

Dear Williamston Community Members,

It is my privilege to share the Williamston Community Schools annual update with you. This June we anticipate graduating 144 outstanding students. Commencement marks the pinnacle of our success as a community that values education. Together, we provide a safe and supportive learning environment so all our students can pursue their educational and professional goals. Congratulations to the Class of 2024 for all they have accomplished individually and collectively.

On August 6, 2024, WCS will ask voters to consider a bond proposal to enhance the safety and functionality of our facilities without increasing taxes from their current rates. The funds generated will address long-standing concerns that are well-known to current and former students, staff, and parents. Bond highlights include:

- Solving significant student safety issues by redesigning traffic patterns involved with the pickup/dropoff process at the elementary campus
- Updating Explorer Elementary, originally constructed in 1950, including larger, age-appropriate classrooms, improved music, art, and STEAM learning spaces, an expanded kitchen, outdoor accessible restrooms, and a full-size gymnasium
- Redesigning the Williamston High School parking lots to enhance student and visitor safety
- Modernizing our schools, including updating HVAC systems and replacing flooring, student furniture, instruments, technology infrastructure, and maintenance equipment

These enhancements can be achieved without increasing taxes from their current rates. More information on the bond proposal can be found under the construction helmet icon on the District's homepage at [gowcs.net](http://gowcs.net).

Williamston Community Schools continues to generate positive returns on your investment and support. I hope the accomplishments outlined below serve as points of pride.

#### Academics:

- Williamston High School was rated the top high school in Ingham County for the fifth consecutive year according to data from *MIschooldata.org*
- Williamston Middle School was rated as the top middle school in Ingham County according to data from *MIschooldata.org*
- All WCS schools which receive a state rating earned an "A" grade for student academic proficiency and academic growth from the *Michigan Department of Education*
- All eligible WCS schools were listed as "Reward Schools," the highest possible rating by the *Michigan Department of Education*
- Williamston High School was included in the "Best U.S. High Schools" list for the fifth consecutive year by *U.S. News and World Report*
- Williamston High School earned the 2023 Advanced Placement Female Diversity Award for Computer Science, awarded by the *College Board*
- Williamston High School was named to the Advanced Placement Honor Roll for the fifth time by the *College Board*

#### Faculty Awards:

- Ms. Cassandra Eberhardt, Region 6 Teacher of the Year and Michigan Teacher of the Year Finalist
- Ms. Becky Durling, Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching National Finalist
- Mr. Steve Kersten, *Michigan High School Football Coaches Association* Hall of Fame Inductee
- Ms. Lindsey Bollis, *Greater Lansing United Nations Association* Educator of the Year

#### Facilities:

- Larkin Nortman Football Field won the 2023 Fields of Excellence Award bestowed by *Pioneer Athletics*, selected as the area football practice location by the University of Washington Huskies
- David Conklin Baseball Field was also selected as a 2023 Fields of Excellence Award recipient, designated one of the top 100 natural grass playing surfaces in the country

#### Safety and Security:

- Awarded a school safety grant to install firearm detection software throughout the District
- Implementation of an enhanced security monitoring software system and the addition of high-resolution security cameras
- Completion of staff emergency response training provided by *Secure Education Consultants*
- Deployment of a grant-funded dual-purpose working dog team serving all district schools
- Recertification of all schools as *MI HEART Safe Certified* buildings, including the installation of five additional AED devices within the District

#### Finances:

- The District received another clean audit (an unqualified opinion) reflecting accurate financial reporting, effective fiscal controls, and appropriate use of taxpayer dollars

#### Co-Curricular Activities:

- MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award Recipient
- Girls Golf Team State runner-up and Boys Tennis Team State qualifier
- Academic All-State teams in Football, Volleyball, Boys Soccer, Girls Golf, Girls Cross Country, Boys and Girls Basketball, Boys and Girls Swim and Dive
- Individual State qualifiers in Boys Swimming, Wrestling, Gymnastics, and Girls Cross Country
- Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl Art Competition, four (4) state and national level student awards
- The 7th and 8th-grade Choir, High School Concert Choir, and 7th-grade, 8th-grade, and High School Symphony Bands all earned a "Superior" rating at their respective state festivals
- Williamston High School Quiz Bowl placed 13th in the country at the national finals in Chicago

Thank you for your ongoing support of Williamston Community Schools.

Respectfully submitted,



Adam Spina  
Superintendent