



PUTTING  
THE 'A'  
BACK IN

BAY

## Update from the Superintendent

To: Parents and Guardians  
From: Mark McQueen, Superintendent  
Date: November 15, 2024

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### Honoring Veterans Through "The Wall That Heals"

As your Superintendent and a proud military veteran, it's my sincere honor to announce that Bay District School welcomes "The Wall That Heals" here in our community. This moving, three-quarter-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., is so much more than an exhibit; it's a once-in-a-lifetime chance for our students and families to connect with a pivotal part of our nation's history in a deeply personal way. I know firsthand the weight of the sacrifices made by our service members, and I can't emphasize enough how powerful this experience will be for our young people.

From November 14-17, this remarkable tribute will be on display at the Callaway Recreational Complex, Field 9 (500 Callaway Parkway, Callaway, FL), open around the clock for 24-hour access. It's not every day that we're able to bring a national monument to Bay County, and having "The Wall That Heals" here is a profound teaching moment—a way to bring history alive for our students and instill in them a deep respect for those who gave everything for our freedom.

Each name on this wall isn't just a name; it represents a life dedicated to the principles we hold dear. It's an opportunity for our students to reflect on what service truly means and to understand that our freedoms come at a cost. While we're arranging field trips for as many students as possible, we simply can't bring all 28,000 children to the wall during school hours. That's why we're encouraging families to take the time to visit together, whether in the early morning, late at night, or even during quiet overnight hours—times that may be more peaceful for reflection.

Please, take advantage of this chance to share such a meaningful moment with your children. You can learn more about this experience at: <https://www.vvmf.org/event/The-Wall-That-Heals-Panama-City-FL/#:~:text=EVENT%20DETAILS&text=Note%3A%20The%20Wall%20That%20Heals,there%20will%20be%20fewer%20visitors.>

This wall reminds us of the courage, sacrifices, and resilience that define us as a nation. I hope you'll join us in making this a moment our students will carry with them, honoring our veterans and understanding the legacy of service that shapes our freedom.

Thank you, in advance, for making this experience a profound and unforgettable one for our students and families. Together, we're putting the "A" back in Bay.