

September 8, 2015

Dear Community,

Today, we welcomed your child to one of our fifteen schools. Each year our students are provided with new meaningful, engaging, and fun learning opportunities. This year we will continue the enhancements to our instructional programs including Reader's & Writer's Workshop, Math in Focus, technology infused units, the return of the Lego – Robotics program, in addition to the implementation of a district-wide Kindergarten through grade 6 program.

Kindergarten through grade 6 classes are off to great start. We have been successful in reducing our class sizes in Kindergarten and grade 1, maximizing the personalized support students receive. Students and teachers at Van Wyck JHS opened the school year with an environment that is more conducive to learning with the space regained through the redistricting. We will continue to monitor building usage and class sizes as our enrollment fluctuates. We believe providing equity across the district will lead to positive results in the years to follow.

We are extremely pleased and fortunate to continue building an outstanding curricular program with the implementation of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Students, primarily in grades 5 through 8, will be engaged in rigorous learning opportunities that develop their problem solving skills as well as provide more active and hands-on approaches to everyday learning. We continue to explore how to effectively integrate the "A" for Art into our STEM program, thereby offering "STEAM" in our schools.

We are committed to reaching a 100% graduation rate in our high schools. It is extremely important that we prepare our students adequately for the adult world. Providing our students with a high quality instructional program at our high schools will give them the tools they need to be college and career ready in our competitive global society.

Over the summer, our administrators participated in their annual district-wide retreat where they worked on establishing the second phase of goals in our Strategic Plan. Administrators also spent time discussing the continued challenges related to the Regents Reform Agenda. Our priority remains focused – to be student-centered with our locally developed curriculum maps, and to live by our Core Values established by the District Strategic Planning Committee.

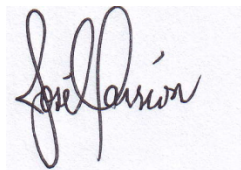
The beginning of the school year is always exciting for students, staff and parents. As a community, we will strive to maintain that level of excitement throughout the year by working together for the greater good of our students. We are proud of the many opportunities, events, and programs we offer at WCSD that showcase the talents of our students and staff. While not an exhaustive list, we invite you to attend a monthly PTA Council meeting, individual school parent and student evening activities, our outstanding athletic programs, as well as our fine and performing arts productions. With your support, we will maintain all of the above and continue to provide our students with the programs and opportunities they need to maximize their future success.

It is clear that the 2014–2015 school year was filled with many projects and incentives. The Capital Improvement Project continues and the improvements and modifications are running on schedule. We are pleased to share the extensive work that has been completed district-wide through the Capital Improvement

Project. Please click on this link for photos and details of the improvements: [Facilities Improvements During the Last 5 Years](#).

Once again, as we begin the school year, we extend to you a very warm welcome back. As I indicated to you last year, let us continue to strive for excellence together in the 2015–2016 school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jose L. Carrion". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "C".

Jose L. Carrion
Superintendent of Schools