

January 2015

Dear WCSD Families,

Welcome back to the second half of the 2014 – 15 school year. I hope everyone had a very restful and enjoyable holiday break.

As we continue to move forward, the 2014 – 2015 school year will sustain the work that is being done around Strategic Planning, locally based curriculum mapping aligned to the new learning standards, and our Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports (PBIS) District-wide implementation.

For many people, the start of a new calendar year often comes with creating resolutions. At the school level, it is my personal opinion that the meaning of resolutions is equal to making personal goals that will support and guide our children to continue to be successful. This is a good time of the year to engage in conversation with your child about how they plan on working to meet their goals, participate in extracurricular programs and/or other school events, and make positive changes that would help them to be the best that they can be as we strive as a team to meet our mission and core values.

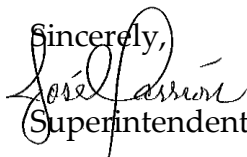
The second half of the school year is always much busier instructionally and managerially. Many of our high school students are scheduled to take New York State Regents exams during the month of January. Our school budget development presentations will be a consistent item on the agenda at our Board of Education meetings. The Capital Improvement Projects are running on schedule and there is a plan for our District offices to move from its present location.

A famous American jazz musician, Lionel Hampton, once stated, “The secret is keeping busy and loving what you do.” If you look at our District and local school websites, you will see that the Wappingers CSD is keeping busy with great opportunities and activities for parents and students. For example, this week our District-wide spelling bee will take place on Tuesday evening, on Thursday our PTA Council will hold their first meeting of 2015, and on Friday, our Roy C. Ketcham and John Jay High School varsity basketball teams will be competing against each other and promises to be a healthy spirited event. Throughout this upcoming month, our schools will be participating in activities and events that celebrate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King. For further details, log on to our websites.

We are off to a great start with meaningful and engaging instruction ensuring that learning continues to take place in our classrooms on a day-to-day basis. The work and dedication of our administrators, building principals, teachers and support staff is greatly appreciated as they work collaboratively to provide our students with high quality education.

Lastly, our school calendar has yet to be interrupted by snow days. There are times when the decision to have a school delay, stay on schedule or close the school can become very challenging. Please make sure to check our website, listen for change in schedule on school messenger and/or call your school in the event you are not able to receive communication related to school closings.

Once again, Happy New Year and lets live by our mission which, "... is to 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."

Sincerely,  
  
Superintendent of Schools