



November 24, 2020

Dear SBCSC families,

As we head into our Thanksgiving holiday, I want to thank all of you for your support for our students and one another over the past several months. To all of our parents and guardians, teachers, principals, counselors, administrative assistants, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, coaches, custodians, building engineers, nurses, lunchroom aides, librarians, mentors—thank you for all you do every day to support our students and one another. I want to remind you of our high school and middle schools pivoting to eLearning starting Monday of next week. Meal kits will be available for curbside pickup on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at eight sites throughout the district for students and families to receive breakfasts and lunches for five days worth of food. Those may be found on our [website](#), along with a [map](#) of current pickup locations. Our elementary students who are attending school in person will still take home meal kits on their designated days.

Remember that we have 35 Wi-Fi buses parked [throughout the city](#) from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. five days a week. Families who are in need of internet connectivity should contact their students' school to be put in touch with their school's designated liaison to learn more about eligibility and assistance from [City Wide Classroom South Bend](#). You may also call 574-703-1881 to find out more about their program.

Today, CTE students in Mr. Christian Elmerick's Construction Technology course shipped ten hand-built bunk beds to families in Liberia through a community partnership with [Feed the Hungry](#). I am so proud of these students for their craftsmanship and generosity. Thanks also to their instructor, Mr. Chris Elmerick, for his guidance and example. Thank you for this story of sharing with those in need ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday.

On Friday, we observe Native American Heritage Day. To all of our community who are of Native American descent, thank you for sharing your rich cultural heritage with us. This is an important time to reflect on the endless contributions of our country's indigenous people and work toward finding solutions to the adversities so many still face today. I hope you will join me in honoring the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi in a special way, and all of their members who serve our district.

I know that for all of us, this Thanksgiving Break is unlike any we've known. A holiday that celebrates entertaining friends and relatives and joining together to give thanks for our blessings will look different this year as we celebrate together while staying apart for the safety of one another and our community. I want to remind you again to please wear a mask over your nose and mouth, wash your hands, and practice physical distancing. Please limit your gatherings since these events are identified as being the highest risk for COVID spread.

Please know of my gratitude for all of you, and please do your part to stay home this break and slow the spread of the virus.

Happy Thanksgiving. Be safe, healthy, and take care.



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