WESTFIELD WASHINGTON SCHOOLS

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Dear Westfield Community,

As we approach Winter Break, we also reach an important milestone in our school year, the halfway point. This moment provides a natural pause for reflection, gratitude, and rest for everyone in our school community. We are so proud of the growth and progress our students have made this year, and we hope this break is full of holiday fun for them. They have earned it!

Throughout the year, our teachers and staff give an incredible amount of energy, care, and commitment to our students. As Winter Break approaches, we intentionally communicate an essential message to them: slow down, step away from school responsibilities, and genuinely enjoy time with family, friends, and loved ones. Rest is not a luxury; it is essential to sustaining the high level of care and excellence our students deserve.

With that in mind, Monday, January 5, 2026, will be a teacher preparation day without students. This structure is purposeful. By beginning the new calendar year with a day focused on preparation, we allow our staff to enjoy Winter Break without feeling pressure to plan, organize, or "be ready" for students on the very first day back. That important work can wait until January 5, when teachers can return refreshed, focused, and supported—without students present. Our students will return to school on Tuesday, January 6, welcomed by teachers who are energized and ready to begin the second half of the school year strong.

I would also like to share an opportunity for collaboration and community engagement as we look ahead.

The Westfield Washington Schools Board of School Trustees and the Westfield City Council will hold a joint working session on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the Westfield High School auditorium. This session reflects our shared commitment to working together to serve our growing community better.

During the meeting, we will review demographic data, discuss the City's comprehensive plan, and explore how thoughtful collaboration can support responsible long-term planning for both our schools and the City of Westfield. These conversations are essential as we plan for the future and ensure our decisions align with the needs of our students, families, and residents.

Community members are welcome to attend. If you are unable to join us in person, the session will be live-streamed and recorded for later viewing.

Thank you for your continued partnership, trust, and support of Westfield Washington Schools. We wish all of our Westfield families a restful, joyful, healthy Winter Break and holiday season, and we look forward to a strong start to the second half of the school year.

With Shamrock Pride and Grattitude,

Dr. John Atha