



## Update from the Superintendent

To: Parents and Guardians  
From: Mark McQueen, Superintendent  
Date: December 6, 2024

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This week, as we continue focusing on the five pillars of putting the "A" back in Bay, it's my honor to highlight one of the most vibrant and visible areas of student life: Athletics.

Our student-athletes dedicate countless hours to their sports—hours spent training, practicing, and competing—all while balancing their academic commitments. From early morning practices to late-night games, their commitment is remarkable, and the discipline they develop through athletics prepares them for success far beyond the field. Athletics teaches them to push through challenges, lead and follow, win with humility, and learn from defeat. We, as a district, take great pride in the thrill of watching these students achieve their goals, whether in individual accomplishments or as part of a team.

Behind every student-athlete is a coach or team sponsor who puts in equally tireless hours—often behind the scenes. These coaches teach the game and instill values that will serve our students for life: dedication, perseverance, teamwork, and resilience. They spend countless evenings and weekends away from their families to ensure our students have every opportunity to succeed. And it's not just the coaches—it's the band directors, cheerleading coaches, and sponsors of other extracurricular activities like JROTC, who pour their hearts and energy into ensuring students can experience the joy of being part of something bigger than themselves.

Here in Bay District Schools, we're fortunate to have a long history of success in athletics. Many of our local athletes have earned regional, state, and even national titles, earned college scholarships and competed at the next level. But it's not just about the titles and accolades—it's about the journey and the pride that comes from reaching goals that once seemed out of reach.

Our athletics programs, alongside band, cheerleading, and other extracurricular activities, are not only a source of school pride but also a pillar of character-building for our students. They help develop well-rounded individuals who understand the importance of hard work, responsibility, and community. And speaking of community, it's your unwavering support that makes this all possible. Your contributions, big or small, create a positive environment where our students can thrive and achieve their dreams. You are an integral part of our Team!

I want to take a moment to personally thank each and every one of you for the countless ways you contribute to our district. Your belief in our students, and in their ability to balance academics and athletics, is invaluable. We truly are a Team of Teams, and it's through our collective efforts that we're putting the 'A' back in Bay. Your dedication and support do not go unnoticed, and we are deeply grateful for your role in building a brighter future for our students.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication and support. Together, we are building a brighter future for our students.