

Dear Williamston Community Members,

I am pleased to send this update on the accomplishments of the Williamston Community Schools during the 2022-2023 year. There is much to celebrate. In addition to maintaining our long tradition of academic and co-curricular excellence, WCS continued its substantial progress on a number of goals related to facility and safety enhancements and fiscal stability. I am tremendously thankful and fortunate for our dedicated and gifted staff, supportive families, and inspirational students with whom I interact every day.

I also want to convey my gratitude for the overwhelming support of the Community Recreation Millage renewal this past November. The millage ensures the Community Pool and Fitness Center maintains first-class recreational facilities for our students, staff, and community members. It also enables the Enrichment Department to provide a wide variety of community programming and special events. If you are not currently a member, learn more by visiting our website, gowcs.net.

A summary of notable accomplishments from this past school year is outlined below.

Academics:

- Williamston High School was rated the top school in Mid-Michigan according to data from *MIschooldata.org*, for the fourth consecutive year
- All WCS schools that receive a state academic rating earned an “A” grade for academic proficiency, as published by the *Michigan Department of Education*
- All eligible WCS schools were listed as “Reward Schools,” the highest possible rating by the *Michigan Department of Education*
- Named one of Michigan’s Best School Districts by *Niche.com*, for the eighth straight year
- Williamston High School was included in the “Best U.S. High Schools” list by *U.S. News and World Report*, for the fourth consecutive year
- Recipient of the College Success Award for excellence in preparing students for college by *Greatschools.org*, for the fifth consecutive year

Facilities and Technology:

- Winner of the 2022 Fields of Excellence Award bestowed by *Pioneer Athletics* for preparing and maintaining “Exceptional Fields of Play”
- Summer 2023 projects include new school and classroom doors in select locations, sidewalk and parking lot repairs, and several physical security enhancements
- Renovations to the preschool and childcare playground, funded by a \$125,000 grant
- Implementation of a 1:1 student Chromebook initiative at the middle and high schools

Safety and Security:

- Recipient of the 2023 Michigan State Police School Resource Officer (SRO) grant
- Implementation of a donation/grant-funded dual-purpose working dog team serving all district schools
- Completion of a comprehensive physical security and Emergency Operations Plan assessment by *Secure Education Consultants*
- Recertification of all district schools as *MI HEART Safe Certified* (cardiac response)
- Creation of Medical Emergency Response Teams (MERT) in each school

Finances:

- The District received another clean audit (an unqualified opinion) reflecting accurate financial reporting, effective fiscal controls, and appropriate use of taxpayer dollars
- A fund balance of over 18% of revenues, indicating an increased level of fiscal stability
- Moody's raised the District's bond rating to A2, the fifth ratings increase in four years

Athletics:

- MHSAA state champion wrestler and scholar-athlete award recipient
- Defending state champion girls soccer team ranked #1 in Michigan during their ongoing season
- Team state qualifiers in girls golf, boys tennis, girls cross country, and an individual qualifier in boys cross country
- E-Sports teams qualified for the Michigan MHSEL Spring 2023 Championships in their first season of competition

Performing Arts and Co-Curricular Activities:

- Explorer Elementary First Robotics Team completed a successful inaugural season
- Two middle school Quiz Bowl teams and the high school Quiz Bowl team qualified for the National Tournament in Chicago for the fourth consecutive year
- Michigan State Federal Credit Union 2023 Art Competition winner
- Business Professionals of America placed Top 10 in ten different events at the 2023 State Leadership Conference
- The Middle School Choir and High School Madrigal Choir earned Division I ratings at their respective district choral festivals
- Williamston 7th-grade, 8th-grade, and High School Concert Bands all earned Division I ratings at MSBOA District Band Festival

Thank you for your ongoing support of Williamston Community Schools. Go Hornets! Go Williamston!

Sincerely,



Adam Spina
Superintendent