

Superintendent Spieser's Video Message to Families

November 20, 2020

Hello Milford families,

I have three updates in this video message for you today: an invitation to purchase tickets to listen to the high school's latest drama production, information about the Q&A I held this week, and an update on the school calendars adopted for the next three school years. As always, I will also feature student artwork.

This is my last video before Thanksgiving break. Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. It's a time to be thankful and grateful for all that I have in my life. While I'm grateful for my Milford Schools family and the opportunity to serve you I'm most grateful for my wife Ayn. She is the foundation of our family. I wouldn't be where I am today without her.

I want to wish you and your family a great Thanksgiving.

Milford High School's drama department, led by Katie Arber, has produced a Radio Play based off of adaptations of three early films directed by Alfred Hitchcock. The students bring the stories to life in the style of a 1940s radio broadcast, with actors playing dozens of characters, live sound effects, and musical underscoring. Tickets can be purchased from our website. Once you purchase a ticket, you'll receive a link to be able to listen to the radio play. Streaming of the

production will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday, November 26 and end at 8 p.m. Sunday, November 29.

Next, let's talk about the Q&A held this week. On Tuesday I hosted a "Live Chat with the Superintendent" on Facebook. It was recorded and is available to view on our Facebook page. I answered questions about COVID case trends and explained the process used to make decisions between keeping Inperson students in school or moving to a remote learning model. I talked about the difference between "remote learning" and the Eagle Online instruction model. I also discussed our future plans for addressing the need to replace the Junior High with a bond issue in the next few years. Be sure to check out the recording. I appreciate all of the questions and comments we received.

I will host another Live Chat on January 19.

Next up, school calendars.

At the Board meeting last week the Board approved the academic calendars for the next three years. You can download them from our website. We incorporated feedback we received from families and our staff when we built the new calendars. You'll notice that in each year, Thanksgiving break is a whole week, Winter Break is two weeks, and spring breaks fall during the last full week of March each year. Each school year ends prior to Memorial Day, too.

This week's artwork is from Mulberry Elementary. Fifth grade students researched and studied Cincinnati-based artist Charley Harper. Harper was best known for his stylized wildlife prints and posters. Mulberry students used his work as inspiration to create mixed media 2-D pieces. They examined an animal and broke it down into simple geometric shapes, then choose color combinations, patterns, and textures to create an interesting overall composition. They used a variety of mediums to create their pieces including watercolors, various types of paper, fabrics, leather, suede, and marker.

In closing, I urge you to stay safe and make good decisions during Thanksgiving break. Limit your family's exposure to anyone who is not inside your family's "bubble." We are still seeing a wide spread of the virus in our community outside of school, resulting in the need to quarantine staff and students. It is our goal to keep In-Person students learning in person for as long as possible but we cannot keep schools open if the virus continues to spread in our community.

Enjoy the break. Stay healthy.

We'll see all of our students on Monday, November 30.