



# Update from the Superintendent

To: Parents and Guardians  
From: Bill Husfelt, Superintendent  
Date: May 2, 2021

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This year, more than ever, it's appropriate to honor and thank our teachers and this week (May 3-7) is actually set aside nationally for just that appreciation. We take time throughout the year to celebrate and honor all of our important employee groups but this week is just for teachers 😊

As we begin our local Teacher Appreciation activities, I'd like to take a minute to truly thank our teachers and to honor EVERYTHING they have done for our students and our community.

When our schools were closed unexpectedly in March of 2020, our teachers scrambled to put together online learning plans for the very first time. While many of them were already comfortable with online learning because they completed some classes that way in college, many more of them DID NOT have any experience with this platform. In less than two weeks (one week of which was their well-deserved Spring Break) our teachers worked together to support each other and to come up with some plans.

But that wasn't all we needed them to do! We knew we had countless students who did not have devices, or internet connectivity, at their homes and that we needed ANOTHER plan for those students. Our teachers, administrators and support employees came together and developed paper-based learning plans and distribution methods that were creative, flexible and targeted towards some of our most vulnerable students.

In short, our teachers created an entirely new system of education in about 14 days and then they went on to deliver high-quality lessons using formats they had never before used on this scale.

And for that, we are grateful.

Then we started school this year and had to ask our teachers to, again, do something that they had never done before when we developed BayLink. Once again, our teachers rose to the challenge and managed to figure out how to teach in-person students while delivering engaging online lessons to students who were at home.

It was exhausting.

And then we asked them to pivot once more when we welcomed all students back to school in January. School districts across the country are still figuring out how to have in-person school

during a pandemic but our teachers have been doing that this entire school year. Our teachers have adjusted plans, created new innovative learning approaches and have collaborated and supported each other throughout all of these challenges.

And they have done so NOT for the money but because it's the right thing to do for our students. In fact, approximately 94 percent of our students are currently attending in-person classes in large part because they miss the relationships with their teachers and they trust that our schools are safe places.

Our teachers are the first people that some of our students reach out to for help in a crisis. Whether that's extra time before school or after school, or a panicked middle-of-the-night phone call in extreme situations, our students know they can count on our teachers for wisdom, for guidance, for love and for support.

Our teachers are the proverbial shoulders to cry on as needed and they are a critical resource for many of our children who need additional emotional and physical support.

I think we can all fondly remember those teachers who truly invested in us (I know that I can) and this week is a time to remember those who made a difference in our lives and thank those who are doing the same for our community's children.

I hope that you'll join me, and many area businesses, in taking time to thank our teachers this week. Please know that you don't have to go out and purchase an expensive gift or plan an elaborate recognition. While all teachers, just like everyone else, appreciate gifts I can promise you that many truly treasure the simple handwritten, heartfelt "thank you" cards from you or from your students.

I also want to thank all of the area businesses who go out of their way to help us recognize our teachers each year. When you frequent these businesses, or work with these organizations, please thank them for their support: Legistix Solutions LLC, Innovations Federal Credit Union, Living Word Church, Manual and Thompson, Dave and Buster's, Shipwreck Island Water Park, Beachy Beach Real Estate, Rachal's Recovery Relief, Mosquito Authority, Taziki's and Kim's Cups LLC.

Stay safe and God Bless!