

I am grateful to work at a school with educators and support staff that are so committed to the academic success and social and emotional wellbeing of all our students. In many ways they have had to reinvent school, learning new technologies and platforms, utilizing new teaching strategies, while at the same time making sure they are prioritizing relationships and helping students stay connected to school. I'm grateful for our students. They have demonstrated remarkable resilience during this pandemic and frequently when I observe classes I see them helping and supporting each other to navigate the technology, problem-solve challenges, and encourage the learning of their peers. I am grateful for all of our families, who are such strong advocates for their children, and provide encouragement and support for their students. You know your students best and your partnership is instrumental in helping students reach their potential. Lastly, I am grateful for my administrative team, Associate Principals Alicia Mendez and Kristen Tollefsen. They are both highly skilled at their jobs and passionate advocates for students. They are willing to ask the tough questions and fight the good fight on behalf of our kids.

During this time of Thanksgiving, I want to acknowledge that the holiday itself does not have the same meaning for everyone. My son goes to college in London and we went to visit him last Thanksgiving. When we told him of our plans to visit he said "You do realize they don't celebrate Thanksgiving here, right?" That isn't just true outside of the U.S. This is Native American/Alaska Native Heritage Month and next week's holiday is very much based on a popular mythology riddled with historical inaccuracies. From [Parent-Together.org](https://www.parent-together.org), "The traditional Thanksgiving presents the U.S. history from one perspective, that of the European colonist and not the indigenous people who were living here for thousands of years." To get a more accurate picture and to avoid further marginalizing Native American cultures, she suggests using the holiday as an opportunity for you and your kids to learn more about North America's history and culture from indigenous points of view. I love history and learning about the

origins of many of our American traditions and rituals. While for some it may take the polish off a story we have been told and that we tell ourselves of American exceptionalism, to me in order to understand the American experience we have to be open and willing to understand it from many perspectives. This is what we strive to do as a school. For those of us whose schooling didn't include multiple perspectives, we have to do the research and work ourselves. If you are so inclined, I encourage you to use this season as an opportunity to broaden your learning.

I'm thankful every day to be the principal of Rose Hill Middle School.

Be Kind, Be well,

Joe Gorder
Principal

Next Week's Schedule

Next week's schedule is a 2 ½ day week because of the Thanksgiving Day break. Monday and Tuesday will follow the regular remote learning schedule but **Wednesday will be asynchronous On-Demand time between 9:00-12:00**. Teachers will be available during this time to support student learning until the **school day ends at 12:00PM**. The building offices will also be closed Wednesday after noon, until Monday.

Advisory This Week

In this week's advisory lesson students looked at the mental and