

Greetings from WWG Schools,

It looks to be a great fall and as dry as it is, we are being blessed in this area with a great crop! I wanted to take a little of your time to update you with a few tidbits coming from my direction.

- Our Westbrook Area Education Foundation is getting a “facelift” and I am excited to go into the next chapter! It has been said in many circles that there is soon coming a large transfer of estates from the greatest generation to the baby boomers and then an even larger transfer as the “boomers” do the same. We hope that our foundation can be an option for folks to look at as they think about their legacy they leave to their hometown and the school. We are nearly complete with a web page and have a facebook page nearly completed. I look forward to these two developments being a great way to keep our alumni in touch with the great things happening at the school.
- At our last board meeting we discussed our levy and left it at the maximum allowed which would be about a wash from last year. Upon further review, I believe we are going to be able to levy less than the max again for the 3rd year in a row! Yes! I hope you all remember this when we renew our levy referendum in a few years!
- THE FLEXIBLE LEARNING YEAR = THE EARLY SCHOOL START. Some of you may not know the term but are aware of the different calendar that we have had the past 3 years of starting early and finishing early. We will have 3 public meetings to hear from those of you who felt it was wonderful and from those of you who did not like it. We will have 2 meetings in December and 1 in January. From there, the board will vote an up or a down to apply with the other 24 districts for another 3 year application. Once the board passes the resolution it will go to the Commissioner of Education for her approval. There is a lot of pressure from the resort industry and from the State Fair folks to not allow this to happen and we’ll have to wait and see. I would encourage those of you that are for AND against to voice your opinions at our public meetings! I received an email from an area Superintendent in Luverne and he had a few nice comments I would like to share about these past 3 years.
 - “As leaders of our districts, we have a huge responsibility to see that our teachers are receiving quality professional development which in turn is carried back into the classroom with them to benefit our students. Just think how positive we were and how united we were as we entered this endeavor! This would not have happened if all of us had not pulled together. Each of us has taken risks in being a part of this, but in the long run we know it was and will be good for the students of our districts.”
 - “Our focus is student achievement. Our focus is collaboration. Our focus is educational reform. Our focus is working together as colleagues and friends. In my mind, it doesn't get any better than this. Right now we are a target instead of model for what can be accomplished for educational reform in this state. We've agreed that this is a worthwhile endeavor I want each of you to continue to be a part of this process. We're strong together and if fragmented each/all of us could suffer. I think Loren said yesterday, "This is the best thing that has happened to me since I've been in education!" We should all feel this way.”