



ANTIOCH SCHOOL DISTRICT 34

Inspiring personal excellence.

Dr. Bradford Hubbard, Superintendent

November 20, 2020

Antioch CCSD 34 Families,

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it, is like wrapping a present and not giving it." - William Arthur Ward

Gratitude. At the beginning of the year, I asked that this be one of the words that define us - along with hope and grace. As I sit here on a Friday afternoon in my office, I am overcome with it. As to not waste this incredible feeling, I am going to try and articulate my appreciation. Appreciation for you. Appreciation for our team. Appreciation for my family.

This is my first year in the Superintendentcy. I am beyond grateful for the opportunity that has been afforded to me to serve this amazing school district. The Antioch CCSD 34 Board of Education took a chance on me. For that, I will forever be thankful. I wake up every single day with the goal of ensuring they are both proud of and take comfort in their selection of me to lead. They selflessly serve and their service is appreciated.

Our staff. Since I began my transition back in April, I have been blown away by the staff that we have here in Antioch CCSD 34. Every single level of our organization exists to, cares about, embraces the challenges around, and remains focused on serving our students and our families. I have witnessed them sacrifice, grow, give, lead, learn, and love. The impact they have, regardless of role or job title, is extraordinary. They inspire me and I am humbled to be a small part of such an incredible team. As Team 34 heads into the coming days away from the grind, may they each find the time to recharge, rejuvenate, reconnect, and reflect on how much they have accomplished this year. I am proud of them and overwhelmingly thankful for them.

Our students. I miss them dearly. Most of them, I have never met. Earlier today, I had a chance to speak and read to the entire WC Petty student body and it was amazing. I told them the same thing I would tell all of our students if I had the chance. I articulated how proud I was of them. Our current reality is not easy on anyone, especially our kids. I told them I believed in them and I honestly do. In seeing them in action, we have a student body that can and will be whatever they set their minds to. I am honored to and will forever be their champion and cheerleader. Lastly, I told them that I loved them. And, I do. I see all kids as I see my own kids. I want each of them to believe that we exist because of them. They need to know we see them, hear them, and love them. Every day, I come to work fueled by the motivation to improve the experiences, opportunities, access, and outcomes of our students, all of them. The gas in that tank does not run out.

Our families. I am at a loss of words when it comes to how grateful I am for our Antioch CCSD 34 families. I know that our currently reality has been more than difficult for many. I know there has been loss. I know there has been frustration. I know there have been incredible sacrifices. All I have are the words to say thank you, but it will never do justice to how proud of or grateful I am for all they do. This year is not what anyone expected or would have chosen. Their resolve inspires me. The enormous responsibility to serve them and their kids is one that weighs on me heavily. It's a good weight; one that keeps me grounded and constantly cognizant of what matters most - the kids we serve and families that entrust them to us. While most of us have never met, I hope they know that I see them, hear them, and love them, too.

**Antioch
School District 34**

964 Spafford Street
Antioch, IL 60002
847-838-8401

**Mary Kay McNeill
Early Learning
Center**

817 N. Main Street
Antioch, IL 60002
847-838-8901

**Hillcrest
Elementary
School**

433 E. Depot Street
Antioch, IL 60002
847-838-8001

**Oakland
Elementary
School**

818 E. Grass Lake Road
Lake Villa, IL 60046
847-838-8601

**W.C. Petty
Elementary
School**

850 Highview Drive
Antioch, IL 60002
847-838-8101

**Antioch Upper
Grade School**

800 Highview Drive
Antioch, IL 60002
847-838-8301

www.antioch34.com

Finally, my family. My daughters, Calla and Bryn, mean the world to me. Their existence is the reason for my existence. I am on a relentless journey to see to it that our systems see, meet the needs of, care for, and serve all kids. For only when we can truly say that all means all will I be assured that Calla and Bryn will be included. They love unconditionally, they support me blindly, and they motivate me daily. They don't question the time I spend away and they genuinely understand the gravity of my responsibilities to the Antioch CCSD 34 community. They give me permission to serve and an unlimited supply of love that keeps me going. I love them, I am proud of them, and I am so thankful for them.

My wife, Kelly. For her, I am profoundly grateful. She is an amazing mom, beyond supportive partner, and an incredible kindergarten teacher. We are lucky to have her in our lives and home...her students and families are lucky to have her in their lives, as well. Not once in my career has she questioned my drive or doubted my ability, even when I have and/or do. She has made tremendous personal and professional sacrifices that have allowed me to grow, lead, and serve. She shares my sense of urgency in this work and does not waiver on her unrelenting support of me. She is incredible and a huge reason I am here.

As we head into this weekend and the upcoming holiday season, I have a lot to be grateful for - my health, my family, and you.

May you and your family be and stay well. Thank you for your partnership and trust. Serving this community is the greatest responsibility and honor of my life.

With deep gratitude,

Dr. Bradford Hubbard
Superintendent