



Westosha Central High School

24617 75th Street • Post Office Box 38
Salem, Wisconsin 53168

(262) 843-2321

www.westosha.k12.wi.us



Dear Families,

We have had a wonderful fall at Westosha Central High School. We are excited about all of the upgrades to our facility and the continued work by our staff to provide a robust learning experience that prepares students for college, career, and life. As a learning community, we are continually looking to improve, and the school report card is one resource that we use to reflect on our strengths and areas for improvement.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is required by state statute ([Wis. Stat. 115.385](#)) to generate a school report card and district report card for every publicly-funded school and district in the state. The report cards are intended to help schools and districts use performance data to celebrate successes and improve their efforts to prepare students for their futures. Earlier today, DPI released the score cards for every school in Wisconsin.

For the second year in a row, Westosha Central High School received a rating of “**Meets Expectations.**” The leadership team and staff value the school report card process as it provides us an opportunity to celebrate the many successes of our school while identifying goals for the future.

The current **School Report Card is primarily based on last year's performance during the 2022-23 school year.** The DPI encourages caution when interpreting scores and ratings on the 2022-23 report card because multiple years of data impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are used throughout the report card.

At the foundation of the report cards are four priority areas. Schools and districts receive a score for each priority area:

- **Achievement** - Proficiency in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics on the annual state assessments which include PreACT Secure (Grades 9 and 10) and ACT (Grade 11)
- **Growth** - Year-to-year progress in ELA and math achievement for individual students
- **Target Group Outcomes** - Outcomes for students with the lowest test scores (target group) as compared to all students
- **On-Track to Graduation** - Reliable predictors (graduation rate and attendance) of how successfully students are progressing toward completing their K-12 education.

A couple of celebrations worth noting:

- Westosha Central's achievement score (percentage of students scoring at or above grade level) was higher than 85 percent of all high schools in Wisconsin. In other words, Westosha Central is a high performing high school in Wisconsin as measured by student achievement data.
- Westosha Central has made a commitment to provide co-taught classes in multiple subject areas in order to promote an inclusionary model for special education students. The work over the past three years has yielded a significant shift in the percentage of students with disabilities reaching proficiency or higher in both the Language Arts (English + Reading) and Mathematics.

- Continued growth of the number of students meeting or exceeding (Proficient/Advanced) on the math portion of the test. Westosha Central students continue to outperform students from across the state by a significant margin.

While we have much to celebrate, three areas surfaced to the top of our list to examine, explore, and improve. These include:

- Reading scores: we want and need to see this area grow and improve. To help this initiative, the district is examining our data, developing professional learning on best instructional strategies, and creating a plan to increase the level of proficiency in literacy.
- Closing Achievement Gaps: it is clear that students below grade level are not closing the gap as quickly as needed. We are initiating some new interventions to provide support in math and literacy to help our struggling students meet (and exceed) grade level standards.
- Chronic Absenteeism: chronic absenteeism is defined as students that miss 10 percent or more of school days. For Westosha Central, this represents approximately 17 days of missed school. In 2022-23, 17 percent of all students missed at least 17 days of school. This represents nearly 200 students. This number is too high in our opinion; we need to see all students engage in school, and the first step to engagement is through attendance.

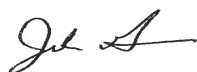
While proud of our academic rigor and achievement, we know that we can and will do better. Our scores, especially in student achievement, show that we are a great high school, but one with room to grow.

While reviewing the School Report Card data is a valuable exercise, it is also important to note that our school provides amazing opportunities for students that are not measured by the DPI School Report Card. These opportunities include, but are not limited to, robust career and technical offerings, award-winning musical and performing arts programs, a staff focused and committed to providing social-emotional support, and a wide variety of extra-curricular offerings to meet the needs and interests of the entire student body.

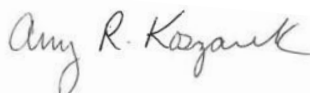
Westosha Central is part of a State of Wisconsin initiative called Redefining Ready. The goal of **Redefining Ready!** is to identify and use research-based metrics to more appropriately assess that students are college ready, career ready and life ready. The readiness indicators, developed from research by world-class organizations, more accurately reflect the educational landscape of the 21st century. Multiple metrics include Advanced Placement courses, Algebra II, early college credits, industry credentials, attendance, and community service, among others. In the coming weeks, we will share with you the extremely positive results from our Redefining Ready scorecard and data.

It is clear from the DPI School Report Card and the College and Career Readiness benchmarks that the students at Westosha Central are prepared for life beyond high school.

Sincerely,



John Gendron
District Administrator
gendronj@westosha.k12.wi.us



Amy Koszarek
Director of Learning and Innovation
koszareka@westosha.k12.wi.us