

Greetings La Porte ISD stakeholders!

Today is a great day to be a Bulldog! And there are many reasons why ... especially this time of year.

On the last Saturday of April, principals across the nation (and in Bulldog Nation) were celebrated for their leadership and commitment on National Principals Appreciation Day. This week, we celebrate our classroom teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Did you know that when the COVID-19 outbreak hit in 2020, your La Porte ISD teachers and principals – in a matter of days – pivoted their entire plan to educate our children? It was a monumental task and a tremendous success. It could not have been possible without the expert leadership of our outstanding roster of campus principals, including Bayshore Elementary Principal Donna Spaugh and La Porte High School Principal Carlin Grammer, our 2020-21 La Porte ISD Principals of the Year.

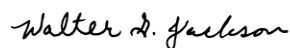
The rubber meets the road in classrooms, both virtually and in-person, and our hats are off to the many heroes who refused to buckle under the immense pressure brought on by the pandemic. Though May 3-7 is when we *officially* recognize teachers across the nation, I truly believe that we should sing our teachers' praises every day of the year! On that note, I want to congratulate Gerius Roman as the district's 2020-21 Rookie of the Year! Gerius is a math teacher at James H. Baker Sixth Grade Campus. Also, congratulations and many thanks to all of our campus Teachers of the Year! Not only are they fantastic at what they do, they are also an inspiration to their colleagues.

This time a year ago, high schools across Texas were weighing the possibility of a traditional graduation. I'm pleased and excited that later this month, La Porte ISD will conduct traditional commencement exercises for graduating seniors at both of our high schools. Following those celebrations, we will continue our charge of ensuring our students' success.

Yes, La Porte ISD is even open in the summer! The district is offering numerous summer enrichment and accelerated learning opportunities for our students. We have worked diligently to develop programs that focus on closing learning gaps caused by school closures, and we strongly encourage our students to take advantage of these opportunities so that everyone is well prepared when we return in August to begin the 2021-22 academic year — a fresh, new start!

It takes all of us — teachers, parents, the entire community — to assure that our students realize their full potential, and I want to personally thank everyone for helping us finish the year strong.

In your service,



Dr. Walter Jackson

Superintendent of Schools