

May 2017

Dear WCSD Community,

The planning process to develop the proposed 2017–2018 School Budget began as early as October 2016. The administration and the Board have worked collaboratively to develop a fiscally responsible budget for all of the taxpayers while, at the same time, not compromising a student-first approach. We are pleased to inform you that the Superintendent’s Recommended Budget was adopted by the Board of Education on April 18, 2017. The budget adopted by the Board will be presented to the voters as Proposition 1 on the ballot on Tuesday, May 16, 2017. We strongly encourage you to visit our website at www.wappingersschools.org for information about the 2017-2018 School District Budget- Proposition #1, the Bus Purchase- Proposition #2, and the candidates for the Board of Education.

May and June mark two of the busiest months of the school year. During this time, students will partake in State and Regents assessments, evening ceremonies and events that encompass, music concerts, induction ceremonies, athletic events, year-end field trips, moving up and graduation ceremonies and much more. One of our greatest events that takes place is Arts in the Park. This event is unique because it showcases the beautiful artwork that our students have created district-wide throughout the year. It is also special because all fifteen of our schools are represented. It is a great time for our community as a whole to enjoy an outdoor concert, view the student artwork, as well as enjoy the company of Board members, administrators, teachers, support staff, students, and their family members.

Over the next two months, while students are still in session, in addition to the construction of the Roy C. Ketcham High School press box, construction has begun on the athletic turf fields at both high schools. Fortunately, we are right on schedule with our capital improvement projects. Also, we will begin our work related to creating accessible schools for all students and community members in compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). This work is long overdue. More importantly, we are ensuring that all of our students will have viable access to all of our facilities.

Warm weather is often associated with summer and the end of the school year. As articulated in one of our core values, “we believe that active and continuous learning is

essential for individuals and communities to flourish.” It is important that you encourage your child to remain on task and continue to work as if we are still in their first month of school. Safety remains a focus. Please note that only seniors who have the appropriate authorization are allowed to drive to and from school and park on school grounds.

Some of you may be aware of the Netflix series, “13 Reasons Why,” which has recently become very popular. Our District will not be utilizing this series in our classrooms as part of formal instruction. Although this recent series contains controversial and delicate subject matter for schools, suicide has had a tremendous impact on youth and their families. By no means are we trying to imply how to parent your child. However, as a District, it is important that if students are watching this series at home, you become aware of it and engage in a conversation that is healthy to help your child while they view this series. The National Association of School Psychologists has put forth a web page and PDF document which also provides guidance for educators and parents. For more detailed information, please refer to the link below:

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/preventing-youth-suicide/13-reasons-why-netflix-series-considerations-for-educators>

Educators and parents serving together as partners can only strengthen and help to empower, challenge, and grow all students.

Please stay tune for the 2017 Budget Newsletter. You should receive a copy in the mail during the week of May 6-13, 2017. Included in the special edition of the EnRoute Newsletter, we have highlighted all of our Valedictorians and Salutatorians, as noted below, as well as all of our fifteen schools and more.

Valedictorians	Salutatorians
John Jay Senior High School	
Karthik Ledalla	Salil Chandra
Roy C. Ketcham High School	
Indira Kulkarni	Raissa Bhanji
Orchard View Alternative High School	
Abby Kate Waldow	Gillian Frances Dougherty

I would like to close with commending all of our high school seniors who are on track to graduate in June 2017. In addition to recognizing the students, I would like to commend all of their parents and family members who have worked throughout the years to see this day come to fruition.

Once again, congratulations to all of our seniors, their families, administrators, teachers, and support staff.

Sincerely,
José L. Carrión