

WAPPINGERS

Central School District



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JOSE CARRION, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



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As we begin 2016, I am delighted to share with you how fortunate we are to have avoided any school delays or closings for students due to inclement weather. As you know, Hudson Valley weather brings no guarantees for what the next few months will hold regarding school cancellations and delays. Therefore, I encourage you to review the letter I shared with you [November 2015](#) related to our school delays and cancellations or click on the [Delays & Cancellations icon](#) on the web page.

With the gift of good weather, our outstanding, dedicated staff has done an incredible job maximizing the instructional momentum in their classrooms. Teachers continue to track students' progress in reaching goals they established at the beginning of the year. One method of measuring student achievement is through summative assessments, a measurement 'of learning.' With Friday, January 29, marking the end of the second marking period for our students we pause to encourage you to assist your child in preparing for upcoming exams. Students at both our high school and middle school levels will end their first semester for half-year courses. These students are scheduled to take mid-term exams and New York State Regents exams from Tuesday, January 26 through Friday, January 29, 2016. Your support of your child studying for these exams as well as reminding them to get plenty of rest and eat a healthy breakfast is important. These exams are an essential part of the equation to ensure your child successfully graduates and is prepared for the world before them.

As we continue to build a community of dynamic learners based on our Mission Statement and Core Values, we are excited to inform you that with the input from the Public Relations Committee and the collaboration of students from both our high schools feedback was collected, suggestions provided and as a result our new District website was launched over the holiday break. The new website is designed to provide students, parents, staff and community members' access to frequently requested information and provide timely communication. The Office of Compliance and Information Systems oversaw this endeavor. What a remarkable achievement, and more so knowing our students had the opportunity

to be involved in a real-world experience applying skills they learned in class and may be used beyond high school. Together, we continue to strive to showcase our District in a manner that best serves our entire community.

As we reflect on the first half of the school year, I am pleased to highlight the presentations the District administration, along with the Board of Education, have provided during our monthly Board of Education workshop meetings:

- Code of Conduct
- K-6 Report Card Revision
- Capital Improvement Accomplishments for the Past Five Years
- 2015-2016 School Tax Rates
- Board Goals/Strategic Plan
- Education Law 3012-d Annual Professional Performance Review
- Review of 2013-2014 NYS School Report Card Data and Level 1 Data for 2014-2015
- Budget Calendar and Process
- Drug Awareness
- Wellness Plan
- Two Tier Bus Transportation
- Smart Schools Bond Act
- Building Conditions Survey

Our workshop meetings are extremely important because they highlight the work being done District-wide, as well as providing direction and knowledge to the Board of Education ensuring that we accomplish our goals, meet initiatives and mandates from the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and, more importantly, remain true to our Mission Statement and Core Values. We recognize that individual schedules may make it difficult to attend a workshop in person. To provide everyone the opportunity to stay connected with the District, all of the workshops are available on our website by clicking on the Video icon or on the [Video Icon Link](#).

One does not need to work in education to recognize we are living during a major transitional time in education. Since 2002, the Federal Government enacted the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), and on December 10, 2015, a new law was passed - Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), signed by President Obama. For more detailed information, please click on the link for [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#).

At the New York State level, we continue to encounter changes and work being done to Education Law 3012d. At a recent emergency meeting this past December, New York State Education Commissioner Elia indicated that adjustments are being made to the Annual Professional Performance Review

(APPR) for teachers and principals. Please click on the link for [NYSED Commission Elia APPR Information](#) to read more detailed information.

In spite of the many changes we are facing today in education, our Strategic Planning Core Team recently reaffirmed our goal that the WCSD will continue to educate and serve our children and community through our Mission Statement and Core Values. To review these, please click on the link for [Wappingers CSD Strategic Planning](#).

Monday, January 18, 2016, is a National Day of Service, and commemorates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. While our schools will be closed, we invite you to speak to your child about the discussions they have had in class in honor of Dr. King. This work exemplifies how we strive to give back to our community and highlights one of our core values, "We believe embracing diversity in all its forms enriches the human experience." As we move forward in the 2016 school year, let us continue our partnership together to provide our students with memorable, meaningful, engaging and rewarding learning experiences.

Sincerely,
José L. Carrión
Superintendent of Schools