

Friday Reflection

While there were multiple aspects of my week, two important activities dominated my schedule. One was the yearly task of establishing the master schedule, and another was distributing scholarships to eighteen seniors from Tustin High School.

The master schedule is a multi-layered endeavor that requires a great deal of collaboration, problem-solving and thoughtful consideration. After the counselors work with students to enter classes for the coming school year, sections need to be built and teachers assigned. Sometimes there are not enough students signed up for a class so we are not able to run it, and other times we layer classes on top of each other so students can still get credit and experience the course. It is a complex process.

One of the most critical aspects of the whole process is assigning teachers to courses and sections. There are so many considerations, we try to work as collaboratively as possible with teachers to put this massive puzzle together. At the end of the day, we try to build a schedule that works for students. Several meetings this week occurred with department leaders and now the puzzle is starting to take shape. There are still many layers of the process to come, but this was a productive week.

Woven in the fabric of this week were eighteen scholarship award presentations. Typically, our counselors would host a large breakfast on our campus and invite all the scholarship donors together with the scholarship recipients. We would spend the better part of a morning talking about the organizations presenting, the people being remembered by the scholarship and the amazing accomplishments of those receiving the gift. It is always a touching morning of celebration.

Obviously, this year was a very different experience. Amy Bledsoe, one of our amazing counselors, organized visits throughout our attendance area and beyond to individual homes. I was struck again by the diversity of the neighborhoods. It was heartening to see that our highest achieving students were scattered throughout the community. One thing common in each experience was the gratefulness and pride of the families. Students met the donors, learned a little about the award, and then graciously accepted the certificate and/or check. Even though we experienced the restrictions of social distancing, we also experienced the power of human connection. I would encourage you to look us up @tustintillers on Instagram to see the pictures and names of the recipients. We have such a generous community, and it was a great week to be a Tiller.

Go Tillers!

Dr. Jon Tuin

Tustin High School Principal