

Dear Williamston Community Members,

This past year was extremely challenging for our school district, as it was for many families and businesses in our community. In a year where there were no easy answers, we endeavored to balance the demand for in-person learning opportunities with our non-negotiable requirement to ensure the safety of our students and staff. As we turn toward the 2021-2022 school year, we are mindful of the ways education rapidly evolved over the last 15 months. We aim to capitalize on lessons learned as we plan to fully reopen all our schools for in-person learning this fall.

Despite the pandemic, WCS continued to sustain progress on our goals. Below are points of pride from the past year:

Academics. WCS maintained its tradition of academic excellence despite the pandemic:

- Williamston was awarded an “A” rating by Niche.com and ranked #28 of 555 evaluated districts in Michigan
- Williamston High School rated the top area high school three years running according to metrics tabulated by the Michigan Department of Education
- Williamston High School named to the 2020 Best High Schools List by U.S. News and World Report

Athletics. Hornet athletes excelled; earning numerous accolades, all while abiding by Covid-19 protocols:

- District and Regional championships for the football and boys soccer programs
- State champion swimmer and repeat state champion wrestler
- Eight conference, district, or regional championships... and counting

Performing Arts and Co-Curriculars. Activities moved online due to Covid gathering restrictions, but students continued to demonstrate excellence in remote forums:

- Middle School Quiz Bowl Team qualified for the National Quiz Bowl Tournament
- Three Williamston High School students earned all-state orchestra and band honors
- Highly successful high school and middle school Model United Nations and First Robotics Teams

Finances. WCS continued to ensure financial stability; investing in academic programming, staff, and facility improvements:

- The overall financial rating improved three positions in two years on Moody's rating system, and maintains an overall positive outlook
- The fund balance exceeded 10% of revenues, up from just 1% four years ago
- Over one million dollars was invested in new curriculum, buses, instructional technology, and facility upgrades

Safety and Security: WCS continued a proactive approach to enhancing physical security, supporting student mental health, and collaborating with public safety experts:

- State-of-the-art door sensor systems installed across all buildings
- Plans completed for construction of secure entrances at all schools
- Continued collaboration with experts on school safety and emergency response plans

Our team of educators remain second to none. Their courage and determination throughout this extended period of uncertainty was inspiring. Our parents maintained their steadfast support of Williamston Community Schools, even through all the twists and turns we experienced. The positive collaboration between home and school has never been more important. It is one of the unique attributes which makes our community so special.

Most notably, our students were just remarkable. The challenges they faced this year were truly unprecedented. From navigating remote instruction and wearing masks in school, to periods of extended absences from friends, activities, and even recess. The list goes on and on. Their resilience was, and continues to be, incredible. On behalf of all our staff, I pledge that we will work tirelessly to make sure the education and overall school experience for our students is better than ever before. They deserve no less.

Thank you for all you do for our schools and our community. We look forward to seeing you in-person next year when cheering at our games, applauding our student performances, and participating in our special events.

Sincerely,



Adam Spina
Superintendent
Williamston Community Schools