

Waterloo Independent Secondary School

June, 2021

A Note to Parents

End of School Year, 2020/21

Without a doubt, this school year has brought challenges to schools in ways we did not anticipate in September. Online learning was the challenge we faced. There were many questions: Could students study and learn well online? Could teachers provide interesting and engaging material online? Could there be good interaction between students and teachers? Would the online platform work well enough?

The answer to all of these questions, we are very pleased to report, is a resounding 'YES'.

Our 2021 Graduates

As principal, I always look forward to wishing our graduates well in person. Graduation is the highlight of the school year when we see the promise of the future in the eyes of our excited students who are moving on to a new phase of their education. This June, while the excitement for students is no less than other years, I will miss shaking hands with each and every graduate and wishing them well. Just the same, as a school, we wish our graduates the very best of success as they pursue their dreams.

An Interesting Observation

There was one area of growth for students this past year that came as a surprise and it is directly attributable to learning online. To be successful in the online environment requires constant practice of a critically important attribute: independence. Students have to learn to be less dependent on the teacher and they have to learn to pay close attention in class because the teacher is not as readily available. I am very happy to report to you that we have seen our student rise to the challenge. The opportunity to learn online has increased their confidence level and they are more independent learners. This attribute is key to success at post-secondary.

To Parents

This school year brought challenges not only to teachers and students but also to parents. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to parents for their support for the school throughout the year and for their dedication to the interests of their children. Without a doubt, your encouragement and help made the school year a positive one.

School Year 2021/22

We are looking forward to in-school classes starting in September. Students and teachers will be relieved to back to in-person learning and WISS looks forward to welcoming students back to school.

Our September theme will build around Canada's National Tree Day on September 22. We are planning student activities, including a nature walk, during the month of September. There are other exciting activities such as : Robotics, Debate, Public Speaking, Chess, Sports, Music, Art ... and field trips offered to our WISS student family. Fun in 2021/22!

September 10, 2021 is orientation day for students and all students are expected to attend.

Arrival Procedure

To follow the Ontario Government policy about COVID-19, there is a 14 day quarantine period required for students arriving by air. Please refer to the Canadian government website for more information:

<https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/flying-canada-checklist>

Another letter about the arrival and quarantine procedure will be sent this week from the WISS Office. Students should follow the directions and they can be sure to arrive at school safely.



Jim Sebastian
Principal