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February 2018

Dear Wappingers CSD:

Our second semester of school is off to a great start. Many high school students completed Regents exams in January, and our Kindergarten through Grade 8 students are completing their iReady assessments. It is important to remind parents that our curriculum maps are locally created by all of our teachers. We do not subscribe to any formal curriculum program. Our teachers and dedicated staff members work together closely to ensure that your children are provided with a quality education.

Parent University opportunities are thriving with workshop updates published on our web page (click here to review the topics). For those of you who have attended our parent workshops, please help us by sharing with other parents how worthwhile and meaningful they are. This year the following workshops have been offered to our families:

October 11 - Big Ideas Math for parents and children in Grades 7, 8, & 9

October 12 - The Power of Positive Thinking

November 14 - College Planning Workshop

December 4 - Google Classroom: How to Help Your Child Succeed

January 9 - The Dangers of Social Media: How To Keep Your Child Safe

January 24 and 25 - Electives Fairs at Both John Jay and Roy C. Ketcham High Schools

January 30 - New York State Science Learning Standards in WCSD Classrooms

February 1 - What is Naviance?

February 7 - Chris Herren: A Journey From Drug Addiction to Sobriety

If you have recommendations for a specific topic that you would be interested in learning more about, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Curriculum and Instruction (845-298-5000 x40142). We want to thank the families and community members who have attended in the past and look forward to having you join future offerings. Once again, I encourage you to tell your friends and neighbors about upcoming sessions of the Parent University as we look forward to many more workshops in the second semester.

Please stay tuned for our continued Budget Workshops provided to the Board of Education related to the preparation of the recommended <u>budget</u> for the 2018-2019 school year. Although there are several fiscal obstacles to overcome, our first and foremost priority is to ensure that we do our due diligence to

sustain our programs while continuing to enhance and create rich learning opportunities for all of our students. As stated in our mission statement, our goal is to *Empower*, *Challenge*, *and Grow* all WCSD students.

Lastly, a very special thank you to all of our high school educators who participated and provided our WCSD learning community with an understanding of the high school elective courses we have to offer. In addition, seeing members of the WCSD learning community at the event at John Jay Senior High School or Roy C. Ketcham High School was greatly appreciated. Parents and guardians play a pivotal role in the selection of their children's courses. It is important that as students begin to finalize their schedule for the senior year they include a math and science course. Post-secondary education looks for seniors who have completed higher level math and science courses beyond the graduation requirements. These courses help prepare students for the type of rigor they will be exposed to in college.

In relation to inclement weather, we are not in the clear just yet. As soon as a closing or delay decision is made, it is posted immediately on our District website at www.wappingersschools.org, in addition to sending an email, text, push notification to those who have downloaded the District's free mobile app and on social media. Of particular note, notifications via email or text are not sent earlier than 5:00 AM but some notifications may be made after 5:00 AM depending on the weather conditions.

Sincerely,

José Carrión Superintendent of Schools