



## Office of the Superintendent

*Thomas Butler*

805.462.4200

5601 West Mall, Atascadero, CA 93422

August 14, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thanks for all that you are doing to support your children. The Board of Trustees and I greatly appreciate your efforts and your willingness to actively participate in the educational process with your children and teachers.

I was recently asked, "What do you think students will remember from the COVID-19 pandemic and distance learning?" My initial reaction was probably similar to many parents in our community; technology, screen time, separation from their classmates and teachers, to name a few. However, upon deeper thinking I know that initial reaction to the question is wrong.

I firmly believe that the primary memory for our students will be, how the adults in their lives responded. This calls upon all of us as parents, guardians, and staff members to provide an experience where we respond in a manner that is understanding, patient, supportive, collaborative, encouraging, and relentlessly optimistic. I am certain that when we combine all of these our students will remember a positive and caring learning environment. That is the sweet spot we are looking for, that is the memory we want for our children.

Parents, thanks so much for the incredibly powerful role you play in your child's education. I encourage all of you to reach out and build a strong partnership with your teachers. When we work together great things happen for our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Butler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Butler  
Superintendent