



May 7, 2019

Dear Families and Staff:

Arthur Unobskey, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
508.358-3763

Over April vacation I spent ten days in China with five of our ninth grade students, our high school Mandarin teacher, Ms. Liu, and their chaperone, one of our seventh grade science teachers, Brian Reddington. My role during this trip was to meet the new principal of our sister school and show our commitment to the China Exchange Program. I had a wonderful time, and developed a deep respect for the enthusiastic professionalism of Ms. Liu and Mr. Reddington, and the resourcefulness of our students. Ultimately, we were able to secure a long-term relationship with our sister school in China.

Parry Graham, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent  
508.358.3772

I was struck by the spontaneity of our students in response to the challenges of traveling in a country that is very different from their own. While they yearned for a good hamburger, for example, they relentlessly sought out new eating experiences. Amidst their sightseeing, they tackled talking with strangers on the subway or the street, even though almost every single word they spoke was a challenge.

Richard Whitehead, M.Ed.  
Director of Student  
Services  
508.358.3756

Watching these students in China reminded me that challenging our students to try activities that don't come easily for them is something that Wayland does well. We see how students develop deep relationships with teachers in whose classes they struggle. We need to deepen the opportunities for our students to have the freedom to fail, pick themselves up, and try again. One area in which teachers throughout the District have taken risks to engage students in this kind of work is when they have reached beyond conventional measures of rigor and integrated their students' study across disciplines. When students have to deal with a topic from a new angle, which is what thoughtful interdisciplinary work requires, they become more flexible thinkers.

Susan Bottan, MBA  
Director of Finance &  
Operations  
508.358.3750

I look forward to observing our students as they continue to engage in new and challenging tasks.

Tony Laing, Ph.D.  
METCO Director  
508.358.3754

Sincerely,

Arthur Unobskey

Leisha F. Simon, M.Ed.  
Director of Technology &  
Digital Learning  
508.358.3714