



January 15, 2021

Hello Dallas Students, Families and Staff Members,

I want to share a few updates with you as we move along in the new year. I hope this letter finds you well.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Monday. This is such an important federal holiday and school is not in session on Monday. It is also a designated day of service and everyone is encouraged to do just that – contribute or volunteer in support of each other. I am so pleased that staff members throughout the district are creating student opportunities to better understand the influence of Dr. King and the importance of his messaging. Students are completing research on Dr. King, reading literature and poems, viewing videos of his influence and discussing how this influence is present **today in Dallas**. They are also discussing his impact on our future and its importance in an inclusive community. Elementary students are writing about friendship, kindness, and love. They are also learning music about the importance of our diverse community. Middle and high school students are reflecting on equality and the importance of civil rights for all, regardless of our differences. I ask each of you join me in recognizing the significance of this day and how it applies to our lives.

There is a lot of available information about Martin Luther King Jr. I love his quotes and this short [video](#) really resonated with me. Take a look.

January is School Board Recognition Month. I want to thank each of our board members for their tireless efforts in support of each student in Dallas School District. They are visionaries and fully informed decision makers who really understand our community. Thank you Jon Woods, Dave Hunt, Matt Posey, Mike Blanchard and Mike Bollman. Click on this [link](#) to see a photo of our five committed volunteers. Thank you!

Finally, we are anxiously awaiting the **new reopening guidance** from the Governor's office and the Oregon Department of Education next Tuesday, January 19. This information will guide the next steps of our reopening efforts. Thank you again for your continued patience and grace as we navigate the pandemic and its impact on Dallas School District.

As always, please contact me if you have questions or would like to discuss our efforts in Dallas School District. andy.bellando@dspd2.org

Andy Bellando
Superintendent

Andy Bellando, Superintendent

Board of Directors: Michael Blanchard • Michael Bollman • Dave Hunt • Matt Posey • Jonathan Woods