



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

November 26, 2019

Dear Elizabeth Public Schools Team Members:

A vital part of providing a high quality education for our students is parent and community engagement. Through increasing family engagement and strengthening community partnerships, Elizabeth Public Schools is able to offer its students innovative instruction that prepares them to succeed in college, in their careers, and in life.

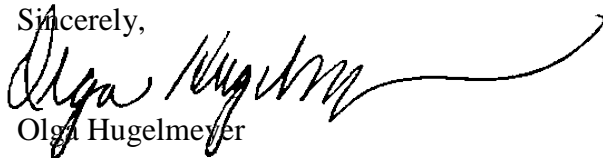
Nearly 400 years ago, a holiday of thankfulness was borne out of the gratitude of one community helping another to navigate a harsh winter through providing food when it was scarce. The Native Americans helped the Pilgrims survive by teaching them how to plant corn, where to fish, and how to survive in the cold environment. The collaboration led to the two communities joining one another for a feast that both celebrated their prosperity and offered their gratitude for the blessings of the harvest they had received. The question of where the "First Thanksgiving" was held in the United States has been debated, but what cannot be debated is that the historical events were symbols of gratitude and the importance of community.

Elizabeth Public Schools is so grateful for the many outstanding organizations that offer their time and resources to make a difference in the lives of our students, both inside and outside of the classroom. We are equally thankful for our families who volunteer at our schools to offer special experiences for our students as well as for those who are actively participating in their children's education. Families have such a positive influence on learning and are essential to future student success. The partnerships that we forge with our community organizations and families are a source of strength for our schools and we thank you for working alongside us.

Last, but certainly not least, I am thankful to all of our team members for all you do each day to make our school community a special place. Thank you for all the ways in which you contribute to the success of our schools while helping our students to realize their future aspirations and dreams.

Best wishes for a safe and healthy Thanksgiving that offers you many wonderful blessings.

Sincerely,



Olga Hugelmeyer

Office of the Superintendent of Schools