

September 2022

Dear Parents & Caregivers,

Welcome back to the start of the 2022-23 school year! It is always a wonderful sight to see students return for another successful school year, and we expect this year to only build upon the success of the previous school year! As I mentioned in last month's summer newsletter, one area that the District will be focusing on is increased student engagement. For many families this is a non-issue, and for others the past couple years this has been a challenge. Specifically, last year the District saw 20% of our students miss more than 20% of the school year. As such, our goal is to increase student engagement with these students and aim for the goal of meeting the state average of daily average attendance, which happens to be 93%. The building principals have already begun to reach out to these students as well as disseminate information materials about attendance expectations. Parents and caregivers, please be an active, positive force in ensuring your children can increase their average daily attendance and in turn be more successful with their classroom experiences. Thank you!

Later in this month's edition of the monthly newsletter, you will see articles from the principals, and they will outline the following topics: Mrs. Ennis is covering the topic of the ongoing i-Ready assessments students take several times a school year to monitor their academic growth and progress in math and reading. At the middle school, WDMS principal, Casey Whitehurst, is highlighting future school safety drills, and please know throughout the school year the District will be conducting these at all school buildings. Lastly, WDHS principal, Allison Hoch, is providing some more details for students getting off to a good start to the new school year.

One thing that is always noticeable at all of our buildings is the condition of each school. Our custodians and maintenance staff have worked diligently this summer to ensure our schools are ready for the school year by being clean, healthy and safe! Throughout the summer months, our athletic facilities get rented out to host a variety of basketball tournaments. On numerous occasions we have received correspondence on the cleanliness of our school buildings. While this reflects positively on our school district, the real credit goes out to our entire custodial and maintenance staff members led by Director of Buildings & Grounds, Scott Walsh. Thus, it is only appropriate to thank all of our custodians and maintenance staff members who have successfully readied our schools for the return of students and staff. ***Thank you for a job well done!***

In the weeks to come, the District will begin to share out communication regarding a November 2022 operating referendum. In short, the District is pursuing a four-year \$1.2 million operating referendum that will see no anticipated property tax increase if approved. Please stay tuned for this forthcoming communication as well as the development of a frequently asked question (FAQ) document.

Finally, as I typically do, please allow me close out this newsletter article by saying thank you for the opportunity to serve our communities' children for they are both our highest priority and it is a privilege to do so.

Let's all actively pursue having a great school year!

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