



Will Carleton Academy

2001 W. Hallett Rd, Hillsdale, MI 49242 • 517-437-2000 • WillCarletonAcademy.com • Tuition-Free K-12

February 6, 2023

Dear Will Carleton Academy Families,

Happy Monday to all of you! I hope your weekend of sunshine provided some time for you to do something that you love. That is always a good way to spend a few days!

Please be reminded of your Letters of Intent to Return for the 2023-2024 academic year that were sent home last Monday, January 30th in your Monday Mailer. Those have a due date of this Wednesday, February 8th. Those forms were on yellow paper and explain that your commitment via that form allows for class sizes to be determined for the fall and advertisements to be made for the upcoming Open Enrollment period for new families. If you need help with or have questions about this process, please contact the WCA office. We are happy to help.

Valentine's Day is next Tuesday, February 14th. Please be reminded that we will have exchanges of **homemade, non-edible** valentine greetings in classrooms. If your child participates, one valentine card for each classmate is the request to be sure that all students are included in this exchange of good will.

Barring any inclement weather days, our 100th Day of School will be Friday, February 17th. Kindergarten through 2nd grade students will have lots of fun activities centered on this special milestone. I can't wait!

Just a reminder from the office about being tardy. If you arrive to campus late, it is policy that you accompany your student into the building and sign them in at the office. Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Jackson will greet you and can then confirm your child(ren) is/are in fact on campus. This is an important part of our day each morning and we do need that step to be followed. Thank you for your support with this procedure.

One can tell it is approaching spring; students are growing taller! Please notice the length of your child's skirt and be sure that it is an appropriate length for school. I do nudge the girls when I notice a skirt that is getting too short and more times than not, it is rolled at the waist so that is an easy fix. The tricky ones are the skirts that have been hemmed and the young ladies have grown. Please let me know how I might help with this. I do speak to the students about uniforms and am grateful for your support.

The "Did you know..." fact about WCA this week has to do with technology. I often am asked about computer time and why WCA doesn't teach computers. 25 years ago, WCA was founded on the premise of being a back-to-basics charter school that used textbooks and read novels in print; taught cursive, fostered a disciplined environment and involved very little technology. Interestingly enough before COVID-19, WCA had one COW (computer lab on wheels...) which housed 15 laptop computers. Since then our technology library has grown to include numerous chrome books that students use for state testing and three-times a year NWEA testing as well. Once in a while, teachers do use chrome books for an assignment or assessment or to do research with students. Teachers teach with technology but faculty on campus do not teach computers by the nature of WCA's mission statement. The Michigan

Merit Curriculum for grades 9-12 does have a required "on-line experience" that WCA accomplishes in a variety of ways. The most typical way is to dual enroll our high school students in the Jackson College CIS 101 course, which is an introductory course offering exposure to a suite of computer programs. The Will Carleton Academy founders believed that in specific instances technology can be a distraction to quality instruction and learning. WCA administration has upheld this premise and is one of the most sought-after reasons for enrollment. I hope this clarifies one more fact about WCA.

Keep those winter gear items coming! The week looks perfect for outdoor recess!

Have a fabulous week! Please let me know if there is anything that you need. Like I remind my staff often, don't suffer in silence. I can't help with situations that I don't know about!

Be well,



Colleen A. Vogt