



Update from the Superintendent

To: All BDS Employees
From: Mark McQueen, Superintendent
Date: December 7, 2023

This is a copy of the Superintendent's weekly message that is sent to parents/guardians. We want to make sure you have the same information as well, so you're in the loop :)

Today, I'd like to highlight the invaluable partnership between our local business community and Bay District Schools and its significant impact on our students and schools.

Our students' success is a shared responsibility, and the involvement of our business partners is crucial to achieving excellence in education. I want to sincerely thank the Bay County Chamber of Commerce for its remarkable Partnership Bay program, a Leadership Bay project. This initiative has brought our business community together in support of our schools, and it's making a tremendous difference in the lives of our students.

I'd also like to take a moment to thank all the businesses that have already stepped up to be part of this incredible initiative. Your commitment and support do not go unnoticed, and we are deeply grateful for your dedication to our community.

There are a plethora of ways, both large and small, in which our business community can assist our schools, and I'd like to highlight just a few:

- **Mentoring and Volunteering:** Business partners, and their employees, can offer their time and expertise to mentor our students, providing them with real-world insights and guidance.
- **Employee Appreciation Events:** Many businesses have generously supported employee appreciation events in our schools, recognizing the hard work and dedication of our educators and staff.
- **Attendance and Academic Achievement:** Business partners can help motivate our students by contributing prizes and rewards for improved attendance and academic achievement.
- **Support for homeless students and students with special needs:** Businesses regularly come alongside the District in providing resources that directly and positively impact our students who face unique challenges.

The business community is an integral part of our BDS Team of Teams, and we couldn't be as effective without local businesses' continuous support.

If your business is interested in joining this endeavor, I encourage you to contact your local school principal. Alternatively, you can contact us directly at BDScomm@bay.k12.fl.us, and we will connect you with a school that aligns with your level of commitment, availability and purpose. Whether your capacity for involvement is large or small, there is a place for you in our BDS Team of Teams.

As we look to the future, I am excited about the continued growth of our partnership with the business community and its positive impact on our students. Together, we can create a brighter and more promising educational journey for every child in our district.

Thank you for your support, and I look forward to the wonderful collaborations ahead.