



December 3, 2021

Dear SBCSC Families,

I hope all of you had a restful and happy Thanksgiving break. Happy Haunukkah. We're nearing the end of our first semester, and our teachers, staff, and students have done a fantastic job of learning and working together. Last Tuesday, the LaSalle Lions and alums Taylor Jackson and Jarynn Sampson performed thoughtful spoken word and musical pieces demonstrating the "Power of One," sharing their talents and honoring historical heroes who lifted up our nation and served as voices for the voiceless. I'm looking forward to many more performances in the coming weeks at our [elementary](#), [middle](#), and [high schools](#). Please make sure you say, "Hello."

Shortly before the Thanksgiving holiday, the student group "Brothers" from Adams High School [made the donation of more than a thousand dollars worth of groceries](#) to our friends at Saint Margaret's House. Thank you, Mark Geissler, for your leadership of this inspiring group of friends and leaders at our own Adams High School.

This Wednesday was World AIDS Day. I am grateful to Ryan White, his mother and activist Jeanne White-Ginder, and those who have gone before to teach us all we need to know about inclusion, diversity, and love. I was lucky enough to write my doctoral dissertation by analyzing all of Ryan's fan mail and his mother's sympathy cards. I've written an article about Ryan's enduring legacy in November's [District Administrator Magazine](#).

Now in its third year, our grant-a-teacher-wish tree is downtown. Tonight, as part of Downtown South Bend's "First Friday" we'll be by the I heart SB sculpture on the corner of Michigan and Jefferson, handing out free books from our friends at Better World Books. You can scan an ornament and see it link you to ways you can give to your favorite school.

With the flu season here and the rise of COVID-19 cases in the community, I urge all of you to get your flu shot, and COVID-19 vaccines and booster. Flu shot clinics for staff are coming up at Wilson and Madison Elementary Schools. Visit [OurShot.gov](#) to schedule your COVID-19 vaccine or booster.

Sponsored by the Chick-fil-A Foundation, Food Bank of Northern Indiana will provide free meals to families:

Tonight, December 3 at Muessel Elementary School from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Friday, December 10, at Marquette Montessori from 4:30 to 6:30

Friday, December 17, at Muessel Elementary School from 4:30 to 6:30

On Monday, December 6, we'll hold our Board meeting at Edison Middle School at 5:30 p.m. Join us in person, or watch via our district's [YouTube page](#).

I'm looking forward to our Middle School Teacher Listening Session at LaSalle on Monday, December 13 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Thank you to Marshall and Lincoln Teacher Leadership Teams who invited me to their meetings. I met with District TLT's on Thursday. I'm so proud of their hard work.

Finally, we wish the best of luck to our boys basketball teams tonight. Adams High School will take on St. Joseph's High School, Washington will compete against New Prairie, Clay will compete against Penn at Penn High School, and Riley will play Mishawaka Marian at their home court. Congratulations to our Riley senior, Isaiah Robinson, for his recognition in this last week's [South Bend Tribune](#). Keep up the good work! I also want to congratulate Riley alumna Lisa Willis for her book "[A Teacher's Love](#)" and her exemplary work in being a lifelong learner. For her appreciation of those educators in our district who mentored her, and for all she does for her students in Indianapolis, as well as the message of her wonderful book, we are grateful.

Remember to read a book, watch a classic film and listen to an album.

Have a great weekend, everyone!



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