



May 27, 2022

Dear SBCSC Families,

Yesterday was our last day of classes. I'm thankful for the hard work of our teachers, principals, bus drivers, custodians, buildings and grounds crew, paraprofessionals, security guards, school resource officers, social workers, nurses, coaches, mentors, volunteers, food and nutrition staff, digital integration specialists, librarians, administrative assistants, principals, assistant principals, coaches, bilingual specialists, parents, and guardians in their support of our students this past year. With your support, many of our students have reached the finish line with flying colors.

We've enjoyed weeks of celebrations, proms, eighth-grade graduations, and spring performances, and now we look ahead to commencement ceremonies at TCU School Field on June 9, 10, and 11. I love that the ceremonies will be held in such an iconic place, one that is so special to our students and alums.

I want to congratulate Justin Gole's eighth-graders at Dickinson Fine Arts Academy for their creation of Non-Fungible Tokens (NFT)! These are the first students in the state, I believe, to create them in class.

On Tuesday, we watched Jefferson Middle School's *My Brother's Keeper* members launch a weather balloon! We look forward to tracking its progress.

On Tuesday evening, we joined Construction Trades students at the home they built near Riley High School. We enjoyed dinner made by our culinary arts students and presented awards to some of our district's most talented students. Thank you to Mayor James Mueller for joining us and to all who have worked to deepen our partnership with our city and its neighborhoods.

Congratulations to Adams Senior Katie Hensell and Riley Senior Blake Allison for being selected by Kiwanis as the Nellie and John Wooden Grand Kiwanis Award Winners.

Only a week ago, we expressed our grief over the gun violence in our country and city. This week, we end our school year on a somber note, following the deadly shooting in Uvalde, Texas. Most of you have had to search for ways to explain to your students and children how and why 19 children and two teachers were massacred in their school. No one should have to do this. No child should wonder if they are endangered while learning to be scholars, citizens, friends. We must do everything in our power to ensure safe buildings, reliable security, accessible counseling, and anonymous reporting through [QuickTip](#).

Please continue to do your part in working toward acceptance, forgiveness, and peace. Listen closely to one another. Support one another. If you know or suspect that someone is in any way a threat to others or themselves, please submit anonymously to our QuickTip Portal, call 911, or tell someone who can help.

We'll see many of you at graduation, our summer camps, the Boys and Girls Club, summer school sessions, and the many events happening this summer in our city.

Thank you for choosing South Bend Schools.

Sincerely,