

Herscher Community Unit School District #2

Dr. Richard S. Decman, Superintendent
Shelly Parsons, Special Services Director
Pete Falk, Curriculum Director

November 24, 2020

Dear Herscher School District students and families,

As we head into the Thanksgiving holiday break, I feel compelled to write a message to our school community expressing thanks and gratitude.

In normal years, it is a simple message because I get to regularly visit our schools and see the dynamic learning taking place across our district. However, COVID-19 has shaken everyone's world and the positives that are occurring in our district can easily be overshadowed by the unprecedented challenges we face.

With that in mind, I thought deeper about what I am thankful for this school year. What I realized is I have even more gratitude for our teachers for adapting to both in-person and remote instruction despite the numerous challenges. I also have a great deal of gratitude for our students who have demonstrated tremendous patience and understanding as they navigate new learning models through this pandemic. Next, I am extremely grateful for our employees (Custodians, Maintenance, Kitchen, Bus drivers, Para-professionals, Secretaries, Administrators, etc...) for "stepping up" and sometimes doing "other duties as assigned" to help our buildings continue to provide services. Finally, I am grateful for our school district parents who have been incredibly supportive of both their students and the school district despite all the changes this year.

At the end of the day, each of us are trying to do the best we can under incredibly difficult circumstances. It has not always gone smoothly, but I believe we have learned a lot since the first day of school that will make us more prepared and stronger for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year and beyond.

Please have a safe and relaxing rest of the week. We will return to offering in-person instruction on **Monday, November 30, 2020** and will continue to offer remote instruction for those who choose that option.

While this school year has not been what anyone would wish for, I hope each of you can still find gratitude and something you are thankful for this holiday season. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard S. Decman
Superintendent

"Education... The Ultimate Investment."