

September 1, 2017

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

I hope every student in the Webster Public Schools enjoyed their first week of school! I know our Teachers, Staff and Administrators are thrilled to have our students back in their classrooms ready to learn new things. The beginning of any school year brings about different reactions in each of our students; some may be excited, while others may be nervous about the transition to a new teacher or new school. We want to ensure ALL of our students feel welcome and safe in their new classrooms or schools, so that they are fully ready to learn and grow. I urge all parents to keep the lines of communication open and let us know how your child/children are adapting to their transition into a new school year. Developing ongoing communication between home and school is an essential component to fostering a positive learning experience for all our students. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, concerns, ideas or feedback. My motto is, WE are here to listen and to help!

I am pleased to share that we have updated the Webster Public School's vision statement to, **EVERY STUDENT WILL ACHIEVE. TOGETHER WE CAN AND WE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!** Our goal is to LIVE our vision statement everyday in all of our schools and this requires all of us (parents, teachers, staff and administrators) to work together to send the consistent message to our students that **THEY CAN AND WILL SUCCEED.**

The following new changes have been put in place for the new school year:

- New student hours at PAE- 8:45 to 2:55
- New schedules at PAE and WMS that have increased our time on learning by an estimated 32 hours a month.
- A new middle school athletic program. Note: this is the last year 8th graders will be playing high school sports.
- We are piloting a new reading program K-5 called Wonders. It comes with a tremendous amount of researched based materials for teaching reading and developing comprehension skills in all our students.
- We have restructured the STAR programs at PAE and WMS. One STAR program will stay in place for students on IEP's and the other one has been restructured and will be called Journey. Parents of students who are in the Journey program will be part of team working on strategies to get our students back in the regular classroom to learn and grow.

We are always looking for parent volunteers in all of our schools. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, you need to fill out and have an approved CORI, and that can be done at Superintendent's office at the Filmer Building on Main Street.

I strongly encourage all parents to take the time to read your child's school handbook and review the expectations about behaviors and attendance. We need all our students in school and on time. We look forward to an exciting year filled with GROWTH for everyone!

I am looking forward to meeting you at the upcoming Open Houses:

BHS- Sept.5th - 6:00 p.m.

PAE- Sept. 20th- 5:30 p.m.

WMS- Sept. 21st- 6:00 p.m.

Kind Regards,

Ruthann Petruno-Goguen