



Richard M. Machesky, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Troy Union Elementary School

1340 East Square Lake Road
Troy, Michigan 48085

Michael J. Cottone

Principal
Phone: 248.823.3100

Dear Troy Union Family,

To start 2018 #OneWord was trending daily around the world and throughout social media. The concept, "Change your life with just one word." That notion got me thinking, "What one word could honor the history of our amazing community while also moving us forward?" With much reflection, exploration and consideration the word "*culture*" is our Troy Union one word.

Culture is defined by Merriam-Webster as, "The set of shared attitudes, values, goals and practices that characterizes an institution or organization."

The word *culture* is an inspirational reminder of everything we have accomplished and everything we want to become. The word empowers us as we support the oneTroy mission of *ensuring learning for all members of the community*. A strong *culture* has always been an underlying theme within our community. It is embodied in the passion we have for education while inspiring the hearts and minds of our children. Ultimately, our children, parents and staff are **front and center** in creating a positive *culture* where everyone thrives just like the letters **TU** are **front and center** in the spelling of the word.

CULTURE



I believe the word *culture* represents who we are better than any other word in the entire English language. The word elevates our collective purpose while enhancing our school mission which states, "Together we will learn, lead, love and leave a legacy."

Our **CULTURE** is about *learning*.

Our **CULTURE** is about *leading*.

Our **CULTURE** is about doing both with a tremendous amount of *love*.

Our **CULTURE** is our *legacy*!

Author and motivational speaker Jon Gordon has made the proclamation, "*Culture* drives expectations, beliefs, habits and the future." We thrive together when we believe in and take care of each other. ***This year I challenge every member of our community (students, parents and staff) to connect with this one word and take action to make Troy Union an even better place for our children.*** Thank you in advance for everything you have done and will continue to do to enhance our *culture*. It has been and will continue to be an incredible journey!

Respectfully,

Mike Cottone