



Update from the Superintendent

To: Parents and Guardians
From: Mark McQueen, Superintendent
Date: November 22, 2024

A Season of Gratitude

As we approach Thanksgiving, it's the perfect time to pause and reflect on the many blessings we share within Bay District Schools and beyond. This season reminds us to express our gratitude for the people, partnerships, and purposes that make our community strong, resilient, and full of heart.

First and foremost, we are deeply thankful for our Bay District Schools family—the more than 3,500 dedicated employees who work each day to inspire and uplift, and the 28,000-plus students and their families who are the heart of all we do. To our teachers, support staff, administrators, and everyone who makes a difference in the lives of our students, your commitment means the world. Your hard work and compassion create the foundation for learning, growth, and success, and we couldn't be more grateful.

We are also immensely grateful for the initiatives that drive us forward, helping us put the "A" back in Bay. Whether through academics, athletics, the arts, or character-building efforts, these programs bring our community closer, providing countless opportunities for students to thrive and shine. Our district is better and brighter because of your support and enthusiasm for these initiatives, and we thank you for standing with us.

Our gratitude extends deeply to our larger Bay County community, whose unwavering support sustains us year after year. We are thankful for our military bases and the dedicated men and women who serve our country, protecting our freedoms with courage and honor. Your commitment to our nation reminds us all of the true cost of liberty and the importance of service.

We are equally thankful for our first responders, who work tirelessly to keep our communities safe and secure. Whether in moments of crisis or calm, their dedication and bravery ensure that our schools and neighborhoods are places where we can learn, live, and grow together in peace.

As we enter Thanksgiving week, we also recognize how fortunate we are to live in a country that values the freedom to express ourselves, to respectfully agree or disagree, and to learn from one another. This spirit of unity, even in diversity, strengthens us all.

During the upcoming break, I hope all of you find time to recharge, enjoy family and friends, and celebrate Thanksgiving with those you love. May it be a week filled with gratitude, warmth, and togetherness. Bay District Schools is proud to be part of this exceptional community, and together, we're building a brighter future.

Thank you for your support, dedication, and partnership as we continue putting the "A" back in Bay. Wishing each of you a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with joy and gratitude!