



WARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Marlene A. DiLeo, Ed.D., Superintendent
mdileo@ware.k12.ma.us

Jessica Bolduc, Director of Special Education
jbolduc@ware.k12.ma.us

239 West Street
P.O. Box 240
Ware, MA 01082

Phone: 413-967-4271
Fax: 413-967-9580

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Dear Ware Families,

Good afternoon! The opening of the 2022-2023 school year is off to a fast start. This week we find several activities across the district from kindergarten students taking part in their entry screenings along with their first day of school, and JS High School students taking part in fall sports practices for Girls & Boys Soccer, Golf and Football. For the most part students appear to be happy they are back in school, and we are most certainly happy they are back!

In 2014, I began discussions with Jan Yardley, Director of Accountability, of how we could bring back the 21st Century Afterschool Program that was once a popular program at SMK prior to 2008. To achieve this, the district partnered with the Collaborative for Educational Services (CES) in writing of the grants. Today, I am proud to say not only do we have a thriving program at SMK we also have one at WMS and in May we applied for an afterschool grant for the JS High School. The district is excited to announce we have been approved for the grant at \$205,000 per year for four years! The program will be open to students in Grades 7-12. Additional information on criteria to participate will be available soon.

The CES will manage this project, like the other two after school programs, as we are presently looking for individuals to run the program which include the following:

- Site Coordinator
- Activity Leader
- Activity Assistants

The Ware Middle School's program is in its fourth year and was just awarded the Exemplary Grant. The Exemplary Grant provides professional development to a 3-5 people team plus the school site-based facilitator to work collaboratively in the design of the Project Based Learning Module.

With the addition of the Ware Junior Senior High School Program, we will now have after-school programs for students in Grades K-12! Congratulations to everyone for all their hard work in securing and keeping these grants!!

Another bit of exciting news this summer is we began replacing the boilers at the JS High School which will be more energy efficient and provide the warmth needed throughout the cold New England months. In my 8+ years as superintendent, the district has replaced boilers at two schools along with windows and doors at the WMS. With the replacement of these infrastructure items the district is doing its part to become more energy efficient!

As a reminder, there is no school on Monday, September 5, for the Labor Day Holiday. We hope everyone enjoys the long weekend!

Sincerely,

Marlene A. DiLeo
Superintendent