

October 30, 2020

Greetings All,

As October comes to a close, we are well into the 2nd quarter of the year. As you probably know, the County's C19 metrics are not getting better. We are not likely to have students on campus in large groups on campus this semester. I am hopeful that we can introduce students in the Spring Semester and with some luck, maybe a portion of students per day for regular instruction toward the end of the year. We have learned that the students who do well, still are doing well. Average performers are still doing ok, but our struggling students are struggling even more. To this end, please do all you can do to slow the spread of the virus. Wear a mask, practice physical distancing and wash your hands. Please be an example to others and stay safe. We have to get these struggling students back on campus with their teachers.

This week's powerful winds really pushed the palm trees in my yard, but did not break any of them. Structurally, they are flexible and their root system is different from other types of trees. Their trunk is very flexible because their fibers are long and pliable. Their root systems do not sprawl, but rather grow like a ball and act more like a keel of a ship. These characteristics allow it to bend, but not break.

In these times, we need to be like palm trees. The challenges of the pandemic are not over and when we return students to campus in the future, there will be more challenges ahead. I encourage you to look at things with a fresh perspective and become flexible to new approaches, ideas and systems. I also encourage you to look deep inside and consider why you choose to work for a school system, why you are an educator, why you support the teenagers and families in our community. Dig deep and ground yourself in your "why."

Lastly, we updated our web pages with a new fresh look. Please visit them. We will continue to work on them in the coming weeks to add content and make adjustments that work with the new template. Adult Ed will soon have its own stand-alone page as well.

Best Wishes, and Stay Safe,

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Ward H. Andrus, Ed. D.

Superintendent