



Jose L. Carrion, Superintendent of Schools
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December 2018

Dear WCSD Community:

As the calendar year is coming to a close, WCSD is halfway through the second quarter of the school year. We would like to thank all of our elementary school Principals, Assistant Principals, Teachers, and Support Staff for consulting with all of our parents who attended parent teacher conferences. If you were not able to attend the scheduled parent teacher conferences, it does not mean that you have lost a valuable opportunity to learn more about your child's growth in the classroom. Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to address a concern or check on academic progress. Our goal is to ensure that all of our students are successful and to provide our WCSD learning community with any assistance and support that would benefit our students.

During the month of December, the WCSD calendar is filled with many activities and events that are taking place in our schools as well as within our community. You will see on our District website calendar that our schools will be sponsoring winter concerts during the months of December and January. In addition to the winter concerts, our December Board of Education Meeting will feature John Jay High School musicians who put together a small rock band to perform as part of the Superintendent's Spotlight. From our elementary schools to our high schools we take great pride in our students' musical talents. In addition to all of our events, Dutchess County BOCES will hold a Capital Project vote on December 11, 2018. For more information click here: [Dutchess BOCES Capital Project VOTE](#).

Just this past month, we held our very first Superintendent's Budget Forum. Please feel free to view the [presentation](#). Our next Superintendent's Forum will be presented in Spanish and take place on Monday, January 7, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at Wappingers Junior High School, Room 105. In the meantime, as we continue to prepare and develop the proposed WCSD Budget for the 2019-2020 school year, please do not hesitate to share any questions, comments, and/or recommendations through our e-mail at

budget@wcsdny.org. Your input is important to us as we continue to move forward with creating a budget that meets the needs of all of our students.

This is a very busy month for our schools and for our families. For this reason, we purposely did not schedule any parent workshops in December. Our continued efforts to provide parents and members of the community with insight to our educational programs, as well as other important information related to the educational and social welfare of our students, continues to be of utmost importance. We continue to work to build the connection between home and school and to develop relationships that encourage parental involvement and engagement.

One of the few things we do not have control over is the weather. We hope that we can end the 2018 calendar year without any more weather-related delays or cancellations. Throughout the entire county and region most districts have already utilized their first emergency day. For the WCSD this means that we have four days left in the calendar. In the event that we do not have to utilize all four of the remaining emergency days, give back days have already been scheduled into the WCSD calendar.

Winter recess will commence on Monday, December 24, 2018 and students will return to school on Tuesday, January 2, 2019. During this time, please encourage your children to read. For the students who are expecting to take Regents examinations in January, please ensure that they study and remain on top of their academic work. This is the perfect opportunity for parents to contact teachers and ask for suggestions about things that your child can do during the break to remain active academically and socially.

WCSD takes great pride in its Mission and Core Values. For many people, December marks the time to think about change, resolutions, and setting professional and personal goals. As the entire WCSD learning community closes out the calendar year and welcomes in the 2019 new year, let us continue to focus upon our Mission and Core Values:

***MISSION:** The mission of the Wappingers Central School District 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.*

CORE VALUES: WE BELIEVE THAT:

- *active and continuous learning is essential for individuals and communities to flourish.*

- *embracing diversity in all its forms enriches the human experience.*
- *everyone can realize their potential and when they do, both they and the community thrive.*
- *the health and quality of a community are dependent on the responsible contributions of all its members.*
- *the collaboration needed for meaningful change is built on honesty, trust and respect.*

Lastly, on behalf of the WCSD Administration, we wish you all a safe, happy, and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,
José L. Carrión
Superintendent of Schools