

Weekly column: EdTalk
Superintendent of Schools: Dr. David Leach
April 3, 2024

Last week was a quiet week around the district as students, faculty, and many staff members enjoyed Spring Break. The quiet in our halls this week, however, is soon to be replaced with a crackling air of excitement for everything that comes after Spring Break – spring classes, spring sports, spring formals, and, of course, celebrating the graduating Warwick Valley Wildcats Class of 2024 in June.

It feels like we've sprung ahead a bit faster in the weeks since President's Day recess. However, even as time flies by, there has been familiar anticipation growing throughout the school community. I'm looking forward to the opportunities that springtime brings. It's a shared excitement that when everyone returns to school on Tuesday, April 2nd, we'll head into the exciting home stretch of the school year!

With all of this excitement coming up for our current district families, there's plenty to offer for new families in the district, too. You will receive notifications about the 2024-2025 school year. A top district priority as we plan any new school year is the kindergarten registration process. This year, it began in January. We expect most parents to have their student(s) registered by spring, as is typically the case. Parents and guardians registering a kindergarten student this year will receive advance notifications about all orientations and screenings, which take place in May.

In the weeks following Spring Break, the principal from each new registrant's school will contact families to let them know which orientation event to attend. These are informative open house events that parents and students enjoy, during which building administrators review building routines, procedures, and expectations. Orientation events focus on school tours for incoming kindergarten families! Getting to know the space and interacting with faculty and administrators before the big First Day of Kindergarten provides parents with peace of mind and students with confidence. We look forward to welcoming the Class of 2037 to this year's kindergarten orientation!

Our district's successful Universal Pre-K program returns for the 2024-2025 school year. Registration for Universal Pre-K will begin in May this year. Since its inception our program has met high demand, partnering with quality, local providers. More details on the Universal Pre-K program – including enrollment, availability, providers, and deadline information – will be posted on the district website and social media during April.

To all district families reading this, I hope you enjoy Spring Break! We're looking forward to seeing you all back at school on Tuesday, April 2, ready for the whole new season of opportunities about to blossom.