



Westosha Central High School

24617 75th Street • Post Office Box 38
Salem, Wisconsin 53168

(262) 843-2321

www.westosha.k12.wi.us



November 15, 2022

Good Morning,

I hope that this letter finds you well. We continue to be having a great school year; our students continue to do amazing things and our staff is working extremely hard to provide the very best opportunities for our students. This letter is to give you a couple of quick announcements and information.

School Report Card

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is required by state statute ([Wis. Stat. 115.385](#)) to generate a school report card and district report card for every publicly-funded school and district in the state. The report cards are intended to help schools and districts use performance data to celebrate successes and improve their efforts to prepare students for their futures. Earlier today, DPI released the score cards for every school in Wisconsin.

Westosha Central High School received a rating of **“Meets Expectations”**; the district was less than one point away from the **“Exceeds Expectations”** category. The leadership team and staff value the school report card process as it provides us an opportunity to celebrate the many successes of our school while identifying goals for the future.

The current **School Report Card** is primarily based on last year’s performance during the **2021-22 school year**. At the foundation of the report cards are four priority areas. Schools and districts receive a score for each priority area:

- **Achievement** - Proficiency in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics on the annual state assessments which for Westosha Central includes ASPIRE (Grades 9 and 10) and ACT (Grade 11)
- **Growth** - Year-to-year progress in ELA and math achievement for individual students
- **Target Group Outcomes** - Comparison of individual students in identified subgroups as compared to all students
- **On-Track to Graduation** - Reliable predictors of how successfully students are progressing toward completing their K-12 education. Included are graduation rates and attendance.

A couple of celebrations worth noting:

- Westosha Central's achievement score (percentage of students scoring at or above grade level) was higher than 87 percent of all high schools in Wisconsin. In other words, Westosha Central is one of the highest performing high schools in Wisconsin as measured by student achievement data.
- Westosha Central has made a commitment to provide co-taught classes in multiple subject areas in order to promote an inclusionary model for special education students. The work over the

past two years has yielded gains for our students with disabilities in both the Language Arts (Reading) and Math exams.

- Continued growth of the number of students meeting or exceeding (Proficient/Advanced) on the math portion of the test. This is the second year of growth in this area.

While we have much to celebrate, two areas surfaced to the top of our list to examine, explore, and improve. These include:

- Overall ELA (Reading) scores; while the numbers have not gone down, we want and need to see this area grow and improve. To help this initiative, the district has created a Literacy Committee to examine our data, instructional strategies, and develop a plan to increase the level of proficiency in literacy.
- Closing Achievement Gaps; it is clear that students below grade level are not closing the gap as quickly as needed. We are exploring intervention systems to provide support in math and literacy to help our struggling students meet (and exceed) grade level standards.

While proud of our academic rigor and achievement, we know that we can and will do better. Our scores, especially in student achievement, show that we are a great high school, but one with room to grow.

While reviewing the School Report Card data is a valuable exercise, it is also important to note that our school provides amazing opportunities for students that are not measured by the DPI School Report Card. These opportunities include, but are not limited to, robust career and technical offerings, award-winning musical and performing arts programs, a staff focused and committed to providing social-emotional supports, and a wide variety of extra-curricular offerings to meet the needs and interests of the entire student body.

Facility Update

Construction continues to happen at a fast and furious pace. Please [click here](#) to see a few pictures from the last few weeks.

Procedures for Closing School Due to Weather

It is hard to believe that we are talking about weather-related closing of school, but we are fast approaching that time of the year. Here is a quick review of our procedures:

1. Mr. Gendron will be in contact with Dousman Bus and other local school leaders to make a decision on whether or not school will be held on a given day.
2. Every attempt will be made to have a decision by 5:30 a.m.
3. An email will be sent to parents if a decision is made to cancel school. No announcement/email will be made if we are having school.

As you might recall, we had the unfortunate circumstance of the flood that closed school for two days in September. We took one of these days as an “Emergency Day” where students were not required to complete work virtually and used virtual instruction for the other day. Due to the fact that we used one of our emergency days in the fall, the first weather-related closing (snow, ice, or cold) will be a “day off”

with no virtual expectations. Beginning with the second day of weather-related closing, virtual instruction will be used. These days will be “asynchronous” meaning that students will not follow a schedule, but rather log in to Schoology to complete the assigned work which may include watching a video, participating in a virtual activity, and/or completing assigned work.

Although we have not utilized a late start due to road conditions in recent years, we always review this option with the bus company to see whether it makes sense for all parties. If this was ever to be used, we would use a “2-Hour Delay”, meaning that bus pick-up times would be delayed exactly two hours from the normal pick-up time and school would begin at 9:30 a.m.; dismissal time would remain at 2:42 p.m.

As we approach the holiday season, I wish you a great holiday season. It is my hope that you find time to relax, spend time with family and friends.

As always, please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Gendron', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Gendron

gendronj@westosha.k12.wi.us

262-843-2321, ext. 222