



August 23, 2019

Dear Members of the Wellesley Public Schools Community,

I hope everyone is enjoying the remaining days of summer. We are eager to welcome all of our new and returning students next week on Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, for the first day of the 2019-2020 school year! (Please note that Wednesday is a half-day for our elementary students only.)

As is the case every summer, our custodial staff has been hard at work to perform a deep cleaning in each of our buildings to have them ready for students on opening day. We remain grateful to our partners at the Facilities Management Department for their diligence in taking such good care of our schools.

School year 2019-2020 will be one in which we remain focused on our ongoing priority areas:

- 21st Century Learning
- Social and Emotional Learning
- Tiered Systems of Supports for Students
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Within each of these areas we continue to align our work with the *Profile of a Graduate* competencies developed last year.



## **WELLESLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS** **PROFILE OF A GRADUATE**

WPS aspires to be a school system that develops the heads, hearts, and hands of its students by inspiring them to:



During SY2018-19, we began work on a new strategic plan for WPS based on these competencies. We plan to complete this work in the coming year to inform our budget and operational planning for SY2020-21.

In addition to our District priority areas, WPS will remain engaged in the significant work of facilities renewal. At the elementary level, we have now completed the feasibility phase of the Hunnewell construction project and look forward to moving to a request for design development funds at a Special Town Meeting in early December.

The feasibility phase of the Hardy/Upham project is about to begin in partnership with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. This work will continue during the upcoming year. We anticipate a recommendation next spring on which of these two sites to construct a new elementary school.

We will begin planning for elementary redistricting this fall to align our future attendance zones with the new schools at the Hunnewell and Hardy/Upham sites. The Administration and members of the School Building Committee will be visiting each elementary school during the month of September to provide an update on these projects.

At Wellesley Middle School, the much-needed steam pipe replacement project began this summer, which will continue into the school year. Additionally, the larger Middle School Systems project, which involves exterior building work, a complete kitchen renovation, classroom cabinetry replacement, and auditorium HVAC work, has now moved into the design phase with an anticipated request for construction funds in Fall 2020.

We remain grateful to the many Town departments and community partners who are supporting these important facilities projects.

Of the many aspects of our programs and activities, I am most proud of our unwavering belief that the Wellesley Public Schools should be a district that is visibly guided by its Core Values of *Academic Excellence, Commitment to Community, Respect for Human Differences, and Cooperative and Caring Relationships*. When I consider the landscape of our nation right now, with so much open division and hate, I am reminded of how important it is for our students to not only be challenged academically, but to also develop critical minds and a strong moral compass. Our school community is not immune from the same challenges that face our nation, but I also believe we offer a safe and supportive space to confront these challenges in a manner that builds the capacity of our students to do so in the future.

With the many announcements and scheduling information forthcoming from our District and schools, I encourage you to visit our website for more information: [www.wellesleyyps.org](http://www.wellesleyyps.org). I also invite you to follow me on Twitter@WellesleySupt for updates throughout the year. And, if you have not done so already, please update your contact information through our [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#).

Finally, I want to highlight a great opportunity for new and returning families to come together this Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00-4:00 pm, at the Warren Park Playground. Thank you to the World of Wellesley for sponsoring this event. I hope our WPS community will be well represented.

On behalf of the incredible team of educators and support staff who serve the children and families of the Wellesley Public Schools, thank you for putting your faith in us to provide your children with a world-class education. We look forward to working with you throughout the year to ensure the success of all of our students.

Best regards,



David F. Lussier  
Superintendent of Schools