

**Special Message from Superintendent Chris Rust and the Toledo School District Board of Directors**

So many of us are struggling during these times with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the interruption of business, schools, church services, and the countless other changes in our lives. We're weary from the effects of daily examples of a brutal system of racism that oppresses Black, Indigenous and People of Color.

Many of us wonder what can be done and worry about our country. We fear for people of color, for police and for the neighborhoods and businesses affected by days of protests and violence. We struggle with how to respond to all of these different challenges to our systems.

We are thankful for those people in our community and region who are stepping forward in service and leadership to lighten the burden on our neighbors. Our first-responders, healthcare workers, grocery store employees, and our outstanding school staff. We are grateful for those community leaders who provide food for senior citizens, and our faith community for continuing to serve at a distance. All of us pulling together is what is necessary in times of trouble.

Our recent experiences during the pandemic have highlighted inequities that exist in our systems that need to be addressed. The Toledo School District is committed to this work.

Each day in our classrooms, we recite the Pledge of Allegiance. It is an important beginning to each day of school. As Americans, we pledge, "One nation, under God, indivisible with Liberty and Justice for all". While we may be angry and frustrated by the events that are unfolding, we must recommit to our pledge of allegiance to make Liberty and Justice a reality not for some, but for all.

**Toledo School District Board of Directors**

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