

# Friday Reflection

Week Two of distance learning proved eventful. Teachers and students settled into more of a routine and a slightly known process. We received updated information on how long-distance learning might be in place, while still left with some important questions. Some reflected on silver linings in our situation, and good news continued to surface on the college front for senior Tillers.

I spent most of my time this week in virtual meetings with admin, secretaries and teachers. Planning, managing and executing are still daily functions that constitute my time. My email account has always had no trouble populating, and currently the email pace has reached another level.

One of the benefits on meeting with teachers is gaining an understanding of their week, and their interaction with students. Last week concerns emerged about the percentage of students participating in distance learning lessons and assignments. While a majority of students checked in and engaged from the beginning, there were still students missing. It seems the word is starting to get out now that we are still in session, just from a distance. While we still don't know the exact parameters on grading, the work and learning going on now definitely counts. The TUSD Board of Education will offer more guidance next week, but distance learning provides an opportunity for students to learn, improve and show growth. Teachers have developed mini lessons, "check in" videos and assignments to support student learning. Additionally, teachers offered office hours to help with the learning process.

While the academic aspect of school continued, all be it in a much different format, extra-curriculars have not. Teachers, students and staff have tried to come up with some solutions, but it is no doubt difficult based on the restrictions. On Monday, TUSD announced the school building was shut down until May 1<sup>st</sup>. Then less than 24 hours later, the governor of California effectively extended school closings until the end of the school year. As I looked at my calendar this week to enter new meetings established, I gained a sense of the scope of activities being cancelled: all athletic seasons, done; International Food Fair, canceled; International assembly, canceled; Prom, canceled; Hello-Goodbye Assembly, canceled. The list went on in my mind as I contemplated some of these traditions dear to our students and staff. I paused from sadness. I think there will be grieving for all of us, mostly our seniors. However, despite the disappointment, there are still opportunities to celebrate our students. There is a TUSD committee formed to creatively address end of the year activities. ASB and school staff are also thinking about how we can make the best of a challenging situation. Two events we are not willing to cancel completely are Senior Reflections and Graduation. I can't speak to exactly how those will work, but there is intent on figuring those two out for sure. Stay tuned.

While losing activities is painful for our students, especially our seniors, I was also reminded of important perspective during this time. Missing our normal schedule is an inconvenience, but there are people right now really suffering. Some have lost jobs, income and even family members. Both a

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teacher and a student lost their mother this past week (no known connection to Covid19), and the prohibition on gathering makes that loss so much more painful to navigate. I know we have students and families who lost jobs during this time and are struggling. We empathize with you and want to be understanding as we try to do learning from a distance. When I think about it all, I feel sad, especially for our Tiller families impacted by this historic pandemic. Hang in there. While our primary function is to educate, we want to be supportive and connected most of all. One thing I have learned about this community, people are willing to help one another. We need that more than ever.

In the midst of the pain experienced this week, there were some silver linings. Multiple teachers and coaches shared how they have had the opportunity to connect with their own families. Coaches especially, sacrifice so much to pour into our student athletes. Many coaches have children of their own who no doubt get less of their mom or dad because their parents are so committed to growing, challenging and nurturing our students. Coaches don't complain about this reality (their spouses might), and they willingly accept their important role in the lives of so many students. However, these past two weeks have offered a gift of time and connection for families. I have even heard of students sharing how they appreciate the time spent with their own family. My hope is that out of all this, we don't forget about these lessons in months and years to come, and create some margin for each other to be connected at home and school.

We did receive some additional great news this week from college seniors. Many students are starting to hear about acceptance in colleges, and also financial packages available. I found out this week that three students offered acceptance with full financial benefits: Hailey Adams from Texas Christian University, Anaka Mahesh from USC and Natalia Murrieta from Stanford University. Additionally, I found out Monica Meza will attend Cal State Long Beach to earn a BFA in ceramics, and Victoria Shores was accepted to Howard University. All of these are exciting opportunities, and just a sampling of all the good news. Mrs. Vandal, the senior AVID teacher, sent me a list of all her students who were accepted into colleges. I am adding it all to the list! Please let me know your good news and I will add it to the list as well.

These college plans are good reminder that this pandemic thing will eventually end. There is still more inconvenience, disappointment and pain to come, but it will pass. Life will go on, and our current freshman, sophomores and juniors will come back next year with a fresh start, probably more appreciative of their Tiller experience. For seniors, they will move on to the next chapter of their life also with an appreciation for their Tiller experience, and hopefully for family and relational connection. While it is a challenging time, it is still a good time to be a Tiller.

Go Tillers!

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## Senior #accepted List:

**Hailey Adams** – accepted Texas Christian University; plans, attend Texas University

**Anaka Mahesh** – accepted, UCLA, USC; plans – Engineering at USC

**Monica Meza** – accepted, Cal State East Bay, Cal State Long Beach, Cal State Fullerton, Northern Arizona University; plans – BFA in Ceramics at Cal State Long Beach

**Natalia Murrietta** – accepted, Stanford, Northwestern University in Chicago, Carnegie Melon University in Pennsylvania; plans – engineering at Stanford.

**Victoria Shores** – accepted, Howard University

**Savannah Thorn** – accepted, UCLA

**Citlali Aguilar** – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Morningside College, Univ of La Verne, UC Merced

**Monica Aguilar** – accepted, Chapman University

**Bryan Alarcon** – accepted, University of Arizona, Northern Arizona Univ., Cal State Long Beach, Cal Poly Pomona

**Yolanda Allen** – accepted, Cal State San Bernardino

**Yoli Allen** – accepted, Cal State Long Beach

**Cesar Alvarez** – accepted, Cal State Dominguez, Vanguard Univ., Cal State Fullerton, Cal State LA,

**Natalie Anaya** – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Fullerton

**Emely Andrade** – accepted, Cal State Channel Islands

**Andy Arellano** – accepted, Grand Canyon Univ., Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Fullerton

**Brian Arriaga** – accepted, Cal State Long Beach, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Fullerton, UC Riverside

**Charene Bailey** – accepted, Univ of New Mexico, Grand Canyon Univ, San Francisco St, Hawaii Pacific Univ

**Hannah Barajas** – accepted, Grand Canyon Univ, Cal State Channel Islands, San Francisco State

**Giselle Barrera** – accepted, Cal State Fullerton, Cal St Los Angeles

**Yalen Bastida** – accepted, Northern Arizona Univ, Cal State San Bernardino, Cal State Bakersfield, St. John's New York, Grand Canyon Univ, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Fullerton, Univ of New Mexico, UC Riverside

**Raj Birla** – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills

**Mariah Bohorquez** – accepted, Cal State Long Beach

**Sydney Busa** – accepted, Humbolt State Univ, Cal State Channel Islands, Cal State Dominguez Hills, San Francisco State Univ, Cal State Northridge, Hawaii Pacific, Univ of Oregon

**Lisbeth Cabrera** – accepted, Concordia Univ, Grand Canyon Univ, Humbolt State Univ, Chico State Univ, Cal State Fullerton, Univ of New Mexico, Azusa Pacific Univ, Hope International Univ.

**Emanuel Calderon** – accepted, Univ California Merced

**Karla Campos** – accepted, Grand Canyon University, San Francisco State Univ

**Cristobal Camboy** – accepted, Humbolt State Univ, St. Mary's Twickenham

**Jennifer Cano** – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Colorado Mesa Univ

**Janet Carrasco** – accepted, Vanguard University

**Cassie Castro** – accepted, Grand Canyon Univ, Cal State Long Beach, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Fullerton

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**Guadalupe Castro** – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Fullerton, Cal Poly Pomona

**Ruth Cinco** – accepted, Vanguard Univ, Concordia Univ, Grand Canyon Univ, Morningside College, Cal State Fullerton

**Alex Cox** – accepted, Grand Canyon Univ, Hope International Univ, Cal State Channel Islands, Humboldt State Univ

**Clarice Diaz** – accepted, Morningside College, Cal State Dominguez Hills

**Charlene Ducusin** – accepted, Grand Canyon Univ, Humboldt State Univ, Cal State Bakersfield, Dominican University, Colorado Mesa Univ, Whittier College, Hope International Univ, Cal State Fullerton, Univ of La Verne, Mills College, Univ of the Pacific

**Leslie Felix** – accepted, Univ of La Verne, Cal State Fullerton, Cal State San Marcos, UC Riverside, UC Santa Cruz

**Jocelyn Flores** – accepted, Grand Canyon Univ, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Fullerton

**Ashley Fraga** – accepted, San Francisco State University

**Brian Gallardo** – accepted, Grand Canyon University, Cal State Fullerton

**Ricardo Garcia Hernandez** – accepted, Grand Canyon University

**Lileny Garcia** – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, UC Merced, Chico State Univ

**Ricky Garcia** – accepted, San Francisco State

**Saul Gomez** – accepted, Cal State Dominguez, Grand Canyon Univ, Cal State Fullerton, Cal State Northridge, Fresno State University

**Bryanna Gutierrez** – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills

**Cynthia Guzman** – accepted, Cal State Fullerton University

**Jeremy Haugh** – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills University

**Destiny Hernandez** – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills University

**Samantha Hernandez** – accepted, Cal State Fullerton, Cal Poly Pomona, Northern Arizona Univ

**Sergio Jimenez** – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills University

**Lizbeth Ledesma** – accepted, Cal State Fullerton, Sacramento State University

**Arely Lira** – accepted, Northern Arizona University, Concordia University, Cal State San Marcos, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Fullerton

**Trisha Macias** – accepted, Cal State Dominguez, Cal State Fullerton, Cal State Monterey Bay, San Francisco State University

**Jenny Martinez** – accepted, Cal State Los Angeles University

**Veronica Martinez** – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Northridge University

**Jennifer Medina** – accepted, Grand Canyon University

**Juliann Melara** – accepted, Humboldt State University, Cal State Dominguez Hills, San Francisco State, Chico State University

**Martin Melarejo** – accepted, Grand Canyon University, Humboldt State, Cal State Dominguez Hills

**Mylene Molina** – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Fullerton University

**Johan Monroy** – accepted, University of La Verne

**Fazia Najibullah** – accepted, Cal State Fullerton, Chico State University

**Carolina Naxi** – accepted, San Francisco State, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Stanislaus

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**Phi Nguyen** – accepted, University of La Verne, Hult Univ, Dominican University, Berry College, Georgia State Univ, Sacramento State, Chico State, Cal State Fullerton, San Francisco State, UC Riverside, Chapman University

**Vincent Nguyen** – accepted, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Fullerton, Univ of Nevada Las Vegas

**Aline Ollua** – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Northern Arizona Univ, Humboldt State, Cal State Channel Islands, Univ of New Mexico

**Vanessa Ortiz** – accepted, University of Portland, Cal State Fullerton, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Long Beach, UC Santa Cruz, Cal State San Luis Obispo

**Hashim Patel** – accepted, Grand Canyon University, Cal State Fullerton University

**Maria Perez** – accepted, Univ of New Mexico, Grand Canyon University, San Francisco State, Chico State

**Lesly Ramirez** – accepted, Cal State Long Beach, Cal Poly Pomona

**Catherine Rios** – accepted, Vanguard Univ, Cal State Fullerton, Cal State Los Angeles

**Julitza Rodriguez** – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Univ of La Verne, Concordia University, Cal State Fullerton

**Andrea Rojas** – accepted, Cal State Los Angeles University, Cal State Long Beach, Cal State Fullerton

**Hannia Rojas** – accepted, Grand Canyon University, Concordia University, Hawaii Pacific University, Cal State Fullerton

**Hils Romellon** – accepted, University of Oregon, Cal Poly Pomona, San Francisco State, UC Irvine

**Alan Ruano** – accepted, Cal State Fullerton, Vanguard University, Chapman University, UC Riverside, Loyola Marymount University

**Sebastian Rubio** – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills University

**Chris Sanchez** – accepted, Humboldt State, Hawaii Pacific University

**Fatima Sanchez** – accepted, San Francisco State University

**Josue Sanchez** – accepted, Univ of New Mexico, Cal State Fullerton, Cal Poly Pomona,

**Manny Segura** – accepted, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Dominguez Hills

**Kameron Sok** – accepted, Cal State Fullerton

**Diana Solis** – accepted, University of La Verne, Morningside College, Whittier College, Cal State Bakersfield, Cal State Long Beach, Cal State Fullerton

**Saul Soto** – accepted, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Fullerton

**Jessica Tacalo** – accepted, Grand Canyon University, Chico State, UC Merced

**Fatima Teodoro** – accepted, Humboldt State, Grand Canyon University

**Ave Thompson** – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills

**Denise Torres** – accepted, Northern Arizona, Univ of New Mexico, Grand Canyon University, Cal State Fullerton, Cal Poly Pomona, San Diego State University

**Irvin Torres** – accepted, Cal Poly Pomona

**Jacob Torres** – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Fullerton

**Joline Tu** – accepted, Grand Canyon University

**Vionda Valencia** – accepted, Humboldt State, Concordia University, UC Riverside, Cal State Fullerton

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**Kelly Vargas** – accepted, Vanguard University, Grand Canyon University

**Melanie Vasquez** – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, University of New Mexico, Cal State Fullerton, Cal Poly Pomona, Grand Canyon University

**Cynthia Vela** – accepted, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Grand Canyon University, Cal State Fullerton

**Genesis Villapando** – accepted, Northern Arizona University, Concordia University

**Olivia Williams** – accepted, University of Hawaii, Manoa, Grand Canyon University, University of Alabama, Texas Tech, University of Houston, Cal State East Bay, UC Santa Cruz, UC Santa Barbara

**Vanessa Zuniga** – accepted, Cal State Fullerton University

**Reese Marcosa** – accepted/recruited, Bethesday University in Anaheim; plans - Business Administration & play baseball

**Dhaval Vora** – accepted, UCLA; plans - Engineering

**Ava McInnes** – accepted/recruited, University of California San Diego; plans - play volleyball

**Taylor Kelly** – accepted/recruited, San Francisco State University; plans to play softball

**Parker Cadacio** – accepted/recruited Emery Riddle University in Arizona; plans to play baseball

**Desaraie Sales** – accepted/recruited, Sacramento State, Concordia University; plans to run XC and track



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