



San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District

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Dear Rattler Nation Students, Parents, and Staff,

I am grateful for all of you.

As I passed through classrooms throughout this difficult semester, I saw our students and staff persevere in the most challenging of school years. Everyone's kindness and warmth is most appreciated. Our child nutrition, custodial, maintenance, and transportation departments continue to provide professional service. The teachers and instructional staff, including counselors, instructional assistants, and administrators, work tirelessly to ensure that students' needs are met. Our school safety procedures are working, and we are meeting the needs of our students. Each and every one of you should enjoy Thanksgiving mindful of the fact that WE HAVE made a difference for many in Rattler Nation during this unprecedented time.

In addition, I ask for your help over the break so that when we return it is done with full confidence that we have all prepared for a safe return to campus. We know the data around the COVID. Please minimize travel, support your local business by ordering take out, and avoid large gatherings if at all possible. Please continue to wear your mask, if you can't maintain social distance. I think we can all agree that our students need to be in school, and that can only happen if we continue to practice those habits that have made in-person schooling successful.

Finally, this year has not only been physically draining, it has been emotionally draining. We must be aware of how this isolation impacts mental health for adults and students. Please be conscious of your students' wellness as you interact with them. If you have any concerns, share them with a school counselor or administrator immediately. Just as important is the health of our adults. We should be open to discussing mental health as a community and as a family.

As I enjoy this week, please know I will keep all of you in my thoughts and I am most grateful for all you do and have done since March. I consider myself to be very fortunate that I get to see the collective good you all do in so many different ways. Enjoy this holiday break and those special moments you share with family and friends.

My best to your families and friends,

Michael Cardona
Superintendent
San Marcos CISD

I am providing a link to a powerful video on mental health by a young lady from Oregon.

https://www.ted.com/talks/hailey_hardcastle_why_students_should_have_mental_health_days#t-1924