Happy New Year 2021 Westbury Family!

**History in the Making**
Recently we have witnessed many events that have provoked in-depth conversations in and outside of the classrooms, within our organization, in our community, and across our country. These conversations uncovered context around global pandemic, economic crisis, and social injustice. The district has provided our students with a safe space to discuss these complex topics in a respectful manner and by using quality resources. To that end, we welcome our 46th President of the United States of America, Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and the first woman of Jamaican/Indian descent, Vice President, Kamala Harris. Although there is a long road ahead of us, in the scheme of all there is to accomplish, education will prevail with the support of our First Lady, Dr. Jill Biden and our Secretary of Education, Dr. Miguel Cardona.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. left us with profound statements that will live on forever and serve as our inspiration of hope in the New Year!

> “An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.”

The Westbury UFSD is proud of the work that has resulted from our Five Year Strategic Plan. The collective voices of staff, community, students and Board of Education resulted in our mission and vision that unites us as a district and community:

**Vision**
Our vision is to create an empowering, collaborative and supportive learning environment that promotes maximum success for all students.

**Mission**
Our mission is to promote academic excellence, social development, and emotional growth of our students as lifelong learners who will contribute to an ever-changing world and global society.

The collaborative process was extremely rewarding and serves as the structure for sustainable alignment to our four goals: Strong Curriculum and Instruction and Assessment Practices, Responsible and Efficient Finance and Operations, Culturally Responsive and Sustainable Practices and Engaged Families and Community as Partners. As we shift to innovative methods of teaching and learning, our priorities will continue to evolve.

**Curriculum and Instruction**
In order to provide equitable access to 21st Century tools and resources necessary for our students to be successful in today’s digital learning environment, the district continues to distribute devices to students through our 1:1
initiative. This week our district received 539 Chromebooks. These devices will be inventoried and prepared for distribution during the week of January 25, 2021. We understand that providing students with a technology device and Wi-Fi accessibility is the first step towards closing the digital divide. It is equally critical to have our students and families become savvy on using the tool for learning and for communication.

Please note the distribution process for the 539 Chromebooks:
- Schools will send out a Connect Ed message notifying the parents/guardians of the dates and times of distribution.
- All buildings will have staff available to assist with the distribution and greet the parents/guardians as they arrive at the buildings following all CDC and DOH Safety Guidelines.

Westbury UFSD's Three-Year Graduation Rates (High School)
Congratulations to the Westbury High School and all of our schools for collaborating in unity to provide equitable opportunities!

The district has been intentional to support a structure for sustainability. Our structure provides for a coherent K-12 curriculum designed to build upon previously learned concepts, skills and content. The discussions amongst professionals and schools are integral to the fluid nature of spiraling concepts leading to High School graduation, aspiring careers and post-secondary experiences.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Rate</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>86%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regents Diploma</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>64%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language Learners</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>56%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students with Special Needs</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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- A three-year analysis of district level graduation data reveals that graduation rates have increased by 3 percentage points over the past 3 years.
- 2019-2020, the percentage of students graduating with a Regents Diploma increased by 14 percentage points resulting in 64% of students graduating with a Regents Diploma.
- Regents with Advanced Distinction remained the same at 22%.
- English Language Learners subgroup increased by 22 percentage points (34% 2017-2018/39% 2018-2019/ 56% 2019-2020).

**HERSTORY**
One of the many programs that Westbury has offered our students is HERSTORY. HERSTORY has activated the voice of our students in many ways. Our students’ experiences transcend into pieces of exceptional writing. This opportunity has allowed our students to become published authors, connect with college level mentors, extended into their daily classrooms and supported the development of college essays. We are in our fourth year serving sixty-four students and are in the process of expanding the program to maximize the experience within additional
classrooms. Among the sixty-four students are alumnae Ms. Faith Shaw, Ms. Mandy Wagnac, Ms. Olusola Babalola; and two published pieces on LI WINS, *Stories for Liberation*: Jennifer Chimbo, where she indicates that, “So much pain has made me stronger,” and Georgina Peralta’s, *A Red Bike*.

**Our School Environment**
The district continues to renovate and expand our current space at the Westbury Middle School. It is exciting to see the progress with our internal hallway capacity and the installation of our energy-efficient boilers and water-heating systems. If you have not, please drive or walk through the Westbury Middle School grounds and witness the brick-by-brick new building structure that you supported. Thank you for providing our students with an energy-efficient optimal space for teaching and learning.

![Renovation images](image)

**COVID-19 Update**
The Westbury UFSD continues to innovate and be among many who are in a position to transform education. As we proceed with vaccinations and hope for a brighter tomorrow, the district will begin to plan further for what lies ahead in the next coming months and into the reopening of schools in September. The district will use our previous process for a Strong and Bold Reentry which was inclusive of all stakeholders. The blueprint and execution of our reopening was phenomenal and in the best interest of our staff, students and families. We will follow the trend and patterns of COVID-19 cases and hope to see a continued decline. As we receive further guidance from the Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control and the Governor’s office, we will modify the plan to meet the necessary safety precautions.

As a learning community, please do not underestimate or undervalue the perseverance, learning opportunities and sacrifices made during these difficult times. This is a lifetime educational partnership!

The only possible way to stop the spread is as simple as following the 3 W’s: **Wear your mask, Wash your hands, and Watch your distance.**

All information is posted on our website @ [www.westburyschools.org](http://www.westburyschools.org).