



José Carrión • Superintendent of Schools  
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October 2018

Dear WCSD Community,

I would like to thank the entire WCSD learning community on the great start to a new school year. The start of the school year brings new adventures and a busy pace for everyone. It is important to remember our goal is to ensure that we support the success of all students during the transition back to school. Never hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher, counselor or school administrator if you need assistance.

As we move into the month of October, our elementary and middle school students are completing their first session of the District's iReady® assessments. These assessments help inform teachers about how their students are progressing and what additional support would be beneficial. You may now log onto [data.nysed.gov](http://data.nysed.gov) and view the results of the 2017-18 New York State Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Math assessments. Please note that each year our Offices of Curriculum and Instruction and Compliance and Information Systems conduct a very detailed presentation to the Board of Education related to local and State scores. If you are unable to attend a Board meeting, please note that all meetings are [streamed live over the internet](#) and [recorded](#) for your convenience.

October is observed as National Breast Cancer Awareness month and Domestic Violence Awareness month. It is with great pride that I share that the Wappingers Central School District Board of Education approved a resolution, along with other school districts in our region, acknowledging Miles of Hope Day on October 19, 2018. You can find more information regarding [Miles of Hope](#) on their website. In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness month, our ninth grade students plan to attend the annual [Council on Addiction Prevention and Education \(CAPE\)](#) Youth Rally. This year, the event will be held on Thursday, October 4, at Dutchess Stadium. The focus will be on health and wellness. Information and activities will be specifically geared toward adolescents. In addition, our District offers parent workshops and presentations on drug prevention and recovery. Supporting these efforts is a fine example of how the work and compassion of our students, staff, and faculty demonstrate our District's Core Value, *"We believe that the health and quality of a community are dependent on the responsible contributions of all its members."*

*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.*

Each year, our dedicated and committed Board of Education sets goals/values for our District. The administration then aligns itself to the goals/values of the Board of Education in order to ensure that there is complete correlation and that the goals/values are articulated clearly for all. [You can view this year's values by clicking on this link.](#) Our 2018–2019 *Navigating Our Way* (NOW) document is going through final revisions and will highlight the specific goals of each department, aligned to the Board of Education's values and Strategic Plan objectives.

This evening, the Board of Education will review and, if all goes according to plan, approve the Budget Calendar for the school year. As part of the Budget Calendar, we schedule Superintendent's Forums to ensure that we hear from you and get input from our community on the proposed school district budget. This is our third year including a Superintendent's Budget Forum as a way to hear from the local community and we encourage you to attend. As you can see, preparing for the 2019–2020 WCSD budget is a collaborative undertaking that begins at the start of the previous school year.

Three years ago, the Board of Education and administration sharpened our focus to place an emphasis on building and strengthening communications with all stakeholders. Based on our Strategic Plan's end results in the area of communication, along with the work of the Community Communications Committee (CCC), we continue to share information with our families, students, community stakeholders, and WCSD staff by using a variety of methods of communication. The communication stems from Board of Education Meeting Workshops, the Superintendent's Monthly Message, social media postings (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram), the weekly REWIND, Curriculum Updates, as well as our local schools sending out messages relevant to their specific events and activities. If you are having difficulty navigating or finding information on the website, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Public Relations at 845-298-5000 ext. 40177 for assistance.

One of our WCSD Core Values states, *"We believe that active and continuous learning is essential for individuals and communities to flourish."* From school to home and home to school, please do not hesitate to create and/or develop meaningful relationships that will allow us to work together in order to ensure that all of our students flourish from the start of the school year academically, socially, and emotionally.

Sincerely,  
José L. Carrión  
Superintendent of Schools