



## Update from the Superintendent

To: Parents/Guardians  
From: Mark McQueen, Superintendent  
Date: January 12, 2024

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I hope this message finds you well, albeit maybe slightly shaken in the aftermath of the severe weather that swept through our area on Tuesday morning. The unprecedented tornadoes and severe weather left a mark on our community, and my heart goes out to those affected by this terrible storm.

At the same time, adversity generates unwavering strength and resilience in our community, which can be inspiring. I want to express my deepest gratitude to the dedicated area meteorologists whose timely and accurate forecasts provided invaluable information, allowing our community to prepare for and respond to the severe weather. Their commitment to keeping us informed was instrumental in minimizing the impact of these natural disasters.

I also want to extend my sincere appreciation to the first responders who worked tirelessly in the face of danger to ensure the safety of our community members. Your bravery and dedication have not gone unnoticed, and we are immensely grateful for your selfless efforts during this challenging time. And, of course, I'd like to appreciate all of the utility crews, linemen, county and city work teams and others who worked quickly to clear the roads, restore utilities and ensure our collective safety.

I am also incredibly proud of the swift and coordinated storm preparation and response from the Bay District Schools Team of Teams. Our administrators, teachers, and support staff worked seamlessly to ensure the safety and well-being of our students and staff. The decision to close schools on Tuesday was made with the utmost consideration for the safety of our school community, and I appreciate the support and understanding of parents and guardians during this challenging time.

As we come together as a community to support one another, please keep those who have been directly impacted by the severe weather in your thoughts and prayers. Times like these remind us of the strength and compassion within our community, and I am confident that together, we will overcome these challenges again.

Since Tuesday, we've been focused on providing support for our staff members who have been affected by the severe weather. We are actively working to assess the needs of our colleagues and provide the necessary resources to help them through this difficult time. Additionally, in the coming days, we will be sharing resources for families who have been impacted, as we understand the importance of coming together as a community to offer assistance and comfort.

We have proven once before that we are #850Strong and will do so again in the aftermath of these tornadoes and severe weather. The strength of our community is evident in moments of adversity, and I am confident that we will emerge from this stronger than ever before.