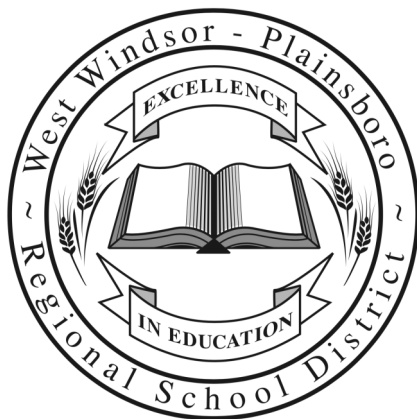


West Windsor-
Plainsboro
Regional School
District

Fall 2019
Volume 1, Issue 1



WW-P District News

A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The winter season brings with it great joy in our schools. As the end of the first academic quarter is upon us and our high school seniors near the completion of their college application process, we have much to celebrate as a school community.

The beginning of the school year brought many moments of pride as we celebrated the 100 year anniversary of Wicoff Elementary, held a multitude of book fairs, parent presentations, guidance programs, college fairs, movie nights, hosted the NJ GSA Forum, presented *Clue* and *Moon Over Buffalo*, and celebrated our athletes' successes throughout the fall sports season.

The beginning of the year has also been a testament to the many exciting accomplishments of our students and staff. Recently, students from HSN offered testimony to the NJ Department of Health advocating for the ban on the sale of flavored tobacco. We recognized the amazing efforts on sustainable practices as eight of our 10 schools achieved Bronze or Silver recognition by Sustainable Jersey, and we congratulated the teachers and students at High School North (#125) and High School South (#88) that were both recognized in the top 500 Best STEM High Schools nationally.

As we enter the holiday season, our students and staff have been engaged in altruistic activities such as food drives for HomeFront and the Plainsboro Food Pantry, coat drives, and supporting organizations such as Toys for Tots. It is wonderful to see the involvement as our schools give back to our communities.

We thank our PTAs and PTSAs for all of their support and encourage families to join these organizations that do great work for our students, staff and schools.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate and thank the members of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Education Association as they celebrate 50 years of service to our school community!

I am proud to serve our school community. I wish all our families a wonderful Thanksgiving and joyous holiday season.

Sincerely,
Dave Aderhold, Ed.D.

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SCHOOL SECURITY

By James Earle, Asst. Superintendent, Pupil Services/Planning

The West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District began upgrading security features during the 2018-2019 school year. Each building received classroom telephones, high definition cameras, strobes and message boards which were installed on the inside and outside of each building.

The district continues to provide “Eyes on the Door” officers who greet our parents and school community members while monitoring visitors as they enter and exit our buildings.

Class III Officers have been added to all ten schools during the dayshift and the district is working closely with both the Plainsboro and West Windsor Police Departments to add officers for the evening shift for both high schools as well.

REFERENDUM UPDATES

By Chris Russo, Ed.D, Asst. Superintendent, Finance

The first projects of the referendum have been completed. The fire alarm systems at Maurice Hawk and Town Center Elementary Schools were installed this past summer. Emergency generator projects at Community and Grover Middle Schools are well under way with wiring installed and concrete pads poured. Generators at Millstone River and Village Schools have been installed and are up and running. High School South’s emergency generator project will be done in coordination with the new construction project.

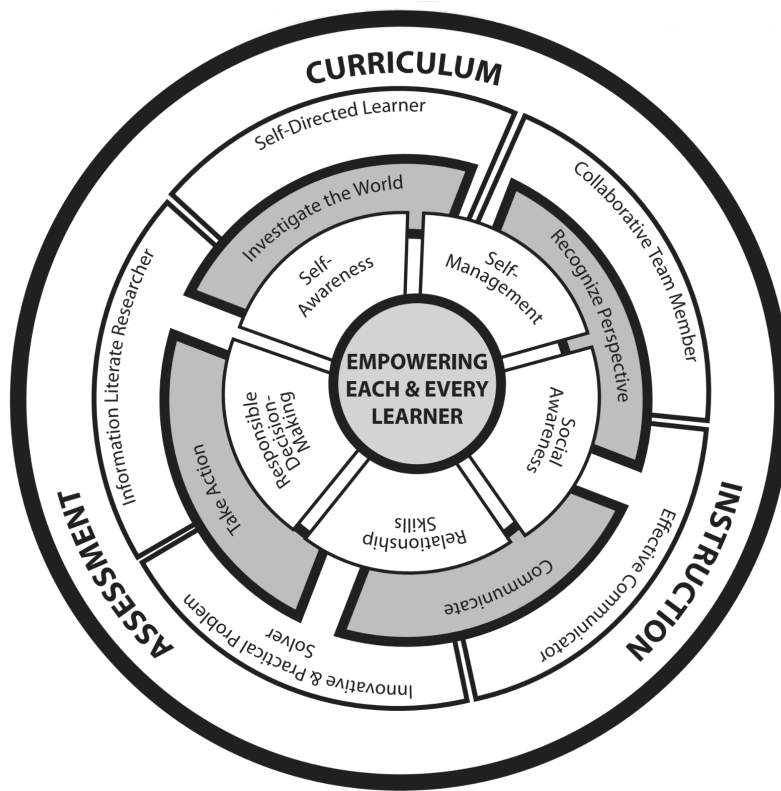
Bids for the expansion of the Grover Middle School classroom renovations were received and subsequently awarded at the Nov. 19 Board of Education meeting. The expansion includes additional science and general education classrooms and additional resource rooms.

High School North and Millstone River School’s heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) improvement design work has been completed and sent to the Office of the State Controller (OSC) for their review and approval. (Any anticipated public expenditure in the amount of \$10 million and above requires the OSC to review and approve the bid package before advertising.)

The design work for Community Middle School’s expansion is completed and has also been sent to the OSC for their review. The project includes a new gymnasium, new girls locker room, expanded cafeteria, night entrance, renovated music rooms, new science classrooms, renovated media center, new security vestibule, renovated nurses office, renovated front office, renovated robotics lab, renovated art room, additional regular education classrooms, new child study team offices, new generator and a fire alarm upgrade. There will be significant site work as well, including an expanded parking lot, refurbished athletic fields, along with an expanded driveway allowing for cars to “cue” on school property instead of on Grover’s Mills Road.

Security vestibule design work continues with an expected completion during the summer of 2020. Millstone River, Village, Dutch Neck, Town Center, Grover Middle School and High School North are the buildings currently slated for this work. High School South, Community Middle School and Wicoff will receive new vestibules when their expansion work is undertaken during the 2021 school year.

Click [here](#) to view recent presentations on the district’s referendum work.



Unifying Framework—Strategic Plan

CURRICULUM CORNER

By Pamela Nathan, Ed.D, Asst. Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

“Whole Child, Every Child, Global Child” is the simplified way to express how West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District empowers each and every learner and how the Curriculum Team targets teaching and learning.

The Strategic Plan’s unifying framework (as seen above) details the skills and competencies necessary for students to be successful now and into their future. Twenty first century skill sets including: self-directed learner, collaborative team member, effective communicator, innovative & practical problem solver, and information literate researcher define the modern graduate. Embedded inside these essential skills are the dispositions globally competent students embody. The ability to investigate the world, recognize perspectives, communicate, and take action allows our students to harness opportunities, follow their passions, and make a difference. Finally, the inner ring details social and emotional learning’s (SEL) core competencies. Self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making comprise the framework. “SEL intentionally cultivates a caring, participatory, and equitable learning environment” (<https://casel.org/what-is-sel/>) and therefore is an essential component in our strategic plan and curriculum development.

The purpose of curriculum is to provide our students with an outstanding instructional program that results in high student achievement and agency. The unifying framework guides our work and empowers our students to be healthy, happy, lifelong learners.

“Whole Child, Every Child, Global Child.”

UPCOMING GUIDANCE PROGRAMING

By Lee McDonald, Ed.D., Director of Counseling, Health and Wellness

Junior College Planning Night: Mark your calendar for Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020, 7 p.m. at High School North and Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020, 7 p.m. at High School South. Counselors will provide an overview and answer questions about the college search and application process.

Parent University: Please join us for a special presentation on video gaming. For most players, playing video games is a fun activity, a way to relax, connect with friends, and enjoy a challenge. Unfortunately, for some players, a video game hobby can escalate into an addictive disorder which takes over their lives. *Is Video Gaming Addiction Real?* will be held Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020, 7 p.m. at High School North and will examine the impact of video gaming on children and adolescents.

8th Grade Parents: Before you know it, your child will be transitioning to high school. To get a better understanding of this process, high school administrators and content supervisors will be hosting a Program of Studies Orientation for 8th grade parents as follows:

- Grover MS Parents: HS South Auditorium - Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020, 7 p.m.
- Community MS Parents: HS North Auditorium - Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020, 7 p.m.

Curriculum details, scheduling procedures and the importance of making sound course selections will be reviewed. The information provided at this forum will be of great assistance as you and your child plan courses for next year.

SUSTAINABLE NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS

By Marcey Behler, SNS, Director of Food Services

[Sustainable Jersey for Schools](#) is a certification program for New Jersey public schools that want to go green, conserve resources and take action steps to create a brighter future, one school at a time. During the fall of 2016, WW-P joined the Sustainable Jersey Initiative. The Sustainable Jersey program provides the framework of seventeen action steps. Categories such as energy efficiency, waste management and recycling, student and staff wellness, green purchasing, food and nutrition and innovation projects are creating a cross-district partnership and electric vibe as WW-P students and staff work to create healthier learning environments in our buildings.

Our school Green Teams, comprised of students, teachers and administrators, are at the forefront of this push. The teams work to identify action items within each school to achieve certification from this statewide program. One school project under this program is beautiful artwork created with bottle caps that is on display in the school's common area. Another school collects fruit and vegetable scraps at lunchtime in a marked bin to add to a compost pile, supporting their school garden. Food services and a biology department have partnered together to reduce food waste. The partnership collects fruit and vegetable clippings to support vermi-composting. The clippings are sent to a classroom where earthworms are working to convert organic waste into fertilizer. A classroom has even been converted into a meditation and wellness space in order to provide students and staff with a comfortable place to focus on personal wellness. Our students inspired the first districtwide Green Fair and Recycle Weeks. Our Green Teams continue to push program ideas and are working on districtwide actions including recycle bins in all classrooms, cafés and common areas, a Crayola crayon and marker recycle program and more.

WW-P EQUITY INITIATIVE

By Pamela Nathan, Ed.D., Asst. Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction and James Earle, Asst. Superintendent, Pupil Services/Planning

WW-P continues to engage our Board of Education, administration, faculty and staff in equity discussions, trainings and professional development. Equity and its integration into all classrooms serves as the base from which the three district strategic goals grow. WW-P has partnered with neighboring districts to train and develop the capacity to lead this important equity work.

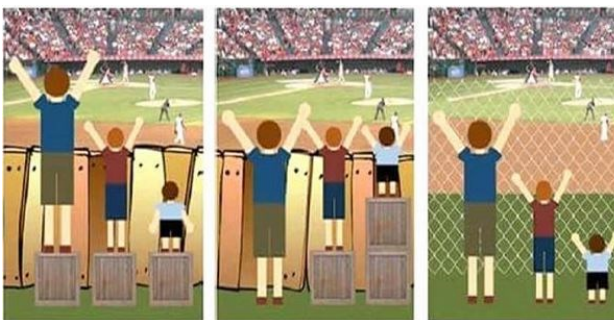


Photo courtesy of: (<http://www.theinclusionsolution.me/equity-vs-equality-eliminating-opportunity-gaps-education/>)

Author, consultant and researcher Dr. Eddie Fergus has been working with our team to guide, scale-up, and truly embody equity in our district. His workshops provide instruction on developing a common language and creating action plans for implementing equity protocols and strategies in the classroom. This work is vital and on-going as we plan for professional development, community events, curriculum, and classroom lessons that support belief work and action steps to empower all students.

CAN'T MISS MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

What better way to ring in the holiday season than with a holiday concert? WW-P students and staff have been working all fall to prepare for some wonderful concerts.

- **HSN Band Concert** - 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5, in the HSN Theater
- **HSS Band Winter Concert** - 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5, in the HSS Theater
- **HSS Orchestra Children's Concert** - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Dec. 8, in the HSS Theater
- **CMS 8th Grade Band and Orchestra Concert** - 7:30 p.m. Dec. 9, in the CMS Theater
- **GMS 8th Grade Band and Orchestra Concert** - 7:30 p.m. Dec. 9, in the GMS Theater
- **DN Chorus Concert** - 7 p.m. Dec. 10, at Dutch Neck
- **MH Winter Chorus Concert** - 7 p.m. Dec. 10, at Maurice Hawk
- **WIC Chorus Concert** - 7 p.m. Dec. 10, at Wicoff
- **DN Chorus Concert** - 7 p.m. Dec. 11, at Dutch Neck

- **HSN Freshman Concert (Band and Orchestra)** - 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11, in the HSN Theatre
- **MH Winter Chorus Concert** - 7 p.m. Dec. 11, at Maurice Hawk
- **CMS 7th Grade Band and Orchestra Concert** - 7:30 p.m. Dec. 12, in the CMS Theater
- **GMS 7th Grade Band and Orchestra Concert** - 7:30 p.m. Dec. 12, in the GMS Theater
- **HSN Orchestra Concert** - 7:30 p.m. Dec. 13, in the HSN Theatre
- **HSS Choir Winter Concert** - 7:30 p.m. Dec. 13, in the HSS Theatre
- **CMS Choir Concert** - 7:30 p.m. Dec. 17, in the CMS Theater
- **GMS Choir Concert** - 7:30 p.m. Dec. 17, in the GMS Theater
- **HSN A Cappella Holiday Concert** - 7:30 p.m. Dec. 18, in the HSN Band Room

For additional performance dates, please check out the [WW-P Events Calendar](#).

ENERGY SAVINGS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (ESIP)

By Chris Russo, Ed.D, Asst. Superintendent, Finance

In 2009, New Jersey passed a law allowing government agencies, including school districts, to make energy related improvements to their facilities and pay for the costs using the value of the energy savings that results from the improvements. WW-P and Schneider Electric (the district's energy services company) have been working over the last seven months to compile a list of facility upgrades that could be included in a district energy savings plan. The projects focus on three areas: 1) energy efficiencies and cost savings; 2) capital needs and maintenance issues; and 3) indoor air quality and occupant comfort.

The plan, which includes total project costs slightly over \$30 million, will require no additional taxpayer funding. Cost savings will be leveraged to fund a majority of the project costs. The district will contribute approximately \$5.9 million from capital reserve, approximately \$1.9 million in funding from rebates and incentives and the approximately 75 percent of the remaining balance will be paid for with energy efficiency savings.

The plan will have significant impact throughout the district. It will: 1) address urgent capital needs; 2) improve indoor air quality, humidity control, comfort and lighting; 3) reduce maintenance needs for staff and provide better comfort control through building automation system; 4) provide 42 percent of electric needs through an onsite solar power purchase agreement; 5) create unique educational opportunities through collaboration with school Green Teams; 6) cut WW-P's greenhouse gas emissions by 56 percent; and 7) all be done through NO increase in taxpayer funding.

Last month the Board of Education approved the financing for the projects. In December, the finalized list of projects will be awarded. Over the next several months, the BOE will vote to award ESIP contracts, authorize the RFP for ESIP financing, execute contracts, finalize engineering, and secure the financing. Bidding, construction and commissioning (all managed by Schneider Electric) will occur throughout 2020 and 2021.

For more details on the ESIP, please click [here](#) to see a presentation from the Oct. 29 Board of Education meeting.

MISSION STATEMENT

Building upon our tradition of excellence, the mission of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District is to empower all learners to thoughtfully contribute to a diverse and changing world with confidence, strength of character, and love of learning.

STAY CONNECTED TO OUR SCHOOLS



West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District

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