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Dear Troy Union Families,

Now more than ever it truly is a privilege and honor to serve our Troy Union community. I am humbled by the way our staff, students and parents continue to rally together in what continues to be one of the most unique periods of time in our world. I know many of you are nervous and worried about what school will look like this fall. This year will continue to present us with challenges but please know that our oneTroy district leaders continue to make decisions with the best interests of our Troy community in mind. I will also do my absolute best each day and continue to serve our school through a lens of educator, principal, husband and father. One way or another, I look forward to welcoming back our entire community on the first day of school as we embark on the 2020-2021 school year.



It has been a long while since we were last together so please let me take a moment and remind you about the Troy Union I know:

- **The Troy Union I know** believes that “Together we will learn, lead, love and leave a legacy.” The current year has epitomized what “Together is Better” really means and more than ever it is going to take all of us working harmoniously to move forward as a learning community.
- **The Troy Union I know** is a foundation of learning (no matter where it needs to take place) and it is a place where children can enjoy being kids while making friends and falling in love with learning.
- **The Troy Union parents I know** play an essential role in supporting children throughout the learning process. Our parent attitudes about education have and will continue to inspire the thinking and learning process. Our parents love their children unconditionally.
- **The Troy Union students I know** demonstrate their understanding of the essential qualities necessary to be leaders. This is exhibited through daily actions in everything they do. Troy Union students are proactive with the choices they make and strive to grow each and every day.
- **The Troy Union staff I know** shows great respect for all students (*all* means *ALL*). Every member of our team (teachers, specialists, secretaries, support staff, para pros, healthcare workers, aides, custodians, lunchroom workers, etc.) encourages students to always do their best but more importantly to be their best. Our staff inspires students to achieve more, question more and dream more.
- **The Troy Union I know** focuses on creating a positive **CULTURE** throughout our school, city, state, country and world. Relationships matter and the social emotion wellbeing of our students, parents and staff is a priority. When we focus on taking care of each other as a community, amazing things happen.

In closing, we will begin celebrating Troy Union’s 175th Anniversary this year. Together, we will look back at the memorable history of our school and how it has evolved over time from a one room schoolhouse, to an old brick building to a virtual school during a pandemic and finally the school it is today. The events of our world have forced us to reprioritize what we value most in our lives. Things that we previously took for granted are now appreciated more than ever. The story of Troy Union Elementary is filled with rich tradition and I look forward to working together as a learning community to ensure an impressive legacy for those who come after us.

Respectfully,

Mike Cottone

