Walter Johnson High School
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Dear WJHS Students, Parents/Caregivers and Staff,

Walter Johnson High School (WJHS) is thoughtfully reviewing how our academic pathways can best serve our students and our community with a continued focus on strengthening both the academic and social experiences of every student. A key part of this work includes examining the future of our long-standing signature program, APEX (Advanced Placement Experience), which began at WJHS in 1996. For nearly thirty years, APEX and more recently, APEX Reach has challenged students with rigorous coursework while strengthening family connections and student support within our school community. We are incredibly proud of the thousands of Wildcats who have benefited from this program and of the meaningful legacy it leaves behind.

As part of our continued commitment to rigorous, relevant, and equitable academic opportunities, WJHS will begin phasing out the APEX Reach program for future cohorts, while continuing to fully support and honor the students who are already enrolled. We are confident that this shift from APEX Reach to the AP Capstone Diploma Program will expand access, preserve rigor, and further strengthen both the academic and social experience of our students. Our commitment remains steadfast: to challenge, support, and empower every Wildcat.

What does this mean for students and families? Current APEX Reach students will continue in the program through graduation, with all existing requirements and course expectations maintained. The final APEX Reach cohort will graduate in 2029. This transition will not impact the coursework that current APEX Reach students are completing.

Looking ahead, we are excited to strengthen our focus on the AP Capstone Diploma Program, a College Board diploma program that aligns closely with the skills colleges value most. Built on two yearlong courses AP Seminar and AP Research. AP Capstone uses an interdisciplinary approach to develop critical thinking, research, collaboration, time management, and presentation skills. AP Capstone is a nationally recognized program valued by colleges and universities across the country for its emphasis on inquiry, scholarly research, and academic rigor. Created in partnership with higher education leaders, AP Capstone complements students' AP coursework and prepares them for the complexity of college academics and beyond.

With this shift toward an AP Capstone Diploma model, students will continue to have access to the full range of Honors and AP courses based on course prerequisites not an application or admissions process. This approach ensures that all students have the opportunity to explore advanced coursework that aligns with their interests, readiness, and long-term goals. At WJHS, students already take advantage of a broad menu of AP offerings, and we have steadily increased the number of AP assessments administered over the past several years, reflecting student interest, preparedness, and our staff's commitment to rigorous instruction.

Our goal at Walter Johnson is to prepare every student for postsecondary college and career opportunities. We believe that AP Capstone, combined with our strong instructional programs and schoolwide focus on academic excellence, provides a powerful model to equip our scholars with the academic, social, and personal skills they need for success.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we take these important steps forward.

Sincerely,

Nicole J. Morgan

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