



PUTTING  
THE 'A'  
BACK IN

BAY

## Update from the Superintendent

To: All BDS Employees  
From: Mark McQueen, Superintendent  
Date: April 11, 2025

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*This is a copy of the Superintendent's weekly message that is sent to parents/guardians. We want to make sure you have the same information as well, so you're in the loop :)*

April is the **Month of the Military Child**, and here in Bay District Schools, we're proud to honor our military-connected students' strength, resilience, and sacrifices. With over 3,000 military-connected children in our district, we are one of only five districts in Florida to receive the prestigious **Purple Star designation**. Notably, **100 percent of our schools are recognized as Purple Star Schools**. This reflects our deep commitment to supporting military families and celebrating their contributions to our community.

### What Is Purple Up Day?

On **April 15th**, we're calling on the entire Bay County community to celebrate **Purple Up Day!** This special day is about wearing purple to support military children and their families. Purple represents all branches of the military and symbolizes the unity and strength of our military community.

Imagine how impactful it would be for our military children and servicemembers to see purple everywhere they go—at school, at work, in businesses, and throughout the community. It's a small gesture with a big message: We appreciate their service and commitment, and we stand with them.

### How Can You Get Involved?

- Wear purple to show your support for military children and families.
- Encourage your coworkers and friends to participate by wearing purple.
- Ask businesses to change their electronic signs to celebrate Purple Up Day.
- Post photos of your participation on social media and tag Bay District Schools.

### Thank You to Our Sponsors

We'd like to thank **Gulf Coast State College** and **Tyndall Federal Credit Union** for their generous sponsorship of Purple Up Day and other Month of the Military Child activities. Their support ensures that we can properly recognize the incredible contributions of military children in our district.

### Why We Celebrate

Military children face unique challenges, from frequent relocations to long separations from their parents. Yet,

they demonstrate extraordinary resilience and courage. Purple Up Day shows them that their sacrifices do not go unnoticed and that they are valued members of our community.

Let's make April 15th a day to remember by painting Bay County purple in honor of our amazing military families. Together, we can show our gratitude and support for their service and dedication.

Thank you for celebrating Purple Up Day with us and for helping us put the "A" back in Bay! 