

February 2010 Newsletter: From the Desk of Principal Tom Gwin

The school committee has approved a 4.49 % increase in the school budget for the 2010-2011 school year totaling \$34,910,531. Most of this increase is due to contractual obligations but there is a portion of this increase that will positively affect the high school. The FY11 budget proposal includes new initiatives in Mandarin Chinese, on-line math courses, and a new elective focusing on technology/21st century skills. Currently WHS only offers the romance languages. The Mandarin allows us to expand our foreign language selection to the Pacific Rim and add a language that is considered a "critical need" by the government. On-line math courses give students the opportunity to take courses not offered by the department or to repeat a course if necessary without going to summer school. (It's only a matter of time before on-line courses will be a critical part of all high schools.) A committee has been discussing a technology graduation requirement and the new elective will allow us to the opportunity to pilot a potential program. These programs are much needed components of a 21st century education.

The FY11 budget also provides a small increase in our equipment and supplies line and includes the in-house suspension program. Formerly this program had been funded by state grants that are no longer available. Finally, the budget will pick up a small portion of the Connect and Commit coordinator's salary. This position has been funded by the Winchester Community Service Foundation but there is a five year plan for the school department to pick up this salary. The 4.49% increase will be subject to reductions as the budget process continues and we find out about decreases in state aid and projections for town revenue. Stay tuned.

Stat of the Month: Per Pupil Expenditures in Towns We Compare Ourselves To

Per pupil expenditure is calculated by dividing all school operating expenditures by the total number of students in the district. This is FY08 data from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website. See them all at:

http://finance1.doe.mass.edu/schfin/statistics/function08_detail.aspx

Town	Per Pupil Expenditure
State Average	12,454
Winchester	10,865
Belmont	11,301
Lexington	14,469
Newton	15,498
Wayland	14,033
Wellesley	13,916
Weston	17,017

Principal Drop-in The Principal Drop-in will take place on the second Wednesday of the month in February rather than the first- February 10, 5:30-7 pm.

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Cafeteria and Lunch

Students should conduct themselves in such a manner so as to insure a clean, pleasant atmosphere for both the eating of lunch and the social use of the cafeteria. Each student shall assume responsibility for keeping the cafeteria clean and orderly during the day. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary consequences. Students may eat outside in the courtyard, providing they keep the area clean of debris. Inappropriate behavior in the cafeteria may result in detentions or temporary loss of café privileges. Lunch area is restricted to the cafeteria and the front courtyard between the library and the auditorium. No students are allowed to eat in the hallways or in non designated areas. Failure to comply will result in detentions or possible suspensions. Students who have finished lunch are allowed to go to the Library, without food. Not remaining in the courtyard, library or cafeteria during lunch may result in detentions or a suspension from school. Students need to be responsible for their own trash pick up in and around the school. Food and drink cannot be consumed in the hallways.

Personal Property and Valuables

The high school administration strongly discourages students from bringing excess money or valuable items to school. Likewise excess money or valuable items should not be stored in lockers at Winchester High School. Under NO circumstances does the Town of Winchester, Winchester High School, its administration, or its staff assume liability for personal possessions brought to school.