



# Update from the Superintendent

To: All BDS Employees  
From: Mark McQueen, Superintendent  
Date: August 11, 2023

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*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 :)*

Welcome back Team!

I hope everyone had a wonderful first day of school, and I eagerly anticipate the chance to visit all of our campuses, and classrooms, as this year progresses. For those of you I haven't yet met, I'd like to extend a warm "Welcome Back Team," and by team, I mean ALL of our students, staff members, parents/guardians and community stakeholders. We are the ultimate "team of teams." Together we will ensure that all Bay District students are supported and encouraged as they strive to achieve academic excellence and their personal goals.

We're going to start with reading!

While I am a self-proclaimed "math guy," I know that the path to everywhere begins with reading. If you can read and comprehend, you can achieve anything. I am committed to ensuring all our students are reading at or above grade level. However, that is not something I can accomplish by myself; it will take ALL of us collaborating and committing to this mission.

I believe in Bay District Schools, and I believe in the work we do. As your Superintendent, my job is to ensure our teachers have the tools they need to help students succeed. I want you to know that I am committed to that responsibility. While I am not an educator by profession, I have spent my entire adult life in public service (first in the military and later with the City of Panama City). From those experiences, I know that empowering people to do their best work is where the magic happens.

Therefore, right off the bat, I plan to spend my time learning, observing, understanding and asking questions. I know our veteran educators are there to lead the way for those new to education this year (myself included), and I hope our entire community will join forces to support them all. We are only as strong as our teams and our processes/procedures; all of that work is built on professional relationships with others.

I am here to ensure all of our children have the most positive educational experiences possible this year. I hope you join me in that shared commitment. Thank you for everything you have done thus far to create a smooth return to school, and thank you, in advance, for everything you will do for our students in the days, weeks and months to come.

We can do this!