

Dear Caregivers & Parents,

May is upon us, and all but for a few days in June, this is the last month of the school year. May is also by far the busiest month of the school year with so many culminating end-of-year activities. Student learning will continue to be our highest priority. Later in this article I will share some positive news regarding student achievement.

As a reminder, the District at the board of education work session on Monday, May 9, will receive a summary presentation from School Perceptions, who assisted the District with the recent long-term planning survey. Their presentation will be the first item of new business for the aforementioned meeting. The survey results will assist the District with further refining future plans. For those of you that took the time to offer feedback via the survey, thank you for your efforts so that the District can continue to move forward in its pursuit of meeting the needs of our students. The survey feedback will likely lead to a fall 2022 operating referendum. As I detailed in my February newsletter article, the primary reason for this need is the state biennium budget sees no new revenues being provided to school districts. Overall, the District has been historically fiscally responsible. As an example, per pupil district spending was \$767 less per pupil than the state average during the 2020-21 school year.

Earlier, I shared that recently the District received some positive news regarding student achievement. Specifically, the members of the Class of 2023 took the state mandated ACT exam, and their result showed improvements in two areas. First, their achievement levels outpaced the Class of 2022, and their efforts demonstrated improvement from when they took the Pre-ACT exam. While there are certainly areas to continue to improve upon, this good news is an opportunity to celebrate the daily efforts of our students and staff. Additionally, the members of the Class of 2023 can further use this data to determine what they wish to pursue for future career and post-secondary plans. Congratulations to the efforts and results of the members of this year's junior class.

As a reminder, commencement for the Class of 2022 will take place on Friday, May 27, 2022, and the ceremony will begin at 5:30 p.m. The ceremony is scheduled to take place at the WDHS outdoor athletic facility, and in the event of inclement weather will be held in the WDHS gymnasium. As always, Mr. Gaston will keep us informed of any changes in programming. The members of the Class of 2022 have endured many challenges and transitions during their four-year career at WDHS. They are to be commended for not only their achievements and success but their ability to adapt and persevere through these challenging times. Best wishes to each and every graduate of the Class of 2022!

In closing, please allow me to close out this newsletter by saying thank you for the opportunity to serve the children of our community, for they are our highest priority, and it is our privilege to do so!

Respectfully submitted,

Terrance R. Slack

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