



PUTTING  
THE 'A'  
BACK IN

BAY

## Update from the Superintendent

To: Parents and Guardians  
From: Mark McQueen, Superintendent  
Date: May 16, 2025

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### **Celebrating the Season of Success – Graduation Time in Bay District Schools**

As the school year winds down, there's a special feeling in the air - one filled with pride and excitement. It's graduation season in Bay District Schools, and across our community, students are preparing to walk across stages and into the next chapters of their lives.

This is, without a doubt, one of my favorite times of the year. Graduation season gives us the opportunity to see the incredible results of years of hard work, dedication, and growth. It's a celebration not just of academic achievement, but of perseverance, character, and community.

While the spotlight often shines on our high school seniors, they're not the only ones with something to celebrate. Across our district, we're honoring students of all ages. From Pre-K and kindergarten graduations to 8th grade promotions, our students are reaching new heights every day.

We're especially proud of the broad paths our students are taking after graduation. Some are earning industry credentials through our CTE programs and heading into the workforce career-ready. Others are advancing through the ranks of JROTC or graduating with college degrees. In fact, 15 of our seniors already walked across a stage earlier this month to receive their associate degrees from Gulf Coast State College, before they'll receive their high school diplomas later this month!

But achievements like these take a team. They're the result of countless hours of hard work by our students, unwavering support from families, and the tireless dedication of our teachers, support staff, and school leaders. And beyond our school walls, they reflect the amazing commitment of our Bay County citizens...serving as mentors, sponsors, partners, and volunteers. Graduation is a testament to what we can accomplish when we all work together, united by a shared belief in the potential of our students and positioning them for a bright future.

These moments of celebration belong to all of us. They remind us that every lesson taught, every lunch served, every hallway cleaned, and every encouraging word spoken matters. Every role plays a part in helping students succeed.

And the impact doesn't stop at graduation. This time of year, we often welcome back some familiar faces - our former students who are home from college for the summer, or returning as college graduates themselves, ready to take on the world. Seeing them come back home, capable and confident, is a powerful reminder of the strong foundation they built right here in Bay District Schools.

This season of success is more than a series of ceremonies, it's a celebration of what's possible when our "team of teams" comes together. I'm deeply honored to serve alongside each of you as we continue to shape futures and change lives.

Let's take time to enjoy these special moments and lift up every student as they take their next steps. Together, we'll keep putting the "A" back in Bay.