

## LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

April 2021

### **Elementary:**

#### **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Elementary Schools hosted Parent/Teacher Conferences via Zoom on April 1 & 2.

We continue to be so impressed with the partnerships between our elementary staff and families with family conference attendance and engagement at 95%.

#### **Spring Assessments**

Grades 3-5 learners will participate in the MN Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) in the areas of reading, math, and science.

K-5 students will participate in district wide assessments.

Spring assessments are vital in ensuring our students have made the appropriate academic growth for this school year!

#### **Volunteer Appreciation**

We thank our PTOs and our parent volunteers who have supported our schools in numerous ways. Our volunteers have coordinated virtual events, coordinated appreciation events for our staff, served on committees, and created our school year books.

#### **Class Placement Preparation**

We have begun the process for class placement. Parent Input is an important part of class placement. This month parents have been given the opportunity to provide class placement input for their child(ren). We will put class lists together starting May 14th.

### **Middle School:**

We are into the 4th quarter as of this week and it is hard to believe 75% of our school year is complete. We have all come a long way from a year ago and the progress from then to now is amazing. At this point last year, all school buildings were closed down and we were scrambling to figure out distance learning models. With a lot of new knowledge, we continue to improve and follow our safe learning plan and take all required precautions to keep students and staff safe. Testing season is here and the bulk of MCA testing for reading and math begins next week.

On Friday, we honored our March WMS Teacher of the Month, Spanish teacher, Mrs. Oconitrillo. Mrs. O was nominated by seventh-grade student Weston Baynes. Weston wrote

about his gratitude for her extra support when he started at WMS during the second semester. He also shared about his increased passion for learning Spanish because she makes it really fun and interesting. Congratulations to Mrs. Oconitrillo, the WMS March Teacher of the Month and thank you to Weston for submitting a well-written and detailed nomination letter. Both Mrs. Oconitrillo and Weston received treats including Laketown chocolates and Target gift cards as tokens of appreciation from the WMS PTO.

This year the WMS PTO created an avenue to recognize the essential groups at WMS that go above and beyond to make WMS such a great school. The March Above and Beyond Group are the WMS Esp's (Education Support Professionals). The award states, "On behalf of the parents, students, and staff, THANK YOU for going above and beyond to ensure that our students have a safe and healthy environment to come to every day. We couldn't do any of this without you. "

Presented to: Mrs. Backes, Mrs. Heur, Mrs. Kerber, Mrs. Kester, Mrs. Lund, Mr. McKeever, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Phenix, Mrs. Wabbe, and Mrs. Wothe.

### **High School:**

Parent-Teacher conferences are right around the corner. Parents will be given an opportunity to sign-up for Zoom conferences to be held on Monday, April 19. The Zoom conferences have proven to be popular for both parents and staff.

Work continues on constructing the master schedule for next year. The departments are working on section numbers and assignments. The work will culminate this summer when the master is completed.

As we move into mid-April, much of our focus shifts to year-end activities and events. While all of these things will look different than years past, we're finding ways to recognize our NHS students, academic letter winners, scholarship recipients and graduating seniors.

We are in the middle of our spring "testing season". In the next two weeks we'll complete our Pre-ACT and ACT make-up exams and our MCA tests. In May we move into our AP and CIS testing, with students testing in close to 15 subject areas.

### **Activities: [www.waconiaathletics.com](http://www.waconiaathletics.com)**

Spring is Here! All of our spring activities have finally begun their seasons and are extremely happy to be back in action after missing the entire 2020 season! We look forward to providing our spring participants an exceptional experience! We would also like to extend a huge thank you and congratulations to our Winter activities participants for their dedicated efforts in regards to their academics and activities participation. The Wildcats represented their school and community extremely well while leading by example in a season filled with many unique rules and procedures! Well done Wildcats!

### **Community Ed:**

Community Ed is rolling again! Our staff have been busy getting ready for the upcoming spring and summer recreation programs. We will be offering team sports for soccer, baseball, softball, and lacrosse. The weather has definitely cooperated so far this spring. To be able to get outside this early in April is amazing.

Registrations have been very steady for our summer camps/clinics/classes. Families are very excited for summer and have been getting their kids signed up for many activities.

### **Human Resources:**

The School District's Insurance Advisory Committee received great news regarding medical insurance rates for the next two plan years (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022 and July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023). Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, the district's long-time medical insurance carrier, provided a 0% renewal for 2021-2022 and a 0% rate cap for 2022-2023. Medical claims for the district have trended downward over the past year, which had a positive impact on the district's claims experience.

The Insurance Advisory Committee is composed of a cross section of employees who regularly meet during the school year to work collaboratively with the goal of ensuring the district's insurance benefits meet the needs of all employees. Committee members learn about the often complex topic of insurance together, which allows open communication and a common goal of obtaining the best possible results.

### **Superintendent:**

#### **Positive Covid-19 Numbers Increase**

As much progress as we've made in the battle against Covid-19, it has not gone away. We are seeing another rise in positive cases at ONE10. Carver County Public Health is getting concerned about a fourth wave of Covid hitting Carver County. As we have been doing since this all began, we use these [Determining Factors](#) to monitor the numbers and help guide our decisions to keep students and staff as safe as possible. We know that the warmer spring temperatures mean people are getting out and about more often. Please remember to continue to stay safe and follow protocols. It is vital that students and staff stay home when sick. Keeping potential positive Covid cases out of our schools will help reduce the number of students who have to quarantine. We are encouraged to know that all staff and students who are 14 days beyond being fully vaccinated, are now exempt from quarantine. We encourage our students eligible for the vaccination to take advantage of this opportunity to enhance self and community safety from this virus. Everyone working together is how we continue to stay with In-person Learning and beat Covid-19. A Big Thank You to all that are modeling incredible resilience throughout the challenges of this pandemic.

We will get through this together as WE Are ONE10!!

### **Federal Covid-19 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)**

Funding from the first and second round of ESSER has been finalized from the state using Title 1 guidelines. The Title 1 formula that is used at the federal level and adopted at the state level is highly inequitable. There are 330+ school districts in the state and Waconia Public Schools ranks 5th from the bottom in the amount of [ESSER funding per student](#) received. The third round of ESSER funding has yet to be finalized. ONE10 continues to advocate to change the funding formula to make it more equitable among all school districts. We encourage people to talk to their legislators about making ESSER funding equitable.

### **SouthWest Metro Intermediate District 288 E-Learning**

As much as we have been working hard to keep all students In-Person Learning, there are some students who prefer Distance Learning. ONE10 is exploring options and partnering with SouthWest Metro Intermediate District 288 as we look at learning opportunities for the 2021-2022 school year. We are very excited about progress on this initiative to date and we are working on how to make this work. We expect to have a full catalog of K-12 online offerings for families to check out by mid-July. We want ALL students to remain Wildcats!!!!

### **Partnership with The Y in Minneapolis Supports ONE10 Cultural Competency Work**

The diversity, equity and inclusion work that we have done in partnership with the Minneapolis Y has been very impactful. It is a vibrant, strong and supportive group that has been created and we will continue offering cultural competency cohorts to staff each year. All administration has gone through the cultural competency process and we are working on plans to have this type of support at every level. This important and critical work is being done so that everyone feels welcome at ONE10. This is the core of the WE ARE ONE10 spirit!

### **Design Team looking at Unified Champion Schools for ONE10**

The Waconia community came through yet again in support of Special Olympics and Unified Sports. The Polar Plunge held for the first time on Lake Waconia was an incredible success! Funds raised support Unified Sports at Waconia High School. Unified Sports has such a positive impact on everyone involved that we are looking at expanding these opportunities to E-12 students. A design team is working on fully inclusive programming that would help us become a Unified Champion District. When implemented, we would become only the fourth school district in the state to reach this inclusive status. We are very excited to explore this for students and watch the relationships that develop as a result of participating in Unified Sports.

### **Congratulations Paul Sparby, New High School Principal**

After 27 years, there will be a new principal at Waconia High School. Paul Sparby was named the new principal after Mark Fredericksen announced his retirement effective at the end of this school year.

Paul joined ONE10 as the high school assistant principal three years ago, knowing that it may turn into a principal position in the future. I conducted an internal interview process which allowed for input from many employees who work at Waconia High School and ONE10.

In the three years that he has been at ONE10, Paul has proven to be a great leader and is ready for this new position. I look forward to seeing the great work that he and the amazing high school staff will do together. If approved by the school board Paul will start his new position on July 1, 2021. Congratulations to Paul Sparby and Waconia High School!

### **AP at WHS**

With Paul Sparby becoming the high school principal, that opened up the assistant high school principal position. We had nearly 95 candidates apply and the search committee is in the process of interviewing top candidates. It is so great to see the interest from such high quality applicants for this position. ISD ONE10 is a destination location for educators. It was fun to hear the pride of our school from the students that are helping with the interviewing process. We continue to do great work at ONE10! We should have a new high school assistant principal chosen by mid to late April.

**May Spring Bring ALL a Renewed Spirit!!  
WE Are ONE10!!**