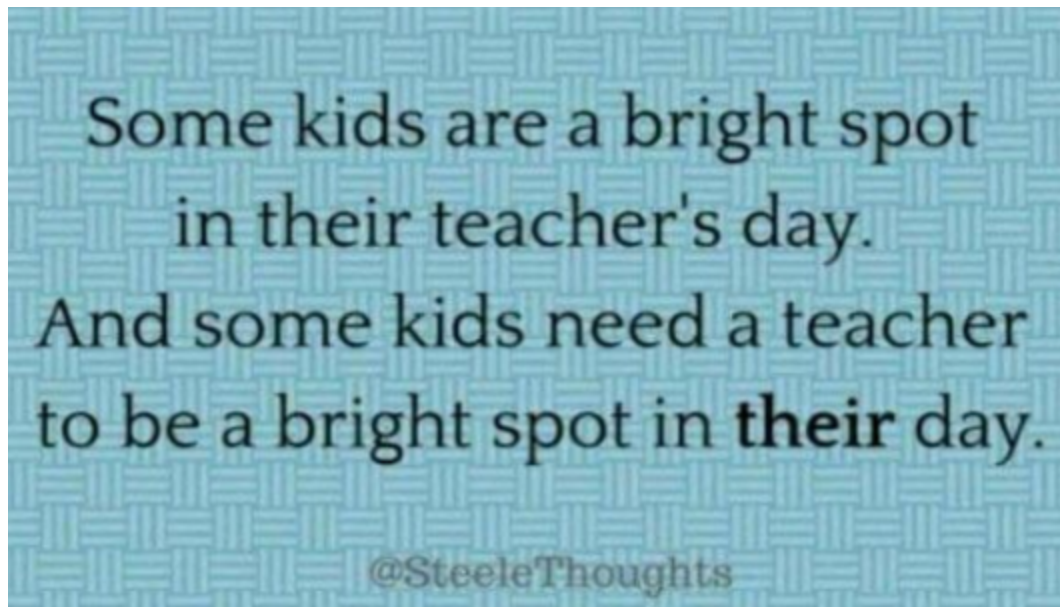


Harloe's first week back with K-6 students in the AM/PM Hybrid schedule

Brett Gimlin • 6 days ago • Thursday, Mar 11 at 1:33 PM • **Harloe Elementary School**



This marks the end of Harloe's first week back with K-6 students in the AM/PM Hybrid schedule. Masks add an additional layer that makes things difficult for a new principal to get to know students. Are they happy, nervous, sad? It can be hard to tell. I hope your child's first week back in the classroom was a happy one. Now here is a peek behind my mask.

What a difference a year makes. This week I heard a quiet rendition of the Happy Birthday song as I walked past Mrs. Tabarez's room. I wished the young man a happy birthday and made my way down the hallway thinking about this bright spot and how long it has been since I heard a group of students sing that song. March 13th will mark the anniversary of when life as we know it changed a year ago. Schools were shut down as we transitioned to emergency distance learning and countless birthday party plans across our community, nation, and world changed in an instant. My soon to be 3 year old son (Ryan) missed out on having his birthday party (March 17). My parents and grandmother were not able to come, and sadly my grandmother will not be there when he turns 4. She died of COVID in a Tulare nursing home just before the new year...a few weeks before vaccines arrived. With vaccines rolling out at a rapid pace, and COVID case numbers dropping, I encourage everyone to be patient as we transition back to normal, whatever that looks like. Keep in mind that we all carry our own story concealed behind our masks.

Praise and reminders as we move forward:

1. Thank you for your diligence in filling out the daily health screening form. I know it is one more thing to do on a busy morning or afternoon.
2. Please ensure that you are masked up and socially distanced at arrival and pickup when you are around other people's children or staff. Remember, we don't always know the story concealed behind other's masks. Forgot your mask? It happens. Ask for one and we can give you one.
3. Please ensure that you send your child to school with warm layers of clothing. Current safety protocols mean that we need to keep doors open at all times even when the weather is cold.
4. The process for finding a new Harloe principal has begun. Paul Fawcett and Jennifer Handy met with the teaching staff this week to gather their input. Likely the application, interview and hiring process will take place over the next month to month and a half. Rest assured that I will remain a fixture at Harloe for the rest of the year to help guide the ship and smooth this transition.