



December 17, 2021

Dear SBCSC Families,

Congratulations on reaching the end of the semester. I appreciate our students, teachers, and staff for their hard work this year. I believe 2022 has good things in store for us all, and I'm amazed by the progress we have made this year.

On Tuesday, I had the honor of speaking at Ruby Jarret Joyce's celebration of life. Ruby was our first Black educator, serving as a truancy officer for our district. Mrs. Jarrett Joyce was also the first Black valedictorian of Washington High School Class of 1944. Her intelligence and perseverance earned her a full scholarship to Indiana University Bloomington where she received a bachelor's degree in social work and continued her education by earning a Master of Science degree in Educational Personnel and Guidance in 1950. She served as a truancy officer until 1970. For her leadership and spirit as the first African-American administrator in the district, we will always be grateful.

This week, several of our high school students were inducted into the South Bend Common Council's Youth Advisory Council. Join me in thanking Kaitlyn and Zoe Nicholson of Clay High School; Gabrel Kempf, Alexis Sult, and Joseph Che' Brueseke of Riley High School; LeRonda Kindred and Alondra Coria of Washington High School; and Lexi Lipsey of John Adams High School for taking part in our city government and making an impact in our community. Thank you to our City Council and specifically, Council President Karen White.

It was a cheerful week of Holiday concerts and festivities, including a celebration of our employees at the Potawatomi Zoo on Wednesday evening. It was a pleasure to relax with so many of you, and thank you for all of the work you've done this year.

On Thursday, Mila Reynolds and her future women's basketball head coach, University of Maryland's Brenda Frese, held a press conference following the Washington Panther game against John Glenn. I am inspired by the Reynolds sisters for their leadership and teamwork. Congratulations to our Middle School City-Champions-the LaSalle Lions!

Please enjoy your Holiday break. I'm grateful for your hard work and dedication to our students.

Sincerely,

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