



December 22, 2023

Dear WTPS Community:

How is it that 2023 will be wrapping up in a little over one week? The years just seem to be passing so quickly. Next year, I hope the hands of time slow down, even just a little bit! Maybe the secret to doing so is to appreciate the special moments as they present themselves. As I look back, I realize there were quite a few special moments, many of which were spent with many of you. So, thank you! In the spirit of our second mindset, *Attitude of Gratitude*, I am going to actively focus on appreciating these special times in the year to come.

Throughout this past year, I have witnessed numerous examples of collaboration and support. From parents and staff volunteering their time to assist with school events, to local businesses generously donating resources, it is evident that our community understands the importance of education and the role it plays in shaping the future of our students. Certainly, one example of community support is the passage of our referendum last December. This past year, a great deal of time was spent planning and working with architects and engineers on designs and timelines. For the latest updates regarding referendum projects progress, I invite you to visit our website's referendum tab or simply [click here](#).

In terms of curriculum and instruction, our schools have made and continue to make great strides. Our dedicated teachers and staff are working tirelessly in implementing new evidence-based strategies and instructional practices so they can best meet the needs of every type of learner. Please be sure to visit our *Curriculum and Instruction* web page which contains information and presentations regarding new academic initiatives ([click here](#)).

This year we have also made a district-wide, concerted effort to prioritize the social and emotional development of our students. The implementation of 7 *Mindsets*, philanthropic student activities, integrated and coordinated counseling services, and the planning/development of a specialized high school program for the 2024-25 school year are just a few examples of student wellness being at the forefront of our work. If you have not yet seen the district-wide Student Wellness Newsletter, please do so. These periodic newsletters, along with community mental health resources, can be found on the Student Wellness web page ([click here](#)).

Please be reminded that “snow days” and other weather-related scheduling adjustments are communicated through the district website, mass communication and posted through social media. I invite you to join any one of our social media platforms for the fastest updates.

On behalf of the entire school district, I extend my warmest wishes for a joyous holiday season filled with great health, much happiness, and abundant laughter. Here's to an amazing 2024!

Warmest wishes,

*Tracy R. Handerhan, D.Litt.*

Superintendent of Schools