



Notes of Gratitude From Executive Staff

LBUSD Family,

I am grateful for all of the ways that you have stepped up to support one another throughout this pandemic year. I see you lifting up your colleagues when they are feeling down. I see you reaching out a hand to one another when things feel like too much. I see you stretching yourselves to learn new ways of teaching, new ways of performing your duties, new ways of solving problems and new ways of managing your own lives. I believe in the power of gratitude. It is the way that we express what is happening for us on the inside and a way to connect with one another in meaningful ways. I also know that gratitude contributes to our internal well-being and happiness. As we all enjoy a pause for Thanksgiving, please know how much I appreciate each and every one of you. We are often asked what it is that allows LBUSD to experience success over time, and we are quick to respond that it is our people. I am wishing you a safe and quiet Thanksgiving break. May you be filled with gratitude and find a way to express your gratitude in the days ahead. - **Jill Baker**, Superintendent of Schools, #ChiefEncourager.



Baker

I am grateful for so many people, programs and efforts within our school district. On a daily basis, I am grateful for the ways in which our focus is on students. From our teachers to office staff to our grounds crews to our nurses to our school administrators (and everyone in between), we focus on students and how to create an experience that gives them the best of what they deserve. In a very new and challenging time, our LBUSD staff are making exceptional efforts, some that we get to witness and some that are not seen by anyone. We appreciate you. We celebrate you. We are grateful for you. - **Tiffany Brown**, Deputy Superintendent.



Brown

I am grateful that we are in the business of optimism and can provide the foundation on which amazing things can happen for students. - **Yumi Takahashi**, Chief Business & Financial Officer.



Takahashi

November 20, 2020

"I think the teaching profession contributes more to the future of our society than any other single profession." - John Wooden. Today's kindergartners will graduate from high school in 2033. Because of the teachers and staff in our schools, they'll look back on this time not with fear or sadness, but with appreciation and respect for the relationships that they made even in a distance learning environment. Now more than ever, I am extremely grateful for the dedication, professionalism and care of our pre-K to 5th grade teachers for setting the stage for our youngest learners and helping them to focus on a bright future. - **Brian Moskovitz**, Assistant Superintendent, Early Learning and Elementary Schools.



Moskovitz

The high school office is so grateful to our classified and certificated staff for their daily commitment to getting our students through this pandemic since March. While the holiday season brings friends and family together, this year it will be a challenge and even more so for so many. Our LBUSD family WILL get through this together. Happy holidays! - **Jay Camerino**, Assistant Superintendent, High Schools.



Camerino

I am grateful for our teachers, administrators and staff who work tirelessly, transcending our virtual environment, to engage and inspire students and families. - **Christopher Lund**, Assistant Superintendent, Middle School and K-8 Schools.



Lund

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." - John F. Kennedy. In our field of recruiting classified personnel, many of our processes have been changed by the pandemic. Since our interactions with people are limited, it is important that we show patience, integrity and respect to all of our applicants and each other at every opportunity as a sign of our appreciation for working with us. - **Kenneth Kato**, Executive Officer, Personnel Commission and Classified Employment.



Kato

My quote is by Brene Brown: "Let ourselves be seen, deeply seen, vulnerably seen, to love with our whole hearts, even though there's no guarantee... to practice gratitude and joy in those moments of terror, to be this vulnerable means that we're alive." - **Erin Simon**, Assistant Superintendent, School Services.



Simon

"It has been said that life has treated me harshly; and sometimes I have complained in my heart because many pleasures of human experience have been withheld from me... if much has been denied me, much, very much, has been given me." - Hellen Keller. Her words remind us of the importance of focusing on what we have been given, rather than what our circumstances deny us. I am eternally thankful to lead an amazing department; to work with talented site leaders; and to support our incredibly talented teachers. Those things, coupled with the love and support of family make for a life filled with gratitude. - **Kristi Kahl**, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development.



Kahl

I am grateful for the Human Resources and Employee Relations Office and the service that is provided to all of our certificated and classified employees. A sun dial was found with a special message engraved on it. It read, "I only mark the hours that shine." Deliberately focusing on the shining moments after an eventful few months helps each one of us appreciate the tremendous impact we have on our district, staff and students. Thank you all for your hard work, determination and optimism as we pull together toward excellence and equity. - **David Zaid**, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resource Services.



Zaid

"Gratitude and attitude are not challenges; they are choices." - Robert Braathe. In Research, we talk a lot about data-driven decisions. Using my own "data" as a leader, I decide every morning to be grateful for my team and the great work they do to support our students. - **Chris Brown**, Assistant Superintendent, Research and School Improvement.



Brown