



City of Long Beach, City Auditor



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Doing Our Best in this Moment

The beginning of this school year was somewhat different from years past. On the first day back there was no quick photo op on campus before navigating to a new classroom in time for the first morning bell. Instead, there was a commemorative photo taken at a homeschool desk and an online computer login to start the day. However, some things were the same. There was the warm welcome for all students from our dedicated teachers and administrators, and there was student excitement to start a new year. It was just all virtual.

There is uncertainty as to how this school year will progress – will it be entirely virtual, will in-person instruction resume, or will there be a hybrid of both. One constant is that everyone - administrators, teachers, parents and students – in this moment are using their talents to do their best to make it work and support one another. In the words of Winston Churchill, “To each there comes in their lifetime a special moment when they are figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a very special thing, unique to them and fitted to their talents. What a tragedy if that moment finds them unprepared or unqualified for that which could have been their finest hour.”

Our administrators and teachers have gone to great lengths to ensure students have the resources and materials they need to learn, engage and connect. This has required adaptability as they have planned and implemented logistics to make remote learning work. As a parent, I appreciate this and their accessibility, communication of expectations, creativity and positivity, not to mention their patience. I now have a better understanding of what goes into lessons, teaching and keeping students’ attention. Teachers have made this look too easy and every week should be teacher appreciation week.

And of course, this would not work without parents and caretakers taking on a more supervisory role in learning. Many of you have been adaptable and have done your best to keep students on task, solve problems and troubleshoot technological glitches. I am also impressed with our students. I’ve witnessed their motivation to continue to learn and connect virtually. In fact, when I went to ask my daughter a quick question the other day, she politely reminded me, “Not right now, I’m in class.” They also are helping each other and even their teachers when technology issues arise.

So, here’s to a school year with many questions yet one constant - everyone using their talents in this moment to do their best and see us through what could be one of our finest hours.