



May 20, 2022

Dear SBCSC Families,

The past week has been heavy with loss. As a community, we mourn those murdered in Buffalo, New York, and Laguna Woods, California over the weekend in senseless acts of gun violence. Just down the street from our offices, Kaylynn Davidson was killed Tuesday night. We are heartbroken by the tragic news of Saint Joseph High School students Ahmed and Saleem Qasem who drowned at Warren Dunes. We extend our deepest condolences to all these families, loved ones, and friends.

Many of us gathered on Thursday evening to honor, celebrate, and join in conversation with legendary leader and civil rights activist Dolores Huerta, keynote speaker for the annual Thought Leadership Conference. To welcome such a heroic servant leader, especially one who has known tragedy, violence, and injustice during a time of uncertainty gave many of us courage and hope. I was honored to take part in this event, and thank all of those who shared their ideas and stories to embrace our differences and cultivate a culture of hope and equity. Thank you to Elkhart Mayor Rod Roberson; Lerner Theatre; Elkhart Community Schools; Rachel Santos of the Indiana Latino Institute; our friends at La Casa de Amistad; and Dr. Tessa Sutton, Assistant Superintendent of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, for presenting this important event.

We've been busy with many events honoring our students, graduates, and staff as we advance to the end of May! On Monday night, we held our *Celebration of Excellence in Academics* at Adams High School, honoring graduating seniors from all of our high schools and the influential teachers who have fostered their love of learning.

On Friday, we held Graduation Walks through our middle and elementary schools, continuing an awesome tradition that continues to inspire our youngest learners. We can't wait to celebrate our graduates at TCU School Field on June 9, 10, and 11.

Thank you to the South Bend Alumni Association for their support of our extra-curricular activities. We are grateful to everyone who played in the Association's golf outing.

Next Tuesday at 304 E. Dayton Street, we're celebrating the completion of CTE's Construction Trades Technology program's newly built house! We're looking forward to presenting awards to these students for their achievements. Also remember that on Monday, we're honoring many of our staff for years of service at our Board meeting at Adams High School. We'll see you there at 5:30 p.m.

And Thursday, May 26 is the last day of school for students! On behalf of all of us at SBCSC, have a safe and happy summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Todd Cummings".

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

