

November 22, 2019

Dear AUSD Team:

In recognition of the upcoming break I wanted to offer brief but sincere thanks and appreciations for your work on behalf of students.

No matter where we sit in the organization, no matter what our roles are in the District, when our collective commitment and daily efforts are pointed toward improving the experiences and outcomes of students we can truly impact their lives and influence their futures in positive and productive ways.

I know that when our schools work best for kids there are countless hours of unseen effort and dedication deep in that mix.

That effort and dedication are reflected in the custodian who goes the extra mile to prep a venue for an event or an assembly, or in a teacher working deep into the unpaid night to prep a thoughtful lesson or grade papers and projects.

It is reflected in the front line front office staff at our schools who are asked to wear multiple hats and manage communications and operations, in the maintenance staff spending weekends making emergency repairs, or in the business office staff juggling a dizzying array of processes to keep our accounts and financial affairs in order.

It is reflected in the school counselor having to sensitively work with a child or family while simultaneously feeling the pressure of deadlines for the countless letters of recommendation they have been asked to write.

That effort and dedication are reflected in the paraprofessional patiently supporting a child with learning differences, or in the principal or administrator who sits down to start “working” early in the evening after students have left and when the unforeseen twists and turns of the day have been resolved.

These examples, and there are so many more, are us at our collective best, and reflect the selfless nature of so many in this school district and in the work of public education more broadly.

Yes, we have significant ways in which we can improve together as a District and tremendous opportunities to better ourselves and our work on behalf of students, but to move toward that improvement with energy and sustainable commitment requires that we periodically pause and appreciate each other for the efforts that are already underway.

In that spirit I simply wanted to say thank you, and to wish you and yours a very happy and restful Thanksgiving.

Respectfully,

Pasquale Scuderi
Superintendent