

August 19, 2019

SFDRICISD Team,

Welcome Back!

It is only befitting that I begin by saying, "Congratulations on a very successful 2018/2019 school year." In this past school year, our students' passing rate in 10 of the 22 state-tested areas was on par or ahead of [Region 15](#). In 5 of those areas, our students' passing rate was on par or ahead of the State's passing rate. Our grade as a school district, in the State accountability system, grew from an [80 to an 86](#) – just 4 points shy of reaching that A, setting our new goal for this academic year. We also had on display the many opportunities our students have in SFDRICISD. We witnessed 3 high schools (DRHS, Blended, and ECHS) graduate together at Walter Levermann Stadium. The current and future success of our students, our schools and our community are exciting.

With the summer break being over, we can now focus on students and not so much on construction, budgets, master schedules, etc. Before today, I did spend one last evening looking at construction. Last night, I stopped by the high school just to make sure our [cafeteria](#) was ready to serve our students. I even had some fun and participated in a Snapchat to let my daughters' friends know that our cafeteria was fine and that there was no need for an open campus. I also took the time to show off the [classrooms](#) in the [200 Wing](#). The high school's 200 Wing is not 100% complete. However, we can confidently say the 200 Wing has come a long way since the days of chemistry with Mrs. Hazel Hartrick.

It is so nice to see so many improvements throughout the District. It is even nicer to know that in spite of some setbacks to our construction schedule, we were able to start school on time. Still, we do ask those affected to be especially patient as we complete the final stages of construction in the high school's 200 Wing and in our high school cafeteria.

Other elements of our summer work were also very productive. This past Thursday, our Board of Trustees approved our compensation plan. Our teachers will receive an across the board \$5,000.00 pay raise. The increased salaries once again place our District teacher salaries ahead of other surrounding school districts. Congratulations teachers! You most certainly deserve it.

We hope and pray that each and every one of you, and our students will have a wonderful first day and first week of classes. Let's make this the best year yet!

"Distractions to success should only consume the energy and passion of those wishing to distract; the rest of us should remain focused on the things that really matter." ~ Carlos Rios