



WAPPINGERS | Empower
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT | Challenge
Grow

José Carrión • Superintendent of Schools

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April 2018

Dear WCSD Families:

Happy April! Usually, by this time in the school year, we do not anticipate any more reports of snowy forecasts, and we begin to enjoy the sunny spring weather. Despite the challenges the weather has provided, we are grateful that WCSD was able to enjoy a full uninterrupted week for spring break. Let's hope that this is the end of snowy weather for this school year.

During the last quarter of the school year, our schools are busy with school-related activities. It is also when Grades 3-8 administer the New York State exams. Please refer to the [Curriculum and Instruction website](#) for more detailed information regarding the exams. We would like to dismiss any rumors that students who refuse the State assessments will be given an alternate assessment. For the record, WCSD has not designed any alternate assessment for students refusing the State exams. The WCSD administration does encourage all students to take the assessments. Please note that this does not interfere with our core belief that parents are ultimately and primarily responsible for their children. For more information about the exams, please do not hesitate to review the following links:

- <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/>
- <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/ei/2018/2018-handout-for-parents-3-8-tests.pdf>

As we continue to develop a balanced school budget and provide informative presentations detailing the process to the Board of Education, it is a relief to know that the NYS budget has been finalized and that decisions which are in the best interests of our students may be made. The Board of Education and administration will continue to collaborate on setting forth a budget which remains aligned to the mission and core values of the District as well as the WCSD Strategic Plan and goals set forth. Once we have a budget approved by the Board of Education, the administration will release the community presentation dates. In the meantime, please log into <https://www.wappingersschools.org/domain/2402> to view the most current presentations, as well as all of the FAQs from the community.

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.

Along with presentations provided to the Board of Education, all of our Board of Education and administrative-led committees have been working diligently for continued success and improvements to our District that in turn benefit all of our students. Of particular note, our Capital Improvement Committee made a recommendation to the Board of Education for a new capital project. This is a very important project that requires work to be done in our schools to improve and repair our infrastructure in many of our local buildings. In the past five years, the WCSD has diligently made significant improvements in many areas. As already mentioned, this proposed bond project is focused on ensuring our “High-Quality Student Performance Requires High-Quality Building Performance.” Please review past presentations provided to the Board of Education related to this very important project.

Lastly, April is Autism Awareness month. From our Nation’s White House to our local schools and families, we stand together to continue to nurture and provide awareness and acceptance of our students. As in our Core Values, We Believe Embracing Diversity in all of its Forms Enriches the Human Experience.

Once again, let’s all remain hopeful that we are done with snow days and continue to be in school consistently as scheduled in our District calendar.

Sincerely,

José L. Carrión
Superintendent of Schools