



## Update from the Superintendent

To: Parents and Guardians  
From: Mark McQueen, Superintendent  
Date: March 8, 2024

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As we embark on the month of March, I am delighted to share with you the celebration of Music in our Schools Month, a time to recognize and appreciate the invaluable role that music plays in the education and development of our students.

The arts, including music, have a unique ability to knit our community together. They are powerful in fostering creativity, collaboration, and a sense of belonging. Music, in particular, holds a special place in the hearts of many, transcending language and cultural barriers to connect us on a deeper level.

I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our community partners, such as the Panama City Symphony, who play a vital role in bringing the gift of music to our students. Their support enhances the overall educational experience and contributes to the cultural richness of our community. We encourage you to take advantage of the musical events offered throughout our community, providing wonderful opportunities for families to share in the joy of music together.

A special thank you goes out to our dedicated music teachers K-12, who pour their passion and expertise into our students daily. Your commitment to nurturing the musical talents of our young learners does not go unnoticed. We are fortunate to have such talented and inspiring educators within our district.

As a reminder, this year's BDS Teacher of the Year is none other than Kenny Kirkland, a lifelong music educator at Patronis Elementary School. Kenny's dedication to his craft and students exemplify the excellence we strive for in Bay District Schools. Congratulations, Kenny, on this well-deserved recognition.

As Superintendent, witnessing our students' musical accomplishments brings me immense pride. I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing them perform at their schools and special events. Their talent, dedication, and enthusiasm for music are truly commendable.

In celebration of Music in our Schools Month, I encourage all parents and guardians to support their children's involvement in music on every level. As a community, I invite everyone to attend the myriad of student performances we offer, explore local musical events, and continue to foster a love for the arts at home.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Bay District Schools. Together, we can ensure that the power of music continues to enrich our students' lives and strengthen our community's bonds.