

Francis Walsh Intermediate School



Raeanne M. Reynolds
Principal

Douglas E. Cucchiarelli
Vice-Principal

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Vice-Principal

July, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I want to thank everyone for all of their support during the 2017-2018 school year. Over the past 12 months, I have actively listened and observed some of the patterns and trends at WIS. I made very few adjustments during the first year and with the input of students, staff, and parents/guardians, some important adjustments and changes are planned for 2018-2019. One exciting new incentive to Walsh is The Core 4. The Core 4 is Walsh's school-wide values of **Citizenship, Responsibility, Respect, and Safety**. These core values represent how all stakeholders interact and learn together. The Core 4 values emulate and model what is most important to our school community.

In addition to the Core 4 and aligned with data from the School Culture Survey, we are putting the following priorities into action for the 2018-2019 school year. These priorities benefit the entire school community and I look forward to working with everyone to implement them. I have personally spoken to students about these changes and know I can count on your support as we make the transitions. Some of the changes for 2018-2019 include:

- **Adjusting cell phone practice:** Throughout the year, WIS collaborated with community members in sponsoring a series of events around social media and our youth. At the Screenagers documentary and during follow-up sessions we discussed the importance of monitoring and supporting students with social media. Since each student is assigned a Chromebook, your child does not need a cell phone during the day. Starting next year **cellphones are to be kept in book bags and in locked lockers.** Once students arrive, personal devices need to be secured in the lockers. Students will not be allowed to carry devices in their hands or keep them in their pockets. Personal devices have become an incredible distraction and we need your support in talking with your child about the importance of following this practice. (This includes phones, iPads, I Watches etc.) If a student has a phone on him or herself, he or she will be asked to hand it in and parents will need to pick it up at the end of the day. Repeat offenses can result in additional consequences. (More details will be provided in the 2018-2019 handbook.)



- **Refraining from outside breakfasts:** Breakfast is available in the a.m. for students who arrive at 7:30. Your child is welcome to participate in the school's breakfast program. However, students will not be allowed to bring in outside beverages and breakfasts. Cafe-lattes, Dunkin Donuts, Big Gulps or fast food breakfasts are not healthy options and we ask they not be brought into school. If your child walks in with such items we will be asking them to dispose of it.

- **Enforcing Dress Code:** Student dress code is also going to be monitored. Students will not be allowed to wear headphones during the day, unless the teacher asks them to use it with his or her Chromebook device. Also, clothing must be age appropriate and at an acceptable length and coverage. Talk with your child about the differences between dressing for the beach, for play, for home, and for school. If your child is not adhering to dress code, you may be asked to bring in new clothing or we will provide alternative options. Please refer to the WIS handbook (2018-2019) for more details.

More information and details will be forthcoming. We want to inform everyone with ample time so you can start to talk with your child. We are planning to have a successful 2018-2019 and with your support the school year will be great. Together we can help our young children's experience at WIS a positive one. Always feel free to email or contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Raeanne Reynolds
WIS Principal