

June 30, 2011

Dear Warren County R-III Patrons:

You are holding a copy of the preliminary 2011-12 school year budget for the Warren County R-III School District. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the financial picture and plans of your school district. The budget was developed after a review of all of the district departments. The Comprehensive School Improvement Plan is a board approved document that outlines the goals and objectives of the district. This plan is instrumental in the preparation of the various building and departmental budgets.

The District has many things to celebrate. The District was named a 2010-11 Distinction in Performance District. The honor shows the hard work, dedication and commitment of our students and staff. There were also several items to celebrate on the Adequate Yearly Progress Report. At Warrior Ridge Elementary, the communication arts test scores were higher than the state average. At Warrenton High School, the American history scores were higher than the state average and communication arts scores exceeded the target. Warrior Ridge also had an increase in scores from 2009-10 in six out of six subgroups. Rebecca Boone Elementary had an increase from 2009-10 in six out of eight subgroups. Black Hawk Middle School saw an increase in seven out of eight subgroups and Warrenton High School had an increase in five out of six subgroups. The district also saw a rise in the number of students taking the ACT and an increase in the ACT composite score.

District administration is very aware of the current economic situation. The district has been conservative in spending during the last two years and will continue that trend for the 2011-12 fiscal year. The budget contains conservative revenue projections while expenditures focus on student learning and cautious spending. The district has made plans to accommodate future budget reductions if necessary. A plan was developed during several meetings between central office and building administrators. The committee prioritized a list of possible reductions while focusing on the goal of maintaining manageable class sizes at all grade levels. These recommendations were shared with the Board of Education in February. Making cuts is not an easy task, but the district now has a plan for future reductions if the district's revenue streams fall short.

The District will continue to focus on instructional outcomes while balancing funding issues. Our students' and employees' interests are in the forefront of every budget decision. Economic issues will continue to be monitored as the district prepares budget forecasts for the next five years. These forecasts will be reviewed several times during the upcoming fiscal year. During the next fiscal year the District and the Board of Education will continue to work on the budget reduction plan to deal with possible funding cuts in the 2011-12 and 2012-13 fiscal years.

The 2011-12 budget supports the District's commitment to improving student achievement and maintaining efficient budgeting. The Board of Education and district patrons have been very supportive of this commitment. We will continue to manage our programs and resources in order to maintain that support.

Sincerely,

Tom Muzzey, Ed.D.
Incoming Superintendent