



# Update from the Superintendent

To: All BDS Employees  
From: Mark McQueen, Superintendent  
Date: October 6, 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 :)*

Last week, as you may have already heard, we took some members of our Team of Teams to visit all middle and high school students in Bay District Schools to impress upon our young people the importance of making good decisions at home and at school. These presentations were an important part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of our students. It was an honor and a pleasure to visit all of our charter, and non-charter, schools and to have the opportunity to meet so many amazing students and staff members.

First and foremost, I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the individuals who made these presentations possible. State Attorney Larry Basford, Bay County Sheriff Tommy Ford, BCSO Captain Myron Guilford, Bonnie Steelman and Heather Richardson from the Florida Department of Health dedicated a significant amount of their time and expertise to educate our students on important safety and health matters. Their unwavering commitment to our community's well-being is truly admirable, and we are fortunate to have their support.

I am delighted to report that our middle and high school students demonstrated an incredible level of attentiveness during these presentations. Their engagement and willingness to absorb the valuable information provided by our guest speakers were truly remarkable. It is evident that our students take their safety seriously, and their commitment to being informed and responsible citizens is something of which we can all be proud.

I also extend my heartfelt appreciation to our students, principals, and staff members who played pivotal roles in organizing and facilitating these presentations. It takes a dedicated team effort to bring such important educational experiences to our schools, and I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of everyone involved. Together, we have truly demonstrated the strength of our "Team of Teams" approach when it comes to ensuring the safety of our students.

It is important to recognize that safety is a shared responsibility, and it starts at home. We encourage all parents and guardians to continue reinforcing the messages of good behavior, respect, and safety with their children. By modeling what is right at home and engaging in open and meaningful conversations, we can further instill the values and behaviors that contribute to a safe and positive school environment.

We are fortunate to have a community that values the safety of our children, and I want to express my gratitude to all those who are actively involved in modeling "what right looks like." Your commitment to creating a safe and nurturing environment for our students is truly commendable.

I believe the safety presentations were a resounding success, thanks to the dedication and collaboration of our community partners, students, and school personnel. As we move forward, let us remain committed to working together to ensure the well-being of our students and to continue making all Bay District Schools safe and welcoming.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our children's education. Together, we can achieve great things.