

January 19, 2018

Dear Students and Families,

The weather has certainly been challenging in 2018 with the historic cold stretch and the recent snowstorms. To date, we have used 3 snow days and we have 5 built in our school calendar. Should we go beyond the 5 estimated snow days this winter, the last day of school will be moved with each additional snow day. We will keep you informed **IF** any calendar changes occur.

Tuesday's ½ day of professional development for our teachers and staff was very successful. Here's a list of the many events of this successful day.

- Elementary teachers work on the new reading program
- Middle and High school teachers worked on developing new profiles for the new website
- High school department leaders facilitated the review of the assessments currently being used at BHS
- The middle school report card and scheduling committees met
- Related Service Providers, School Psychologist, and Specialized Special Education teachers were provided training on Assistive Technology and testing protocols
- Nurses held a Wellness Meeting
- Guidance Counselors worked on Scheduling and SST procedures
- Paraprofessionals were trained on behavior intervention strategies
- Cohort 1 of teachers met to continue their work on Understanding By Design
- For the first time, all K-12 building based curriculum coordinators and grade level coordinators met together as one large group to begin to discuss Understanding By Design and a systematic approach for change in Webster Public Schools. This team of teacher leaders and building and district administrators will continue to meet throughout the year to review our existing curriculum and instructional methods. Our goal is to collaborate on ways to ensure our instructional practices in all classrooms engaged in their own learning process and push all students to use their critical thinking skills.

To reach this goal of having ALL our students discover their own strengths and talents, we need the support of our families. As someone who started her career as a parent volunteer in my own children's school, I strongly encourage ALL parents and guardians to become more involved with our schools. I am looking for some ideas for parents and guardians on new ways they would like to get more involved in our schools. Please sent them to me at [Lglennon@webster-schools.org](mailto:Lglennon@webster-schools.org)

The second version of the proposed FY19 budget will be discussed at next Tuesday's School Committee meeting. The proposed FY19 budget includes the following staff reallocations/additions:

1. 1 Special Education teacher at PAE (reallocation- budget neutral)
2. 1 Physical Education teacher at PAE (reallocation from BHS- budget neutral)
3. 2 Special Education teachers at WMS (1 reallocation and 1 new position)
4. 1 Special Education Team Chair at WMS
5. .5 Foreign Language Teacher (for 7th & 8th grade) at WMS
6. 4 Stipends for Curriculum Coordinators at WMS
7. 1 additional Grade level Coordinator at WMS
8. 1 district wide School Psychologist
9. Part time Administrative Assistant for the Office of the Superintendent

Transitions:

I am pleased to share that many parents and students attended the Best of BHS on Tuesday evening. If you were not able to attend and have questions regarding this important transition to the high school, please do not hesitate to contact the high school to set up a time to meet with a guidance counselor or administrator in person or to discuss your questions over the phone at 508-943-8552.

Important information:

1. This coming week, on Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, high school student and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will begin the process of scheduling their courses for the 2018-2019 school year.
2. The Webster Police Department & Webster Opioid Task Force & the A.E.D. Foundation are sponsoring an Opioid Awareness Presentation on January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.. I strongly encourage all parents and guardians across the district and community members to attend this important event. Over 52,000 deaths occur each year associated to Opioid addiction and as a community we are seeking to assist, educate and defeat this threat to our loved ones.

# Opioid Awareness Presentation

A free event presented by the Webster Police Department in conjunction with the Webster Opiate Task Force and the A.E.D. Foundation, Inc.



A.E.D. Foundation, Inc.  
*assist · educate · defeat*

*Date: Wednesday January 24th*

*Time: 7:00pm*

*Location: Bartlett High School  
Auditorium*

Additional support groups, agencies, and specialists will be in attendance and available to parents and community members

Check our out new Transparency Center on our new website.....  
Did you know.....

1. The average SAT score for our high school students is 1,454
2. The average household income for Webster is \$48,650
3. 82.9% of our students go to college

As always please reach out with your ideas and suggestions for moving Webster Public Schools forward!

Sincerely,  
Ruthann Goguen, Superintendent