



WAPPINGERS

Central School District



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JOSÉ CARRIÓN, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dear WCSD Community,

Happy December!

December can be an extremely busy month both professionally and personally. It is amazing to me that one third of our school year is already completed. We still have seven months left to continue working on our District goals supporting our students' success before we close out the school year, but only thirty days until we bring 2016 to a close.

During this month all of our schools will be participating and providing our students and the WCSD community with winter related holiday events. Many of our parents will be helping in our schools, along with our teachers and support staff, providing community service related activities. Our joint goal is to help and support local families who are facing adversities and difficult times during the holidays. Please make sure to log on to our District website, as well as each of our school's web pages to learn about all of the great academic and extracurricular related events happening during the month of December.

I am also very pleased to announce that our first round of i-Ready assessments has been completed along with our first quarter parent-teacher conferences for all our Kindergarten to Grade 6 students. As a reminder, any time is the perfect time to share celebrations, questions, or concerns you may have with your child's teacher and school. We encourage you to be proactive in your child's education.

Recently, I, along with members of District senior staff, held our first of several meetings with the Student Government Council from John Jay and Roy C. Ketcham High Schools to discuss the strategic objectives outlined in our District's [Strategic Plan](#). Our [Strategic Plan](#) is the District's long-range plan that outlines our course to continuing to provide enriching opportunities for all of our students, parents, community, and WCSD staff.

Next month, in January 2017, many of our students will be taking and or retaking certain required Regents exams needed towards graduation. We encourage all families with students taking these exams to support their child in developing a

study plan during the December break to ensure they continue to review and prepare for the Regents exams when we return from break. In the Spring of 2017, more information will be provided regarding the schedule for the New York State Assessments in Grades 3-8. Please note that the WCSD will not be administering the computer version of the State tests in Spring 2017, as it is not yet mandated. We continue to place our focus on providing a robust local curriculum which we monitor through benchmark assessments that are aligned to the standards, thus meeting the needs of all of our students. We live by this goal which is based on our mission statement and core values.

A quick reminder to pay close attention to local news, our [website](#) and other media related communication systems related to school delays and closings. In addition, we strongly recommend that our young high school drivers, who have less experience driving on winter roads and commute independently to and from school, consider riding the bus during inclement weather. We want to ensure their utmost safety.

Once again, as we close out the calendar year, we are pleased that our District continues to work diligently to meet the needs of our students. We strive to ensure that we “..empower all of our students with the competencies and confidence to challenge themselves, to pursue their passions, and to realize their potential while growing as responsible members of their community.”

Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
José Carrión