

Dear Caregivers & Parents,

The 2021-22 school year has come to an end, and this newsletter is the final newsletter for the current school year. We will resume our newsletter schedule in mid-July to communicate upcoming back-to-school items for the 2022-23 school year. However, in reflection, one of the highlights of the school year was commencement for the Class of 2022. If you were one of the estimated two thousand people in attendance, you know the weather was nearly perfect and the student speakers spoke with confidence, enthusiasm, optimism about the future and pride. Additionally, students and spectators were treated to one final lesson from Mr. Braun, who delivered the faculty address. His message focused on all of us coming together and finding solutions for challenges and problems facing us today as lyrically illustrated in the 1976 Steve Miller hit single, *Fly Like an Eagle*. As I stated to our staff members at the District end-of-year employee recognition program, it was an awesome ceremony and demonstrated the efforts of many to ensure the success of the Class of 2022. Please allow me, one final time, to say thank you and best wishes to the members of this class!

Even with summer vacation taking place, there are a variety of summer activities taking place with our elementary, middle and high school-aged students. If you're a parent, you likely know this. Whether it's band lessons, academic credit recovery, or summer enrichment courses, the District will continue to serve several hundred students through the summer months.

Behind the scenes, our building principals will soon receive state assessment scores, and we will look to celebrate gains made as well as make adjustments for areas we can get better. We will also take a deeper dive into how to increase student engagement, as we know when we increase student engagement it tends to lead to increased student outcomes; thus, one primary reason why continued efforts to emphasize increasing the amount of project-based learning at WDHS. Specifically, our Career and Technical Education Departments of Ag, Art, Business, Family and Consumer Education, and Technology Education continue to embrace and further enhance project-based learning activities throughout the entire school year.

As an example, please allow me to share a photo of our Automotive II students who recently took a field trip to Spring Green, Wisconsin to tour the world-famous Ringbrothers custom car manufacturers and restorers. Pictured are 7 of the 11 students in this class along with Mike Voigt of Mobile Dent Repair of Wisconsin Dells, who aided the District in gaining access to this field trip along with owner, Jim Ring. The students were treated to a facility-wide tour by both owners (Jim and Mike) and even got a sneak preview of a private client's vehicle valued at \$1.3 million. If you're a follower of hot rod magazines, I suspect the aforementioned vehicle (not pictured) will be featured in a future edition of some car enthusiast magazine in the near future. Behind the students is a customized 1970 Dodge Challenger. Students were able to see all facets of the production of these customized vehicles. Special thanks to everyone at Ringbrothers for their red-carpet hospitality with our WDHS students.



Following the aforementioned successful commencement ceremony, district staff came together to close out a successful school year. We did this in recognizing a variety of employee milestones ranging from completing one year of service to those retiring at the end of this current school year. It was certainly a good way to recognize the efforts of all employees for the current school year as well as those closing out their careers with the School District of Wisconsin Dells. Listed below is a summary of employees who have achieved various service milestone as well as those retiring. We are so appreciative of everyone's efforts!

Recognition of Length-of-Service Milestones:

10 Years: Ilona Baradziej, Ricky Carson, Brent Eggen, Heather McLaughlin. 20 Years: Jodi Nelson. 25 Years: Joan Giebel, Brenda Ketelhut, Michael Michalsky, Michelle Farrar, Janel Witt, Deana Moon, Lee Murray. 30 Years: Scott Baker. 35 Years: Chris Isaacson. 40 Years: Patricia Hoel.

Recognition of Retirements:

Kay Bernander-21 years, Todd Braun-33 years, Carol Cauley-33 years, Dale Glaudell-22 years, Greg Heller-16 years, Brenda Hinze-24 years, Chris Isaacson-35 years, David Jisa-31 years, Troy Nelson-22 years, Bill Roeker-16 years, Nancy Stanford-15 years, Terence Sullivan-8 years, Tammie Warzecha-31 years.

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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