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MICHELLE KING
Superintendent of Schools

February 17, 2017

Dear Principal Browne and Local District Northeast Leadership,

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you and the Arleta Senior High School community for coordinating an amazing school visit.

The college-going culture that permeates Arleta is exceptionally impressive. It was enlightening to learn about and observe the many inspired choices that nurtured this culture: the four-by-four block schedule, which supports personalized instruction and enables credit recovery to be embedded into the regular school day; the Advisory Program, which pairs students with the same advisor throughout high school; the small learning communities that effectively balance a sense of pride and identity with the flexibility to passport; innovative attendance incentives; and a late start time; among others.

Perhaps most impressive were the graduation portfolio defenses, which embodied in one short presentation so many of the qualities that make Arleta special. These include students' ownership over their learning and that of their peers, opportunities to hone and practice 21st century skills, and a laser-like focus on the Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRs). What a fantastic presentation of your school!

You and your staff are to be commended for cultivating such a positive and rigorous learning environment. It is clear that all decisions made by adults at Arleta are student-centered, data-driven, and fueled by immense school pride. It comes as no surprise that this commitment to students has resulted in exemplary graduation and attendance rates.

I would also like to share my appreciation for your warm hospitality, and in particular, the wonderfully thoughtful and creative plaques that your students and staff created, weaving our last names into the mascots of our alma maters. I was deeply touched and honored by this gesture.

Thank you, again, for your outstanding presentation of graduation portfolios and your college-going culture. I wish your school community continued success.

Sincerely,

Michelle King
Superintendent

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