



Jose L. Carrion, Superintendent of Schools
 25 Corporate Park Drive · P.O. Box 396 · Hopewell Junction, NY 12533 · (845) 298-5000 x40145 · Fax (845) 896-1693

March 5, 2019

Dear WCSD Families and Community,

March is here and so is daylight saving time. Please remember to move your clocks forward one hour on Sunday, March 10.

On Friday, March 8, 2019, WCSD will have Superintendent’s Conference Day. This will be a full day of professional development for WCSD staff. Students will not be in attendance. Our professional development schedule is always posted on the website so so you can see the great things we continue to learn about in order to provide our students with a meaningful and engaging instructional program.

We are still dealing with some inclement weather and hope that it will end soon. Please see the chart below:

EMERGENCY DAYS	<i>Friday, Nov. 16</i>	<i>Tuesday, Jan. 29</i>	<i>Tuesday, Feb. 12</i>
SCHOOL DELAYS	<i>Tuesday, Jan. 8</i>	<i>Tuesday, Jan. 22</i>	<i>Wednesday, Jan. 30</i>
	<i>Thursday, Jan. 31</i>	<i>Wednesday, Feb. 13</i>	<i>Thursday, Feb. 21</i>
	<i>Friday, March 1</i>	<i>Monday, March 4</i>	
EARLY DISMISSALS	<i>Wednesday, Jan. 30</i>	<i>Wednesday, Feb. 20</i>	

Scheduled into the WCSD calendar are two remaining emergency days. In the event that these days are not needed for emergency closings, the following days are ‘give back’ days:

- Thursday, May 23, 2019
- Tuesday, May 28, 2019

If additional emergency days are needed, the calendar will be adjusted and the following will be used as make-up days, in the order provided below,

- Monday, April 22, 2019
- Monday, April 15, 2019
- Tuesday, April 16, 2019
- Wednesday, April 17, 2019
- Thursday, April 18, 2019

Please feel free to link to our calendar for school closings, holidays, and give back emergency days -- [2018-2019 School Calendar](#).

The first draft of the [Superintendent's Recommended Budget](#) is now posted on our website. This is the first draft that typically is presented to the Board of Education during the month of March. It is important to note that revisions and changes are still occurring as we await our final State Aid in April. Our goal is to ensure a balanced budget without going over the allowable tax cap. Once again, we have been fortunate that Wappingers has never requested to levy more taxes than the cap allows. The proposed first draft of the budget for the 2019–2020 school year maintains all educational opportunities and programs for our students. Please follow our schedule of budget presentations and feel free to join us at the Board of Education meetings to attain more information about the Superintendent's Recommended Budget.

As we approach New York State testing for students in grades 3-8, our goal is to increase the level of student participation. You may have noticed that we continue to offer presentations regarding the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) throughout the District. Assistant Superintendent Daren Lolkema has been providing these presentations and sharing information related to ESSA as it is related to New York State testing as well as graduation rates. If you have not had the opportunity to attend in person, you can click here to view the [ESSA presentation](#).

Spring events for the Fine and Performing Arts, Athletics, and other school-related activities are well on their way. We are very proud of each of our students. While not everyone participates in school-related activities, it is important that as educators and community members we live by one of our Core Values which states, "embracing diversity in all its forms enriches the human experience." On a larger scope, please join me and the rest of our educators to ensure that not one student goes unnoticed and is provided with the attention and support that is needed for success.

As parents, guardians, and community members, “everyone can realize their (student) potential and when they do, both they and the community thrive.” Thank you for being the greatest contributors and caretakers of the students of the WCSD. We appreciate all you do and the support you provide to our schools in order to continue to promote a sound education for all of our students.

Sincerely,
Jose L. Carrion
Superintendent of Schools