



# WARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Good Evening Parents and Guardians,

I would like to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your students. As we embark on this new school year, I want to extend my thanks to each one of you as parents and guardians, as well as to every member of the Ware Public Schools team. The start of this academic year has been incredibly positive, and I am truly appreciative of your ongoing support.

Our students have demonstrated remarkable enthusiasm for learning, displaying their readiness in every classroom. The respect they have shown towards our staff is truly commendable and speaks to the positive atmosphere we strive to foster. I'd like to provide you with a few updates so that you are well-informed:

## **iREADY Assessments**

This academic year, we have introduced a new assessment that will be conducted three times annually. This assessment aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of each student's strengths and challenges in Math and ELA, allowing us to tailor our approach to achieve expected academic growth across all levels. The assessment window began today for certain students and will remain open until September 22nd, ensuring that every student from kindergarten through ninth grade is assessed. Please note that this assessment does not cover 10th through 12th grade and other academic areas outside of ELA and Math. However, rest assured that we are actively addressing these aspects as well. This initial assessment will serve as a baseline, followed by a mid-year assessment in January to track growth, and finally an end-of-year assessment to measure overall progress. It's important to convey to your students that this test is not about passing or failing; rather, we want them to give their best effort as we aim to utilize this information to provide targeted support for each child's academic advancement.

As parents or guardians, you can expect to receive information from your respective schools about your student's baseline and growth at each testing interval. Kindly request that your teachers and principals provide you with additional information regarding the assessment and how it impacts your student.

## **Emergency Drills**

Earlier this week, we conducted routine mandatory safety drills to ensure that both students and staff are well-prepared to respond effectively to crisis situations, should they arise. I'd like to extend my personal gratitude to the fire department and police department for their invaluable support during these drills. While these exercises have revealed some areas for improvement, please be assured that we are taking immediate action to address them and ensure the safety and welcoming environment of our campus. Throughout the year, we will continue to conduct safety drills to enhance our preparedness and leadership in maintaining a secure environment for your students.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and if you have any questions about the iREADY assessment, please don't hesitate to communicate with your principals to obtain the necessary information. Once again, I am thrilled by the incredible start your students have made to this new school year, and I am eagerly anticipating the promising journey ahead.

Just as a reminder we do not have school on Monday, September 4th due to Labor Day. Please enjoy the long weekend and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Lovato  
Superintendent