



WAPPINGERS | Empower
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT | Challenge
Grow

José Carrión • Superintendent of Schools
25 Corporate Park Drive • P.O. Box 396 • Hopewell Junction, NY 12533 • (845) 298-5000 x40145 • Fax (845) 896-1693

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Dear WCSD Community,

As we enter the month of October, we look forward to working with our WCSD learning community of administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, and, most importantly, our students. There is still a lot of exciting work to be done that focuses around WCSD's Strategic Plan. If you haven't had the opportunity to read the Plan or if you want a refresher of what it includes, please do not hesitate to click [here](#) to view our Strategic Plan. Our Strategic Plan is student-centered and not only focuses on the academic component of the child but also on the social and emotional component. We are committed to continuing to do the work that provides our students with an array of opportunities which helps them grow into healthy and productive citizens.

From the Board of Education to every single student in our classrooms, our Mission Statement and Core Values are the centers of our existence which allows us to do the work we do for our entire learning community. Below you will see the five Core Values that were written and established by the WCSD learning community inclusive of all stakeholders:

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.

In our country, there seems to be a long list of observances that continues to expand each calendar month. For example, October alone has a list of more than ten observances. And, for the record, all of these observances are important. Of particular note, October is National Observance Bullying Month. It is clearer than ever that we must emphasize our Core Values, "1.) We believe embracing diversity in all its forms enriches the human experience and 2.) The collaboration needed for meaningful change is built on honesty, trust, and respect." WCSD is committed to supporting a safe, kind, and respectful learning environment that is conducive to promoting success in every one of our students. More than ever, it is our moral and ethical obligation to be mindful of our Core Values and ensure that our schools are open to ALL students. WCSD will also maintain its commitment to rejecting bullying, biases, and disrespect of any kind as we continue to embrace the support, encouragement, and tolerance needed of one another.

Last year during October, the Superintendent's Message focused on Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which primarily aligns itself with the Core Value, "We believe that the health and quality of a community are dependent on the responsible contributions of all its members." We could not be more proud of the level of compassion and awareness our entire learning community has related to Breast Cancer Awareness. And for this alone, we should all be highly commended. In addition, the District continues to partner with Council on Addiction Prevention and Education (CAPE). Each year in our secondary schools, CAPE takes a proactive approach to fight the war on drugs. They have also been present in our PTA Council meetings. On October 5th, all of our 9th graders in the District will attend the 2nd Annual Youth Health Rally at Dutchess Stadium. This is a county-wide event and, in numbers, we show our power to say, "NO to drugs."

As we approach our third school year providing district parent workshops, this year we will focus on providing a balance of workshops around academic learning, as well as social and emotional learning. We have a responsibility to educate the whole child, and our commitment to do so has not wavered.

The month of September is already gone, so let us enter into October with a continued level of optimism by working collaboratively to promote a community of learners and responsible citizens. As Helen Keller once stated, "Alone we can do little, together we can do much." Let us focus our energy together to "do much" for our students where they can ALL feel respected, valued, and honored.

Superintendent of Schools

Sincerely,
José Carrión

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.