



Will Carleton Academy

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

January 27, 2026

Dear Will Carleton Academy Families,

It seems like forever since I have written to you! That impromptu mid-winter break last week was not expected! I hope that you all stayed safe and warm last week. It was so good to have everyone back on campus for today. I was beginning to think Old Man Winter and Mother Nature never wanted to hear students in our hallways again!

Thank you to all who communicated with me, the office, faculty or staff during the closures last week. It is nice to hear from folks offering encouragement and even just asking questions. Let me again communicate that each daily decision is made independent of another day's decision and with the support of local districts as all leadership teams take this responsibility very seriously. No school leader wants to miss instructional minutes, but so many factors must be taken into consideration with each wintry day. My life is a series of short naps when weather events take place, as I wake up many times in the night to check conditions and even drive the roads throughout the county to be sure the correct decision is made. Let's just say, while I do love snow and winter, I am more than happy to see mid-twenties in the forecast for next week.

A February calendar is included in your mailer this week. Hard to believe we are here already! Please note the addition of classes on Monday, February 16th (from the original 2025-2026 academic calendar) as a result of our snow days last week. Let's get a jump on scheduling a make-up day while we can. I will be sure to remind you of this weekly, but please note it on family calendars as well! The State of Michigan's Department of Education allows for 6 forgiven days and school leaders can apply for an additional 3 missed days of instruction to be forgiven each academic year. To date, WCA has had 8 days of missed instruction, technically leaving us only one without the consequence of making up days. Adding classes on the 16th of February puts our school community in a good position. Thank you for adjusting to this additional time in classrooms.

Letters of Intent to Return for each WCA student for the 2026-2027 academic year are included in your mailer today. Please read those carefully and complete them for each child in your family. The responses to this form are important as we use these responses to advertise for new families to join our school family for next year. I am happy to talk with you if you have questions about the fall. We look forward to receiving your Letter of Intent to Return by next Thursday, February 5, 2026.

WCAHS Homecoming is next week, February 2nd through the 6th! The theme days are exceptional as usual; we have such a creative group of students! Please note the details on the flier that is included. Friday, February 6th is a schoolwide Green and Gold Day. Let's keep face paint and hair dye for the high school students, but otherwise, don your best WCA gear for this spirited casual day!

As I like to do every semester, I want to remind you about a service that is available to all students on campus. That service is from our HISD appointed social worker, Ms. Shelley Keller. If you believe that your child would benefit from talking to Ms. Shelley about any struggles that they might be having,

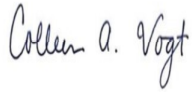
please reach out to me. I would be happy to connect you with Ms. Shelley to begin to provide that support.

Sophomore students interested in the Hillsdale County Early Middle College should be working on that application now. Those applications, which were originally due this Friday, January 30th, are now due Friday, February 13th. If you have questions about this program or the application, please reach out to Mr. Kruse or me. We are happy to help with this amazing opportunity for these students!

The WCA Parent Forum is meeting this week on Thursday, January 29th at 5:15 pm at Hillsdale Brew. Please see the invite included in your mailer! The Parent Forum also reminds you that Reverse Raffle tickets are available in the office. That awesome event is Saturday, March 14th and if each WCA family sells one ticket and buys one ticket, the tickets will be gone in a flash! Hope to see you there!

Stay warm and take care of each other this week. Have a great week!

Be well,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colleen A. Vogt".

Colleen A. Vogt