



November 20, 2020

Good afternoon Banning Unified School District Staff and Community:

This week marks a historic opportunity to give thanks. As we embark on this holiday season with immense gratitude, there is no limit to what we can accomplish together. We have collectively ventured on an ambitious journey focused on professional learning and data-driven initiatives to support our students intellectually and socioemotionally. In doing so, our teachers facilitated months of online instruction; our classified staff focused on keeping us safe and operational. Our board leveraged their governance authority to support us all while parents engaged thoughtfully so all of our students can learn.

With that said, after six months in the role of superintendent in the Banning Unified School District, there is one thing I know for sure: our staff, students, board, and community are absolutely committed to student success.

During the board meeting, Florida Street's Reagan Rice sang us a song and counted up to 17 during her Pre-K virtual presentation. Yesterday, our superintendent's student advisory meeting included points of pride and gratitude from Nicolet's Aaliyah Hearsley and Kieran Maddox who mentioned that they are thankful for their families and Banning staff who help them with online learning during the pandemic. Banning High School graduate Kevin Urena became the first in his family to earn a diploma, while support for Jose Luna Torres earned him a diploma from Banning Independent Study School. Lastly, this week both classified and certificated staff at Banning High School received rave reviews from the WASC Accrediting Commission for Schools Committee.

With so much to be thankful for, I know Banning Unified School District is on track to becoming the highest-performing school district in all of Riverside County.

As we head into a well-deserved weekend, and while food service continues to be available Wednesday, please be reminded that next week the District Office, all school sites, and all departments will be closed. All employees will either be on vacation or will work from home. All classified employees and managers who are scheduled to work next week can work from home. If you have any questions, please contact your immediate supervisor and/or the Human Resources Office at (951) 663-9190 or tdavis@banning.k12.ca.us.

Thank you for all that you do and have a safe and restful break!

Sincerely,
Dr. Natasha Baker
Superintendent
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