



September 10, 2021

Dear SBCSC families,

This week, in response to community needs, we welcomed Pre-K students to new programs at Marshall Traditional, Marquette Montessori, and Muessel Elementary! Great things are happening at SBCSC!

Wednesday, September 15, we begin celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and we're proud to recognize the contributions of our Latinx community in South Bend Schools and in our city. We are thankful for the outstanding work of our bilingual services and migrant education staff, and for Maritza Robles' legacy of leadership—our longtime advocate for bilingual students and their families. We honor her memory with Spanish dual language immersion programs at McKinley and Harrison elementary schools.

September is Suicide Prevention Month. We remember those we've lost to suicide and offer a reminder to take care of one another and seek mental health support if you or a loved one is struggling. We can all do our part to prevent suicide, now the second leading cause of death for individuals aged 10 to 24. To those who have experienced depression, suicidal thoughts or ideation, or have lost a loved one from suicide, know that although you may feel alone in your pain, you are never alone. All our buildings have support staff for you to talk to, get the help you deserve, and work through your suffering with caring professionals. Let's follow the golden rule, be kind, stand up to bullying, show compassion, and report worrisome behavior through the QuickTip portal. You can learn about [five important steps](#) to take to help someone who is struggling: ask, be there, keep them safe, help them connect, and follow up. If you are ever unsure of who to talk to, you can email Student Services Coordinator [Stephanie Steward-Bridges](#). Public 24/7 counseling resources include the suicide prevention lifeline, 1-800-273-TALK, and the Trevor Project's [Get Help Now](#) hotline, 1-866-488-7386.

This weekend, we will recall where we were 20 years ago when the World Trade Center was attacked. We remember the many police officers, firefighters, first responders, and citizens lost.

On this anniversary, we especially remember Adams High School alumnae Katie McCloskey, '95 and Kathy Hawk Nicosia, '65. After graduating, Katie studied at Indiana University. Only weeks before she died, she accepted a position in New York on the 97th floor of 1 World Trade Center staffing the computer help desk at Directfit Inc. Kathy Hawk Nicosia was a flight attendant on the American Airlines plane that struck the tower where Katie worked. Kathy served 30 years as a flight attendant for American. Both of these women are honored with scholarships—Katie's is awarded to a graduating senior from Adams High School, and Kathy's is awarded to a student leader at Bowling Green State University, where she was a member of Alpha Chi Omega.

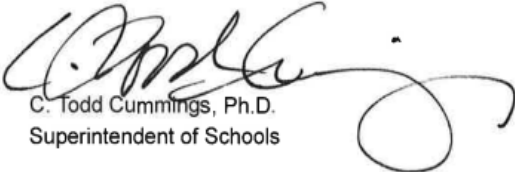
Tomorrow, Saturday, at 7:00 p.m., Clay High School visual and performing arts students, in collaboration with A4 productions, will perform "9/11: A Tribute Concert," to honor those lost in the terrorist attacks. The production will include musical selections from "Ordinary Days," dance, and works of art. Tickets are available at the door, \$10 for adults, \$5 for students.

Next week, we welcome [Eric Butler](#), internationally renowned speaker, educator, and restorative justice champion, to speak at Century Center Wednesday, September 15, at 6:30 p.m. His presentation, “Chasing Smoke,” is open to everyone. We’re thrilled to have him join us for a great evening to discuss peacemaking in our community.

We are proud of the Washington students who participated in the [Notre Dame AP Tip-In](#) this week. Thanks to our partners at the University of Notre Dame for working with our AP Honors students to discuss problem-solving and analytical thinking. We look forward to hearing about their success.

Also, remember to mark your calendars for the Gentlemen and Scholars Spelling Bee at the Century Center on Sunday, September 19 at 3:00 p.m. Thanks to Cory Brazier and William Douglas of Gentlemen and Scholars for their organization of this event and support for our youth.

Have a safe and restful weekend, and to all who celebrate, Shanah Tovah!



C. Todd Cummings, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools