



Washington Township Schools

~ A Community of 21st-Century Learners ~

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INFORMATION ITEMS FOR OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY



Announcing ... 2018-2019 School District Goals!

The WTS Leadership Team/Board of Education is pleased to share with you the school district goals for the 2018-2019 school year. The goals reflect the major initiatives to be undertaken as we strive for continued enhancement in the key areas of Student Learning & Development and School Operations (Facilities and Finance). The goals are prominently posted on the district's homepage (look center under District Headlines & Features) and can also be viewed by clicking [HERE](#).

State Aid Funding Formula to Adversely Affect Washington Township Schools

This past summer, the State Legislature enacted its plan to recalculate the State Aid Funding Formula for New Jersey's schools. As a result, 172 schools will experience decreases in monies received by the State; monies used to support overall local school district operations. Unfortunately, our Washington Township Schools is among the districts whose State aid will be decreased. Although our school budget was approved by the Department of Education this past spring, the legislature's action has resulted in an immediate loss of \$441,000 in aid to the Washington Township Schools for this school year. Even worse, it is projected that WTS will lose approximately 5 million dollars in State aid over the next 6 school years. Considering the fact that WTS currently receives 8.1 million dollars in aid this anticipated reduction would result in a State aid decrease of 62%. As your superintendent, I will be attending a meeting of concerned school leaders on Wednesday of this week to discuss this recent action taken by the legislature. More to come ...

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee

The Washington Township Schools is currently planning for the fall meeting of the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee. The Special Education Parent Advisory Committee endeavors to meet two times a year. Parents meet with Mrs. Millar (Supervisor of Special Education and Related Services) and Mr. Mohre (Superintendent of Schools) to review and discuss special education programming, initiatives, and issues as well as changes in NJ special education law. If you would like to be added to the committee roster, please call the Office of Special Education and Related Services at 908.876.3434 x2300. The meeting will be planned for November.

Homework-Free School Holidays/Recesses

The Washington Township Schools will once again be adopting **Homework-Free School Holidays/Recesses** this school year. Although WTS understands that it is important for students to engage in independent practice/application of skills learned here at school, WTS also values the importance of family time and children's leisure activities. Most certainly, a "homework-free" declaration does not forbid children from exercising their minds during the vacation period. If due dates for long-term school projects are pending, students can certainly elect to work on such during the recess periods. As always we encourage recreational reading and families learning together! The Homework-Free School Holiday/Recess schedule is as follows:

Thanksgiving: November 22-25

Holiday Recess: December 22 - January 1

Spring Recess: March 23-31

Reminder: November School Calendar Items

As we begin planning for November, please be reminded of the following school calendar information ...

- November 8&9 ~ Schools Closed for the New Jersey Education Association Annual Fall Conference
- November 19-21 ~ Early Dismissal Days (Parent/Teacher Conferences and Thanksgiving Recess)
- November 22&23 ~ School Closed for Thanksgiving Recess

Jeff Mohre ~ Superintendent of Schools

10.23.18