



Dear Ballard families,

As I write this the sun is shining and I am hopeful you are able to take advantage of the great weather and get your mind off some of life's newfound challenges!

Over the past couple of months I have been in dozens of meetings and conversations with educators locally and around the state. There is a profound sense of wanting to do what's right for our students and families that emerges time after time. Along with that sentiment is the reality of operating with limited information in perpetual uncertainty amidst the challenges now and in the future.

A week ago the Iowa Department of Education released requirements and guidance for school districts regarding planning for next year. What we are being asked to prepare for is different from the past and includes multiple scenarios. Every district in Iowa is coming to terms with the enormity of the task.

So, how will we approach this at Ballard? The short answer to that question is collectively. This week the administrative team prepared a planning structure that includes teachers, associates, custodians, nurses, secretaries, food service, transportation, technology, finance, and administration. Everyone at Ballard shares the responsibility of educating our students and it will require all of us to create the best plan possible for next year.

With great respect and appreciation for all you are doing to make things work in the aspects of your lives, I'll share a perspective many of you have likely considered.

If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you.

I believe with all my heart if we work together with commitment and enthusiasm we will grow and change in positive ways we cannot yet imagine. At times, the work will be uncomfortable. However, like under normal conditions, it will be rewarding. We are grateful to work at Ballard, we embrace this opportunity and it is important our families recognize this.

Thanks for entrusting us with your children and supporting us in our work. We appreciate it so much. Enjoy the weekend, stay safe, and take care! GO BOMBERS!

Ottie