



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



April 19, 2021

Dear CFISD Community,

The finish line to the 2020-2021 school year is within reach! We can all agree that the path here has been filled with many obstacles, but I am so proud of our staff, students and parents for staying on track to finish the year strong.

We celebrated many successes this year, and chief among them in a year marked by COVID-19 safety protocols was keeping our schools open throughout. After three months of solely virtual learning in the spring of 2020, we knew how critical it would be to find a way to provide a consistent education for our face-to-face and virtual learners alike this school year.



Next week, on April 27, we will celebrate the completion of an ambitious Learning Together Everywhere (LTE) 1-to-1 districtwide rollout. Our technology department worked relentlessly to deliver more than 115,000 devices into the hands of students following Board of Trustees approval last summer. I am so thankful for Board members who put our students' needs first and a group of dedicated employees who brought their vision to life.



On April 14, a little more than a year after launching our curbside meals program on March 16, 2020, the nutrition services team celebrated serving 3 million meals to community members! What an incredible milestone and representation of our district's theme of *Opportunity for All*.



Our agriculture science students had a successful Livestock Show and Sale in February. The freezer sale, silent auction, gifts to students and live auction combined to reach approximately \$570,000.



In a year when many athletics and fine arts programs around the country were not able to compete, our performers thrived. The Cypress Woods and Bridgeland high school marching bands were placed among the top 15 in Texas. The Cypress Creek High School girls' basketball team was state runner-up, the Cypress Woods boys' swim team placed third in state, and the Jersey Village High School boys' soccer team made the state semifinals—the best finish of any soccer program in CFISD history. This weekend, we will host the state wrestling tournament at the Berry Center and hope to have more CFISD students claiming top honors.



CFISD Class of 2021 graduation ceremonies are just around the corner, and we are looking forward to celebrating 12 high school graduating classes May 27-June 4 at Cy-Fair FCU Stadium. We are increasing the number of tickets per graduate for the outdoor event this year and are looking forward to celebrating our students.



We extended the pre-registration period for our pre-K and kindergarten programs through May 26. A student is more likely to thrive if they start with us in early childhood, so we are eager to increase our enrollment in these excellent programs. Registration is also open for CFISD summer school programs, which are available for all students at no cost. We are hopeful that more summer offerings will allow students impacted by learning challenges during the pandemic a better chance to get ahead.

It has been extremely encouraging to see the rapid rollout of coronavirus vaccinations throughout the nation. I have seen so many teachers and staff posting their immunizations on social media, and I am grateful that the majority of our workforce will have vaccines as we head into the summer.

With the 2021-2022 school year approaching, we have not yet decided if there will be a virtual learning option. Based on current law, CFISD would not receive state funding for a virtual education option unless the commissioner of education extends the current waiver or legislation passes this session to provide state funding to school districts to offer a virtual education option. I will update our school community if and when there are any changes. However, since vaccines are becoming more readily available and the spread of COVID-19 is diminishing, the districtwide mask mandate will be lifted starting June 7. Although they will be optional, we will continue to encourage staff, students and visitors to wear masks while indoors. We will also continue to follow many of the safety protocols currently in place, including enhanced cleaning procedures and increased air filtration and ventilation.

It is easy to see why I am so proud to be a part of this incredible school district. We have indeed come a long way in 2020-2021, and we are not done yet. As we reflect on the achievements behind us, let's zero in on the goal ahead of us and finish strong.

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools