

As we approach the somber five-year anniversary of Hurricane Michael, my thoughts and prayers are with all of those still struggling to rebuild and recover. Every single day, I am humbled to see #850STRONG in action throughout our community and I have faith that we will rebuild stronger and better than ever before. With that in mind, I am incredibly proud to share with you the remarkable achievements that Bay District Schools (BDS) has accomplished over the past five years since Hurricane Michael wreaked havoc on our community in October of 2018. This journey of recovery and growth has been nothing short of extraordinary, and it is a testament to the unwavering dedication of our BDS Team of Teams.

Here are some key highlights of our achievements since that fateful day in 2018:

Rebuilding and Renovating: Over the past five years, we have successfully rebuilt and renovated numerous school buildings and facilities that were severely damaged by Hurricane Michael. Thanks to the hard work and resilience of our team, our schools are now more resilient and better equipped to serve our students.

Technology integration: BDS has made significant investments in technology, ensuring that our students have access to cutting-edge educational resources. This has empowered both students and teachers to excel in the digital age.

Resilience of our students: Our students have shown incredible resilience in the face of adversity. They have not only persevered but have also excelled academically, athletically, and artistically. Their determination serves as an inspiration to us all.

Community support: We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our community for the unwavering support you have provided during our recovery. Your donations, volunteer efforts, and advocacy have been instrumental in our progress.

Our BDS Team of Teams deserves special recognition. Their tireless dedication, passion for education, and collaborative spirit have been the driving force behind our accomplishments. Each member has played a vital role in our success, and I commend them for their amazing work and diligence.

While we take pride in our achievements, it is essential to acknowledge that there is still hard work ahead. To continue our journey toward excellence, we're working on a comprehensive strategic plan that will direct our continued recovery and advancement goals in the following key areas:

Improving classroom behavior: We are committed to creating a safe and positive learning environment for all students, with a particular emphasis on improving classroom behavior and fostering a culture of respect and responsibility.

Increasing student attendance: Regular school attendance is critical for student success. We will work diligently to increase student attendance rates and ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn and thrive.

Revising Employee Compensation Package: Our dedicated educators and staff are the backbone of our school system. We are actively working on revising our employee compensation package to attract and retain top talent.

Moving BDS to a Top 10 Position: We have set an ambitious goal of moving Bay District Schools from its current ranking to a top 10 position in the state. This means providing our students with a world-class education that prepares them for future success.

As we celebrate our accomplishments and look toward the future, I want to express my deepest gratitude to our parents, guardians, community members, and the entire BDS Team of Teams. Together, we have overcome adversity, and together, we will continue to build a brighter future for our students.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and let us remain committed to the excellence and success of Bay District Schools.