



February 8, 2022

Dear Gladiator Nation Family,

I am sure most, if not all of you have heard the news of my retirement at the end of this academic year. Please know, this was not an easy or quick decision for me; it's something I have been considering for a few months. The COVID-19 Pandemic was unprecedented for us all, but for me, it was a wakeup call. While I was busy helping navigate our team through uncharted waters, there were times I thought seriously about what it would be like if I had to say goodbye to my family due to COVID. Would I even get a chance to say goodbye? As I watched friends slip away from us very unexpectedly, I realized that while I have enjoyed every second of being your superintendent, I have missed some of my life too - special moments with my children, and helping my parents through their golden years. So, I have decided it's time for me to grasp the chance to spend precious moments with my family because you never know what lies ahead.

I can't say this is easy for me in any way. I was raised right here in Roma, and with the exception of the few years I went away to college, I've known little else than studying at or working for the betterment of The Gladiator Nation. Roma ISD has been my life and livelihood for almost every day of my existence, and leaving you is like leaving part of my soul behind. It will be one of the hardest things I ever have to do – walking out of my office for the last time at the end of June. But, I can leave knowing I have done my very best to serve, lead and love our district with everything I've got. I also want to take the opportunity to thank all the current and previous board members who believed in me and members of the administration who have supported me. You provided the opportunity for me to hold this position, and do my part to showcase the amazing talents of our students and staff across the Valley, state and nation.

Whatever the future holds for all of you, I know it will be a bright one. We, all of us together, have built up a powerhouse for academic excellence. We have had two Blue Ribbon Schools, we have the top two elementary schools in the state, all our schools are receiving academic honors for excellence, we have regional and state qualifiers in most of our high school extracurricular activities, we have students attending Yale and other top institutions – let's face it, our students are shining in every single way, and it's because of the team we have made here, together, as The Gladiator Nation.

I will continue to be your avid, vocal supporter in everything you hope to accomplish. I will be there in the stands wishing you the best, praying for your courage as you face the obstacles of the future, and cheering you on in your many accomplishments to come. I end saying thank you for making these past eight years some of the best and most memorable of my life, and allowing me to serve our community with pride alongside you. God bless you, and long live The Mighty Gladiator Nation!

Your friend,

Carlos Guzman