



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
EDUCATION ACTIVITY
4040 NORTH FAIRFAX DRIVE
ARLINGTON, VA 22203-1635

APR 30 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL DODEA TEACHERS

SUBJECT: Teacher Appreciation Week (May 6-12, 2007)

“Teaching is not just a job, it is a human service, and it must be thought of as a mission.” Those words, expressed by Dr. Ralph Tyler, a founding member and the first president of the National Academy of Education, are most fitting in describing our nation’s teachers. They are an especially fitting tribute to the teachers in the Department of Defense Education Activity. Teaching is their mission and that mission is one of the most important contributions to the success and sustainment of our nation’s Armed Forces.

From May 6-12, we will join educators across the United States in observing Teacher Appreciation Week. This week offers us an opportunity to reflect on the significance of our teachers, rededicate ourselves to our mission of helping students achieve their highest potential and reach beyond the present to the future and all we hope to accomplish. This celebration also affords me the chance to offer my personal thanks and gratitude to DoDEA educators across the globe, not only for all that you do, but also for all you represent and aspire to achieve.

In military communities worldwide, our schools are the stability and focus for families as they cope with the challenges of deployments, transformation, and re-stationing. Our military partners know the care, concern, commitment, and devoted service our teachers demonstrate every day and the value they bring to the quality of life for military families. We must continue to strive to deliver the quality education and services that are our hallmark and we must also continue to work on the effective and productive partnership we have established with the military.

The future holds many changes and challenges. Our organization will adapt to the future, growing in some places, getting smaller in some places, and forging new relationships with local education agencies to assist them in meeting the needs of military students and their families. Regardless of the missions presented to us, we are charged with taking care of all of our students and their families and making their education and well-being our highest priorities.

Please take the time this week to recognize the value of your contributions to your school, community, our nation, and most importantly to the young lives you impact every day. Know that you have the support, heartfelt appreciation, and respect of our Department of Defense military and civilian leadership, our nation's service-members and their families, our organization's administrative and support staffs, and above all, the children you light the lamp of knowledge for every day.



Joseph D. Tafoya
Director