

Hello Bay District Schools families. I'm Mark McQueen, Superintendent of Schools.

Last week, we came together as a community to remember the events of September 11th. I had the privilege of joining Patriot Day activities at Arnold High School, Breakfast Point Academy, and Southport Elementary School, and I was truly inspired by what I saw. Our students, staff, and community paused to honor those who lost their lives and to thank the heroes who continue to serve us today. It was a powerful reminder that teaching our students about sacrifice, service, and love of country isn't just about remembering the past, it's about shaping the kind of citizens they will become in the future.

This week, our focus shifts to another important moment in our nation's history as we celebrate Constitution Week: September 17th through the 23rd. The U.S. Constitution is the foundation of our democracy, and it has guided our country for more than 200 years. It secures the freedoms and rights that we sometimes take for granted, and Constitution Week is a chance for all of us to pause and reflect on just how important those freedoms are.

Many of our classrooms have planned special lessons and activities, and I look forward to seeing our students dive into this history in creative and meaningful ways. These lessons help connect the words written long ago to the lives our students are living today.

For families who would like to continue these conversations at home, the Florida Department of Education has put together some excellent, free resources that are easy to use and engaging for kids of all ages. We've included a link in the description of this video, and I encourage you to check it out as a way to build on what your children are learning in school.

I also want to take a moment to thank the Bay County Chapter of Moms for Liberty for their generosity in providing pocket Constitutions to every eighth grader in Bay District Schools this month. Having that document in their hands is a powerful reminder of the rights and responsibilities we all share as citizens.

As always, I am deeply grateful for our teachers who bring these important lessons of citizenship and patriotism to life in their classrooms, and for our parents and guardians who reinforce those lessons at home. Together, we are raising students who will not only make a difference here in Bay County but will also go on to impact our state, our nation, and our world in positive ways.

Thank you for your continued support and for being part of our Team of Teams. It is truly an honor to serve alongside you. Together, let's put the 'A' back in Bay."