic, many Americans began asking questions about education. These questions ranged from "What about online?" to "Why not more flexible options?" to "Why should we make the effort to physically attend school?"

My responsibility as a school leader is not only to reflect on such questions but also to provide tangible answers to address them. In all cases, my mind brought me back here; in-person learning has tremendous value precisely because of the human element and the interactions it fosters.

As I shared with staff on Aug. 10, our employees have a daily opportunity to "Be somebody's someone." In short, this means to provide an outstanding learning opportunity or to provide an open ear and a sturdy shoulder when necessary. To make a positive difference in the life of a child is a gift that not everyone has, and we're honored as educators to have these repeated opportunities.

We have eight wonderful schools in the district, and regardless of which school students attend, an important part of their experience is also dependent on all the peer relationships they build. Being in school affords children the opportunities to develop social skills, to learn from their peers, and to properly navigate the challenges of communication and collaboration. Today's employers emphasize the importance of strong social skills in the workplace. The nation's colleges and universities are increasingly emphasizing the importance of teamwork to solve challenging problems. These skills must be carefully fostered over time, and in-person K-12 education does precisely that.

CCSD further commits to the children and families of Cañon City through strong foundational learning, robust course offerings, and state-of-the-art technology opportunities. All the while, the staff brings tenacity, humility, patience, honesty, and a deep desire to see these kids (and our entire community) succeed.

The Cañon City Fremont County RE-1 School District, like any organization, faces many challenges. We look to them as opportunities to grow. We have learned a great deal about resilience and agility during the last two-plus years and are poised to build upon those skills as we push forward into the future.

Thank you for trusting us with the education of your children!

In closing, it is my hope that this monthly Learning For Life segment will further foster a strong dialogue in our wonderful community. Should you wish to contact me directly, please email me at [adam.hartman@canoncityschools.org](mailto:adam.hartman@canoncityschools.org).

## HARRISON K-8 SCHOOL



**Harrison staff members at the Cañon City Schools District Kick-off meeting on Aug. 10 in the Tiger Dome.**

## NEW ENERGY AT HARRISON K-8 SCHOOL

**By Jamie Reed**

Back to school at Harrison K-8 has a different feel this year. This is the first time the school has been fully staffed since the end of the 2020-2021 school year. The staff is energized and ready to take on a new year with a new administration, returning staff members and new staff.

Lacey LeDoux is at the helm as principal this year. Harrison K-8 has a new administrative team who have been developed as leaders within our own district. The administration has a full plate with more than 30 new staff members joining the team.

LeDoux said, "Complementing our returning staff, our new staff has an eclectic mix of backgrounds. We have several alternative licensure staff coming from business backgrounds, retired teachers joining the rewarding work again, new teachers fresh out of teacher education programs, teachers coming back to the district of neighboring districts, and teachers joining our district for the first time from districts throughout the state."

Although there are many new staff, Harrison K-8 already has an amazing cohesiveness and a caring family feel. LeDoux says, "We are excited to venture into a new school year with this amazing staff."

## UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

**Sept. 12 and Sept. 26**

5:30 p.m. start time

Both meetings will be at the administration building,  
101 n. 14th St.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION DIRECTORS

Robin Reeser – President  
Mike Near – Vice President  
Beth Gaffney – Secretary  
Todd Albrecht - Treasurer  
Molly Merry - Assistant  
Sec/Treasurer