



# Wissahickon School District

## *Bleeding Blue with a Heart of Gold*

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August 21, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Greetings from Wiss Nation! We have been hard at work this summer, ensuring our academic programs and educational facilities remain second to none. We have also made it our business to hire the very best new teachers we can find, and I am confident you will be as thrilled as I am with the results of our recruiting efforts.

It was just nine short months ago, after some disturbing incidents in schools across the state, that I felt it was important to assure our school community that we have an “unwavering commitment to character” in the Wissahickon schools and that “hate-related incidents or any expressions whatsoever of intolerance are antithetical to everything that we stand for.” After the horrifying and shameful events in Virginia earlier this month, I believe it’s equally important now to reiterate that same commitment, on the eve of a new school year, so that our staff members, students and families all feel comfortable in terms of where we stand.

General Joseph Lengyel, the chief of our country’s National Guard, recently wrote:

*I stand with my fellow Joint Chiefs in condemning racism, extremism and hatred. Our diversity is our strength.*

To be perfectly clear, THAT is where we stand. We unequivocally commit ourselves to embracing our diversity, and to welcoming our differences, and will do whatever it takes to ensure our schools reflect that commitment each and every day. In fact, next week, our school doors will open once again and we’ll be welcoming back each and every one of our over 4,500 students for another awesome year in the Wissahickon schools. We are indeed looking forward to seeing everyone and to all the fun, excitement and learning that comes with a new school year!

Sincerely,

*James A. Crisfield*

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