

March 2018

Dear WCSD Families and Community:

As March begins, we remain focused on our District's mission to empower, challenge and help our students grow. The events of the past week have been unimaginable from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School to districts within our own county. As always, we reiterate the importance of open communication between home and school. We will continue to provide our students access to support staff to help them talk about their feelings. Never hesitate to let your child's educator(s) know if there is a concern. It is also very important that the entire WCSD learning community join together to support our students through these difficult and often confusing times. We have to support one another to ensure that student confidentiality is not compromised. This applies to all of our students. As educators, our primary role is to ensure the safety of every student.

As mandated by New York State, all of our schools have a safety plan. Beyond having a plan, each school practices the components of the plan including drills such as lockdown drills, with local law enforcement present, allowing for ongoing review and improvements. The general safety plans are posted on our website and updated annually. Please understand, in order to maintain the integrity of these safety plans, specific information is not provided to the public, but is reviewed regularly with our staff and practiced with your children.

Although it may be difficult to conceptualize, the WCSD learning communities comprise of the Town of Wappingers, the Village of Wappingers Falls, the Town of Fishkill, the Town of East Fishkill encompassing the hamlets of Hopewell Junction, the Town of LaGrange, the Town of Poughkeepsie and in Putnam County the Town of Kent and the Town of Philipstown. With that said, we recognize the peace of mind it brings to families to see law enforcement officers protecting our students and staff. We have great, productive, collaborative and very positive relationships with our local agencies listed below to provide an additional presence on school grounds.

Local Law Enforcement Agencies

Dutchess County Sheriff's Office
East Fishkill Town Police Department
Fishkill Town Police Department
Fishkill Village Police Department
New York State Police- Troop K
Poughkeepsie Town Police Department
Wappingers Falls Village Police Department

Again, their purpose is to provide reassurance to our families that our schools are safe.

March is a wonderful month to showcase our students' talents. At the recent Board of Education meeting, we formally recognized March as Music in Our Schools Month. In addition, we are celebrating Youth Art Month (YAM). There will be different events recognizing our students' talent throughout the month. Look for updates on our social media pages and in the weekly Rewind, which highlights the various school events from the previous week.

We are thrilled to share the upcoming theatre productions at Van Wyck JHS with *Bye, Bye Birdie*, Wappingers JHS with *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and Roy C. Ketcham's Masque and Mime Society with *Cinderella*. (John Jay's Proscenium production of *The Addams Family* will take place in April.) Dates are available on all of the school's web pages by clicking on the [Building Events calendar](#) in the red icon bar.

March 9th is the next Superintendent's Conference Day. We are very excited to learn from each other. We have the best staff and learning together is what continues to help us grow as a learning community. This day is specifically customized by the teachers organically to allow for maximum engagement and depth of professional learning.

Finally, our annual budget vote is only a few months away. To stay informed on the components of this year's budget, be sure to visit our website under [Board of Education 2018-2019 Budget](#) or attend a Board of Education meeting. These meetings are also televised and available on our [website](#) for viewing at your convenience. The first presentation of the Superintendent's Recommended Budget will take place on March 12. As always, if you have questions regarding the budget, please use our public comment email address at wcsd.comments@wcsdny.org. Questions and answers are posted on our website for our community to review.

And, let's remember that we want your child in school every day!

Sincerely,

José Carrión

Superintendent of Schools