



PUTTING  
THE 'A'  
BACK IN



## Update from the Superintendent

To: All BDS Employees  
From: Mark McQueen, Superintendent  
Date: May 23, 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 :)*

### **Honoring Service: Memorial Day and Our Graduates' Commitment to Country**

As Memorial Day approaches, I find myself reflecting not only on those we've lost in service to our country, but also on the values that define a life of service: sacrifice, courage, and unwavering commitment to others.

After 36 years in uniform, I know firsthand the weight and meaning of this holiday. While serving as Deputy Commanding General, United States Army Europe, I was humbled and honored to present the Memorial Day address at the U.S. Cemetery at Omaha Beach in Normandy, France just days before the 75th anniversary of D-Day. As I surveyed the 9,388 gravestones that stood in perfect formation, where so many of our great warriors were laid to rest, I was moved by the emotion of the incredible sacrifice of those men and women who gave their last full measure of devotion for our nation, and indeed each of us, to remain free. Their sacrifice exemplifies the legions of those who have laid down their lives for us to endure as a nation.

Memorial Day is not simply a long weekend or the unofficial start to summer, it's a time to pause, remember, and honor the brave men and women who gave their lives for our freedoms. It's also a moment to recognize the families who stood beside them, and who continue to carry their memory.

Moreover, in Bay District Schools, we're proud to be home to many veterans, including teachers, support staff, and administrators who have worn the uniform and now serve their communities in our classrooms and schools. We are also proud of our students, especially those seniors who have made the selfless decision to serve in the military after graduation. Their choice to put others first and defend our nation reflects incredible character and strength.

This year, we are honored to celebrate the 76 graduates from our high schools who have committed to military service:

**A. Crawford Mosley High School** proudly celebrates 13 graduates committed to serving our nation, including one bound for the U.S. Naval Academy and another headed to the U.S. Air Force Academy. Their dedication reflects the spirit of leadership and service that Mosley strives to inspire in every student.

At **Bay High School**, 18 graduates have chosen the path of military service, demonstrating a commitment to country and community.

**Deane Bozeman School** is honored to recognize five graduates who have committed to serving in the military. Their decision to protect and serve speaks to their character and dedication to something greater than themselves.

**J.R. Arnold High School** leads the way with 23 graduates choosing to serve in the armed forces. This impressive number is a testament to the school's commitment to fostering leadership and civic responsibility.

**Rosenwald High School** is proud to celebrate its two graduates who have chosen to serve in the military, reflecting the strength, resolve, and commitment of their school community.

**Rutherford High School** celebrates 15 graduates who have committed to serving in the military. Their choice to serve reflects the school's emphasis on community, responsibility, and patriotism.

To each of these young men and women: *thank you*. You make us proud, and we stand behind you as you take this next courageous step in service to our nation.

And to our elementary and middle school families: I want you to know that our schools honor service at every level. In April, we celebrated the Month of the Military Child, recognizing the resilience and strength of children from military families. Our commitment to supporting military-connected families is year-round and district wide.

As we head into the long weekend, I encourage you to take a quiet moment with your family to reflect on the meaning of this holiday. Whether you're attending a ceremony, placing a flag, or simply sharing a story, remembering our fallen helps us stay grounded in what truly matters.

Thank you for being part of our Bay District Schools family, and thank you to all who have served, are serving, or support someone in uniform.

Together, let's keep working to put the "A" back in Bay.