

WILLINGBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WILLINGBORO, NEW JERSEY 08046-2847



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Subject: Willingboro Public Schools Re-Organization Update 2018-2019

Dear Willingboro Family,

I hope this correspondence finds you well. This communiqué is intended for members of our local school district (families and staff members) who will be impacted directly by the re-organization that is moving forward for the 2018-2019 school year.

We have held many public conversations about the necessity for a District re-organization due to the challenges of the 2018-2019 District Budget. (These discussions have been well publicized). Our Administration and the Board of Education have worked diligently to make the necessary tough choices that this budget required. Our meetings were greatly attended by local constituents who wanted their voices heard. In many cases parents, staff and students gave public testimony advocating strongly for their points of view.

Ultimately, it is the legal fiduciary responsibility of the Board and my Administration, to move forward with a budget that is sustainable, academically viable and fiscally responsible; and, we know that these decisions support those legal mandates.

To that end, please find below the following critical updates with regards to our 2018-2019 District Re-organization:

- The District will be creating an **Early Childhood Center at J.C. Stuart Elementary School**. It will serve PreK- 3, PreK-4 and Kindergarteners;
- **Garfield East Elementary School will be officially closed**, with no current plans for future operations;
- **Twin Hills, WR James and Hawthorne will now serve 1st thru 4th grade students**. Note: Garfield East's and JC Stuarts' rising 1st thru 4th grade students will be equitably reassigned to the aforementioned schools;
- The Levitt School will now be tentatively known as the **Intermediate School at Levitt**, and will serve our 5th and 6th grade students;
- **Memorial Middle School will continue to serve 7th and 8th grade students, and Willingboro High School will continue to serve 9th thru 12th graders;**

(Turn Over)

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In addition, we have added many academic supports and improvements for the upcoming school year. Including:

- Our **Professional Development Specialists** positions will now transition to become **District-wide Academic Supervisors for English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science**. This allows for more academic oversight, support and rigor for our daily instruction;
- Our **TOPS (gifted and talented) Teachers** will now be relocated to each of our elementary schools i.e. one per school, where they can continue to support the students who are excelling (while now also supporting students who require additional academic support to achieve proficiency); and,
- We are also investing in **curriculum and texts**:
 - Classroom Libraries for secondary students;
 - Novels for middle school students;
 - New Guided Reading Books and Libraries;
 - Curriculum Writing Teacher stipends to update every subject and course;
 - Elementary, Middle and High School investments in instructional materials to support the new NJDOE Learning Standards for Science;
 - New Social Science Resources in Elementary, Middle and High School; and,
 - A Curriculum Mapping System that will allow the public to view and search within all district curriculum guides via our website.

In closing, we understand the difficulty of change. We know the angst and concern that we as **parents** have when we are uncertain of our children's destination. As **educational professionals**, we also understand the worry of staff that have new surroundings and colleagues. We will successfully push through this (hopefully, not too bumpy) journey...together.

Yours in Education,



Dr. Ronald G. Taylor,
Superintendent of Schools

PS: We are very close to finalizing class lists, staff assignments, special education program assignments and transportation information. It is our goal to have these important details finalized and disseminated before Summer Break. Each transformed school site will have summer meetings for families to become familiar with both the school building and the leadership team. **Please review the attached Frequently Asked Questions-District Re-Org 2018 document as well, for more guidance.**