



Wentworth Junior High School
560 Superior Avenue, Calumet City, IL 60409
(708) 862-0750
Andrew Morgan, Principal
Jacqueline McGee, Assistant Principal



08/14/2024

Dear WJH Parents/Guardians:

We are very excited to begin the 2024-25 school year! Summer provides us with time to reflect on our successes and opportunities. We cannot wait to create more experiences that promote academic success and interpersonal growth for everyone. The following information provides a snapshot of our priority areas for the school year.

First, I would like to introduce you to our new assistant principal, Ms. Jacqueline McGee. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience as both a teacher and administrator. I encourage you to read her introduction letter to learn more about what she has to offer the WJH community. We are thrilled to have her on our team!

Second, we are continuing to use the **CHAMPS approach** to streamline expectations for teaching and learning at WJH. This approach positively reinforces expectations for different school-related tasks like coming prepared for class, and procedures for working cooperatively in groups. By having clear and consistent expectations, our climate and culture improved noticeably by having clear and consistent expectations for students. CHAMPS improves students' concentration by promoting positive behavior and proactively reducing disruptive behaviors. The CHAMPS approach also emphasizes the importance of parent relationships. Our aim is to strengthen two-way communication between teachers and parents because it is proven to increase students' success at school.

Third, we will continue to focus on **decreasing chronic absenteeism** at WJH. Students who are absent for 18 or more days of school are considered chronically absent. Students who miss two school days per month will have 18 absences in May 2025. Research says that by 6th grade, chronic absenteeism is a leading indicator for a high school dropout. The percentage of WJH students who missed 18 or more school days **decreased from 36% to 29%** last year. Although this is evidence that our plan is working, 29% is still too high. Our students need to be in school **all day, every day**. You should expect ongoing communication about attendance-related matters this year.

Lastly, our first day of school is Wednesday, August 21, 2024. All students will enter and exit the building from Door N on Superior Avenue. WJH staff will be out to supervise arrival at 8:00am, and students will be allowed in the building at 8:15am. As a reminder, students are expected to be **in their classrooms by 8:25am** everyday. As a reminder all cell phones, digital watches, headphones, and earbuds must be turned off and secured in your students' assigned locker at all times.

We look forward to a successful year that is filled with great memories, and we will work tirelessly to ensure your student has the best possible experience at WJH!

Feel free to contact our main office if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Andrew Morgan
Principal