



José Carrión • Superintendent of Schools
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Dear WCSD Family,

Over the past few days our administrators, teachers, and support staff have been engaged in professional development for Superintendent's Conference Days. Tomorrow marks the beginning of the 2017–2018 school year for our Wappingers Central School District (WCSD) students. Each year, I like to congratulate the class of 2018 as they are beginning their final year in public school. I extend a warm welcome to our Kindergarten students, the future Class of 2030! For all students new to our District and all returning students, we welcome you to the start of a new school year and wish you great success, fun, and lots of meaningful learning.

It is important to highlight our teachers who participated in an array of curriculum writing and professional development. Also, many of our administrators participated in professional learning and have already begun to “turnkey” (share) the information with their colleagues. The 2017-2018 budget that was approved by you, the voters, included specific funding to promote and enhance our elementary Science Curriculum. The teachers who participated in this great endeavor are to be highly commended for their efforts, and more importantly, for a high-quality product for all of our Kindergarten - Grade 6 teachers. This information will be utilized during their teaching of Science, as well as integrated as part of the English Language Arts (ELA) instructional program. In addition to our work in Science, our secondary teachers also participated in curriculum mapping. With that said, WCSD continues to ensure that our curriculum remains current and is aligned to the State Education Department (SED) standards. Most important is that our curriculum is locally-created to best meet the needs of all WCSD students.

WCSD continues to take on many great projects that ultimately benefit our students and the entire learning community as a whole. Some of these exciting projects include a new press box and athletic field for Roy C. Ketcham High School, as well as a new athletic field and beautifully remodeled cafeteria for John Jay Senior High School. We are also extremely satisfied with the paving that was completed in several of the parking lots, as well as new windows at Wappingers Junior High School. The list of improvements is longer than those mentioned above, but I am thrilled to highlight these with you as we continue to see the community and our students flourish with these positive changes.

As part of past *Superintendent's Messages* and Board of Education presentations, the Board of Education approved a two-tier transportation system and change of school start times beginning in the 2017–2018 school year. (Click [here](#) to view.) Our junior (middle) and high school students are scheduled to arrive and leave school on the first-tier schedule. All elementary students, along with all parochial students, are scheduled for the second tier schedule arriving and leaving together on the bus from their home community elementary school. Student safety and transportation are always our first and foremost priorities during the first weeks of school. With this new schedule and the

combined bus runs for our WCSD public and parochial schools, we will be assessing the process closely. Should you have any questions or concerns about the new system, please do not hesitate to contact your school directly or the Office of Transportation.

The Superintendent's Message is a monthly letter that is sent out to the WCSD learning community and available on the Superintendent's website (Click [here](#)). You also receive letters, notifications, and invitations from your child's school building principal and teachers. A new system was purchased to continue to maximize communication. As part of our annual budget, we included funds for a new communication system and app. We are proud that the new system was installed successfully and has already been utilized. We are using Blackboard Connect to send all of our families the welcome letter in addition to placing it on the Superintendent's website.

Welcome back to the start of a new school year. And, since we run on a school calendar, the entire administrative team wishes all of our WCSD families a "Happy New Year."

Sincerely,
José Carrión

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.