

May 4, 2021

Dear District 15 Family:

Today it is my pleasure to write to you and ask that you join me in recognizing our amazing educators. As many of you are aware, this is Teacher Appreciation Week and so it behooves us to honor these wonderful individuals who have worked so hard in so many ways to help the children of our district and their families through these extraordinary times.

Over the course of the past five weeks, I have had the opportunity to visit the majority of our schools and visit classrooms. I have talked to parents, administrators and students. It has given me insight into how powerful the connection has become between teachers, students, and families. Over and over, I heard about how school communities had become families that supported each other during the COVID crisis. Our teachers have become more than just instructional experts and caring, supportive leaders. They have become the aunts and uncles and cousins and big sisters and brothers and grandparents who have adopted families and manned food pantries. They have made deliveries of school supplies and materials, technology, and books. They have visited homes remotely and made endless phone calls, met baby siblings and family pets virtually, and helped their students to feel special and loved. They have been listening ears and caring hearts.

They have done all these things while doing an equally remarkable job in their role as educators. They have planned unique and engaging lessons and become experts at Google Classroom, Padlet and Jamboard. They have created animated instruction worthy of Sesame Street for our littlest students and have inspired all students to own their learning and develop levels of independence and resourcefulness that will serve them well for their whole lives. They have done this while adjusting to constantly changing schedules and demands, in the midst of a global pandemic, and as they dealt with tragedies in their own lives.

Therefore, during this special week, let us all take a moment to honor these true heroes. Let us say thank you and show our appreciation. District 15 teachers we applaud you! We believe you are the finest educators in our city and in our nation. It is because of your example and your teaching that our future generations will be filled with educated, successful, creative and empathetic individuals who will make the world a better place for all.

Thank you, District 15 Teachers! You hold the future in your capable hands.

Warmest regards,
Anita Skop

