



As we gear up for the upcoming school year, we want to share some exciting updates and changes within the school district to benefit our families and students. This email includes information on our District Calendar, Capturing Kids' Hearts, and Library Enhancements.

Changes to the District Calendar:

At the regular Board meeting held on August 9th, the Board of Education voted and approved a modification to our school calendar to better support the successful implementation of our new program, Capturing Kids' Hearts.

To provide our staff with the necessary training and preparation for the Capturing Kids' Hearts initiative, we have made the following changes to the school calendar:

October 23 and 24, 2023: These dates are now back-to-back teacher training days for implementing the Capturing Kids' Hearts program. ***Please note that there will be no school for students on these dates.***

April 25, 2023: This day was marked as a teacher training day; however, it is ***now an instructional day for all students.***

We understand that changes to the school calendar can impact your family's plans, and we are striving to provide early enough notice to minimize any inconvenience. To view the updated calendar, please click [here](#).

Capturing Kids' Hearts:

At WPSD, we are committed to providing programs that help our students achieve academic excellence, including character development. To enhance this aspect of our student's education, we are thrilled to introduce the Capturing Kids Hearts program. This program focuses on building strong relationships and creating a positive school community. This program aims to give our students the tools they need to excel academically and as responsible and compassionate citizens.

As part of this program, our district will focus on a specific character trait each month. These embody values such as respect, kindness, empathy, perseverance, and more each month. These serve as guiding principles for our students as they navigate their academic journey.

We invite all parents, guardians, staff members, and students to join us in this endeavor. By embracing and practicing the monthly character trait, we can collectively create a positive and supportive environment that extends beyond the classroom. For more information, please visit www.capturingkidshearts.org.

Library Enhancements:

Our school libraries are a hub of knowledge and exploration, and we strive to ensure they remain safe for all our students. With this in mind, we have made some changes to our library's organization and borrowing procedures.

We are taking steps to ensure that books addressing controversial or sensitive topics, as defined in policy, are identified to allow parents and guardians to make informed decisions about their child's reading material.

In line with our commitment to involve parents and guardians in their child's education, we are implementing a new policy requiring parental consent for students under 18 to check out books found in the controversial topics section. This allows parents and guardians to converse with their children about content and ensure it aligns with their family's values and beliefs.

We value your partnership and appreciate your continued support as we work together to provide our students with the best possible educational experience. If you have any questions or would like more information about these updates, please don't hesitate to contact Kim Moore, CAO, at kmoore@wpsdk12.org.