



# WAPPINGERS

Central School District



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JOSÉ CARRIÓN, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

February 2017

Dear WCSD Community,

Welcome to the month of February. During this month we officially enter the second half of the school year. First, I would like to take this opportunity to commend all of our middle and high school students who took their mid-term and/or designated Regents exams, as well as all of our staff responsible to proctor these exams. As I thank everyone for their efforts, it goes without saying that our elementary schools continue to thrive with our dedicated principals, teaching and support staff. This provides our students with the best opportunity to *Empower, Challenge, Grow*.

The 2017-2018 budget process is well underway. The third Superintendent's Forum - *A Budget Conversation* will be held on Monday, February 6, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. in the Roy C. Ketcham High School Library. The forum will be shared via a live stream of the presentation on the district website. Additionally, a recorded video of the presentation will be uploaded to view at your convenience. As we work through the budget process, we remain focused on the Board of Education goals of fiscal responsibility and student achievement. These tenets can be seen in the estimates that we use and the information that we gather from colleagues, the Board of Education, and the community. We encourage participation at Board of Education meetings and feedback from the budget information, as provided on our website (<http://www.wappingersschools.org/domain/2402>), through the use of our designated e-mail ([budget@wcsdny.org](mailto:budget@wcsdny.org)).

All of our building principals take great pride in the tremendous amount of parental involvement and engagement that takes place in each of our schools. At the District-level, parental involvement and engagement differs from what happens locally at the schools. Please note that all of our District-level forums and parental workshops can be viewed on our District website. Therefore, if you are not able to attend a forum, we want to ensure that you are provided with the opportunity to view and learn about what we are doing. As I already indicated above, the next Superintendent's Forum will be in February, and we would be very appreciative if you are able to attend. Our District website and social media

pages share all of the events that are being held. Please don't forget to read School Messenger which provides you with information about upcoming events that are happening at the District and school levels. I would also like to thank the parents who attended our second Superintendent's Forum held in January on *Standards and Assessments*. If you missed this forum, you may access the video [here](#). February is also Black History Month and all of our schools will be participating and engaging in different events.

As a friendly reminder, our first Superintendent's Forum held in the fall of 2016 was on Two Tier Transportation. At that meeting, the administration shared that DRAFT 2017-2018 bus routes would be made available in January 2017 to assist parents in making necessary adjustments and plans pending the new school start times. These drafts were posted in late January 2017 for review by the community. The District shared with the community that these were available via social media, the District website and school messenger. The designated e-mail account for questions related to these routes ([wcsd.transportation@wcsdny.org](mailto:wcsd.transportation@wcsdny.org)) was used by many. Feedback has been provided and gathered for use as the Transportation Department finalizes these routes for 2017-2018. Please remember that final routes for the 2017-2018 school year will be available in August 2017.

Lastly, we have only had to utilize one snow day. There are four additional snow days scheduled into the calendar. We do not know what awaits us for the month of February and March. Please make sure you stay updated with announcements related to school closings, early dismissals, delays and/or cancellations of evening events, school or District-related activities. We want to ensure that our students remain safe during this period of inclement weather.

One of my favorite quotes is, "*Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn,*" Benjamin Franklin. I share this quote with you because it reminds us of our dedicated and committed staff and the work that they do for all of our students. Let's continue to work together and build a teaching and learning community that exemplifies this quote.

Sincerely,  
José Carrión