



LA JUNTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Rick Lovato, Superintendent



Together We Make a Difference



From the Superintendent's Desk

Greetings Future Tigers, Cubs and Tigers,

The winter season has finally arrived and we are preparing for the conclusion of our first semester. It has been a very exciting time for our community and we have seen some great positive outcomes in all of our buildings. Our primary school has thrived with the addition of art for the students. The building administration and staff have really come together as a cohesive team and have made the entire district proud. The Intermediate has improved its accreditation status with CDE and is continually working to improve test scores. We still have room for improvement and the staff has committed to this with a true team effort. It is not going to happen overnight, but we are determined to continue to improve! There has also been an intense focus to add enrichment and growth opportunities for our higher performing students to keep raising the bar and expectations. The high school has seen all of the fall extra-curricular programs excel. The drama department put on a great show with the Addams Family, our band placed 6th at the state competition, the high school volleyball team finished in the sweet 16 and was eliminated by competing against Eaton, who incidentally went on to win its fourth consecutive state championship. The softball team finished in the elite 8 at the state tournament and cross country competed very well. And yes, our Tiger football team brought home its first state championship since 1958 and truly united our community, alumni, and southeast Colorado. We are proud of all of our students and I would like to send a special thanks to the parents, volunteers, and community for the continuous support for La Junta Schools and its students! You really are the best!

The master planning process has begun and RTA Architects will be helping us develop a long term plan for the facilities in our district. Here is a link to a short online survey to help with the process. It would be very helpful if you could take the time to fill out the survey so we can get as much feedback as possible from as many perspectives as possible. If you are a parent with kids in multiple schools, it is set up to where you can submit more than one survey by building. A committee has been formed to help the architects as they move forward with the development of the plan. The committee will meet next on Tuesday, December 13 at 5:30 p.m.

The link is also available at the district website. The survey will close on Monday, December 12. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3657VLV>

The upcoming school board meeting will take place at the Intermediate School. We have seen our audience at board meetings grow in recent months with the recruitment and retention task force and we are looking to be more accommodating with space at the meetings.

Finally, I would like to take the time to recognize some special people who work in our district. Our paraprofessionals in all three buildings spend a tremendous amount of time working with our kids and helping in a variety of capacities. Thank you for all you do for our kids!

For calendars and reminders for upcoming events, please visit the district website. We are working hard to improve the website and our social media sites to ensure that the information is as up to date and consistent as possible. We have recognized that at times, there is conflicting and confusing information when changes in dates or times for events take place and we want to do better preparing and communicating those changes for you as parents and community members.

The website can be reached at <http://www.lajuntaschools.org>

As we move forward to 2017, I would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday season! **TIGER PRIDE!**