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Greetings, Scottsdale Unified School District Families and Friends,

As we gather this week to bid farewell to the 2018-2019 school year, and to each other for the summer, it is fitting to look back on the many accomplishments of our students, teachers, staff and schools since that first day of school back on August 7. In a way, it seems like a long time ago; in another, it seems like it was just yesterday!

This week, we conduct high school commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2019 and promotion ceremonies for our eighth graders who will head to high school in August. We will celebrate the conclusion of elementary school for our fifth grade class and congratulate the Class of 2031 for completing its first, 'official' year of school. Through it all, you have been there for them – and for us. Thank you for everything you do to make sure that when your children arrive at school each day, they are ready and excited to learn.

When education is broken down in this simplistic manner, it is beyond amazing that this complicated, demanding maze of responsibilities we share produces the most accomplished graduates from year to year. Each relies on the other to do its part, with the confidence of knowing that each will.

This year, we graduate more than 1,900 students. They include: a Flinn Scholar; a Dorrance Scholar; six appointees to U.S. military academies; National Merit Scholars; the first complete class to graduate from the District's K-12 Spanish Dual Language Immersion programs at Pueblo Elementary, Mohave Middle and Saguaro High schools; and many, many award-winning dancers, artists, athletes, musicians and performers of the highest character, accomplishments and goals. These students have reached this pinnacle through their own personal dedication and perseverance, inspired by 13 years' worth of Scottsdale Unified teachers who commit to their success in the classroom today and in the world in the future. We know the Class of 2019 will succeed at whatever it chooses and that it takes with it the very best the Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD) has to offer.

This month marks the first anniversary of my return to SUSD. It has been an honor to be able to cap off my education career in Scottsdale. I continue to be impressed by the depth of this community's involvement, creative thinking and level of concern for our public school system. Thank you for the opportunity to partner with you through the next school year as we continue to cultivate a culture of positivity to ensure that all are contributing to a healthy, thriving and excelling culture focused on further developing SUSD's great potential.

Respectfully,

Dr. John Kriekard
Superintendent