



# WAPPINGERS

Central School District



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JOSE CARRION, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

March 2016

Dear WCSD Community,

As we approach the spring season, our WCSD community continues to stay focused on our commitment to support our District initiatives and to cultivate a community of learners through our students, parents, and staff. We are proud of the opportunities we have developed for both our WCSD staff and parents through professional development for teachers and our spring parent workshop. On March 11, 2016, our students will not be in attendance, to allow our WCSD staff time to engage in our second annual assimilated EdCamp Professional Development for Superintendent's Conference Day. This Superintendent's Conference Day is designed to provide robust discussion connected to our Strategic Plan. Our plan articulates the following:

*We will align the talents and resourcefulness of our current and future employees to support our strategic objectives.*

- *A process is in place that values employees' talents and resourcefulness in order to support achieving the strategic objectives.*
- *And, the administrative team, can truly attest to the talent that we have in our central office and building level administrators, teachers and support staff!*

We are also collaborating to provide parents with the second Parental Workshop scheduled on Saturday, April 2, 2016. For the parents who attended the first WCSD parental workshop on Saturday, December 5, 2015, it was extremely apparent, as evidenced by their feedback, that the time spent was worthwhile. Using the feedback collected from both those who were able to attend and those who wanted to offer insights into future workshop offerings we are planning to continue to enhance our learning together and bridge the gap between the home and school. As partners, it is important that we work together and learn from each other.

In addition, our schools are doing their best to prepare for the New York State Grades 3-8 Assessments scheduled in April and May 2016. Close to a year ago, I

sent the community a letter indicating the process for the aforementioned assessments. Please click on the link to reference the letter that was sent in [April 2015](#). Please note that I will send a similar letter indicating the more or less the same process very soon. The letter has been drafted and, as already mentioned, provides much of the same content from last year's letter. At this time, the District has not received detailed information from the New York State Education Department regarding the specifics of the administration of the revised State assessments. The administrative team is continuously monitoring updates from the State and will share that information with you, as soon as it becomes available.

This school year our spring break occurs earlier than usual. There are school districts in New York State that have extended weekends for the weekends of March 25-29 and April 22-25. This is not the case in Dutchess County. In the event that we do not utilize any more snow days, April 22 is scheduled for a 'give back snow day' for students and designated staff.

We have received emails from parents and members of our community providing input towards the Superintendent's Recommended Budget for the 2016-2017 school year. As we continue to work on creating a budget that remains student-centered, aligned to our Strategic Plan and Core Values, we have taken many of the recommendations for inclusion in this year's Superintendent recommended a budget to the Board of Education. Our goal has been and will continue to be to seek opportunities to provide rich learning experiences and programs for our students in the Wappingers Central School District.

We believe the 2016-17 budget aligns with our core values. Of particular note, with the 2016-17 proposed budget, we will continue to provide "active and continuous learning" for our students allowing our community to flourish," as stated in one of our District's core values.

Please be sure to visit the local school websites to see all of the events and happenings that are occurring during the month of March.

Sincerely,  
José L. Carrión  
Superintendent of Schools