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November 26, 2019

Dr. Edwin M. Quezada
Superintendent of Schools

To Yonkers Public Schools Parent/Guardians and Employees,

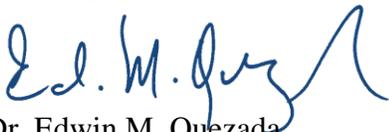
In President John F. Kennedy's [1963 Thanksgiving Day Proclamation](#), published six days after his unimaginable death, he wrote, *"Today we give our thanks, most of all, for the ideals of honor and faith we inherit from our forefathers - for the decency of purpose, steadfastness of resolve and strength of will, for the courage and the humility, which they possessed and which we must seek every day to emulate. As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."*

So many of the individuals who work and volunteer with the children in our schools personify President Kennedy's words through their actions and dedication. As we begin our Thanksgiving holiday, there is a great deal to be thankful for in the Yonkers Public Schools. Our wonderfully diverse student population comes to school every day ready to learn; thank you for inspiring everyone to work hard for you. We are thankful for Yonkers staff, parents, volunteers, business and community partners and community leaders who are committed to improving teaching and learning. Every day administrators, teachers and civil service staff fulfill our District mission, "preparing all learners for the opportunities of today and tomorrow in a culture of inquiry." Through equity and access, Yonkers offers exceptional instructional programs and students are making social, emotional and academic progress.

As Superintendent of Schools, I am thankful for the community stakeholders who come together to strive for our students' overall success and to improve the environment in which they learn. Our accomplishments are built on mutual respect and inclusivity. I am grateful to work with outstanding Board of Education Trustees whose policies focus on student achievement and staff equity. Thank you to our dedicated qualified employees who work tirelessly to motivate, excite and care deeply for our students. I am grateful to work with you to improve student outcomes in safe nurturing schools. Thank you parents for your perseverance for the best possible education for your children.

A final note of sincere gratitude to the men and women in our armed services who protect our freedom and lives at home and abroad. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

Sincerely,



Dr. Edwin M. Quezada

C: President Rev. Steve Lopez, Vice President Ramos-Meier
and Trustees of the Board of Education