

# SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER

Woodbridge Township School District, 428 School St, Woodbridge, NJ 07095  
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## Welcome Back

By Robert Zega

On behalf of the central administration and the Woodbridge Township Board of Education it is a pleasure to welcome everyone back to the 2014-2015 school year. We have been working hard since graduation last June to ensure that the school opening, as well as the entire year, will be a rewarding one.

We felt that we had a good opening. There were minimal problems and very few complaints regarding opening day procedures at each school. We will look at all of our procedures to try to make each day better.

We have many new programs for a wide range of grades and ability levels. We are proud to say we have actual college courses being taught in our high schools and iTunes University courses being taught in first grade. We are also proud to announce that we are piloting ROTC at Woodbridge High School. We are confident that our teachers, equipped with their district-issued iPads or chromebooks, will provide effective, engaging instruction.

Over the summer the Woodbridge Township Board of Education adopted our Strategic Plan. The purpose of the plan was to catalog input from our community to ascertain what issues they thought were most important. We will use the Strategic Plan when making future decisions for the district.

A large part of the Strategic Plan was refreshing our vision and mission statements, as well as creating core beliefs. I would ask that you visit our district webpage and read these impactful statements.

Our Board of Education also refreshed all of our policies and regulations over the summer. This significant accomplishment will allow our

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policies to be reviewed and updated by the New Jersey School Boards Association. Additionally, any new laws will be incorporated into district policy by the NJSBA. These policies and regulations are posted on our district website.

On our website you will also notice district goals. A new concept for this year, the administration has decided to set goals for the district for the 2014-2015 school year. We hope you get a chance to look at these goals. When we are successful in reaching all these goals, we will have had a great school year.

Finally, I will try to keep everyone informed more efficiently by using my Twitter account—yes I have joined the Twitter universe! Please follow me at: @ZegaRobert.



## Construction Updates

As part of our historic joint effort between Mayor McCormac, the Woodbridge Town Council and the Woodbridge Township Board of Education, our schools facilities have undergone major upgrades. These upgrades include:

Woodbridge HS Stadium: under construction  
Woodbridge HS Gym Bleachers: **COMPLETE**  
Woodbridge HS auditorium seating: **COMPLETE**  
Woodbridge HS tennis courts: under construction  
Woodbridge HS parking lots: **COMPLETE**  
Woodbridge HS concession stand: under construction  
Woodbridge HS JV softball field dugouts: under construction  
Colonia HS turf football/soccer field: **COMPLETE**  
Colonia HS turf baseball field: under construction  
Colonia HS gym bleachers: **COMPLETE**  
Colonia HS Auditorium air conditioning: under construction  
Colonia HS paving: **COMPLETE**  
JFK HS turf football/soccer field: **COMPLETE**  
JFK HS running track: **COMPLETE**  
JFK HS turf baseball field: under construction  
JFK HS auditorium seating: under construction  
JFK HS auditorium air conditioning: under construction  
JFK HS paving: **COMPLETE**  
JFK HS softball field: **COMPLETE**  
Woodbridge MS auditorium seating and acoustic upgrades: **COMPLETE**  
Avenel MS athletic fields: under construction  
Mawbey Street Elementary School parking: **COMPLETE**  
Mawbey Street Elementary School playground: **COMPLETE**  
Lafayette Estates Elementary School playground, walking track & basketball court: **COMPLETE**  
Playgrounds at elementary schools #9, #20, #23: under construction  
Basketball courts at elementary schools #23, #24, #26, #28: under construction  
Walking tracks at elementary schools #9, #19, #22, #23, #24, #25, #26, #28: under construction

## Board of Education Construction Update

In addition to the upgrades funded by the Township, the Board of Education has also financed a substantial amount of summer projects. The updates are below:

Avenel MS boiler replacement: under construction  
Avenel MS clock replacement: **COMPLETE**  
Avenel MS gym floor: **COMPLETE**  
Avenel MS lockers: under construction  
Avenel MS stage curtain: **COMPLETE**  
Avenel Street #4&5 refinish 5 classroom floors: **COMPLETE**  
Claremont Avenue #20 concrete ramp for wheelchair accessibility: **COMPLETE**  
Colonia HS walk-in freezer: **COMPLETE**  
Colonia HS wrestling/dance room: under construction  
Colonia MS clock replacement: **COMPLETE**  
Fords MS clock replacement: **COMPLETE**  
Iselin MS cafeteria floor: **COMPLETE**  
JFK HS auditorium carpet: under construction  
JFK HS gym divider removal: **COMPLETE**  
JFK HS refinish gym floor: **COMPLETE**  
Lafayette Estates #25 parking lot expansion: **COMPLETE**  
Mawbey Street #1 boiler replacement: under construction  
Patch & paint auditorium floor at WMS, WHS, JFK: **COMPLETE**  
Paving/Sealing/Striping in schools #4&5, #18, #19, #20, #22, #23, #24, #25, IMS: **COMPLETE**  
Pennsylvania Avenue #27 boiler replacement: under construction  
Port Reading #9 boiler replacement: under construction  
Robert Mascenik #26 boiler replacement: under construction  
Ross Street #11 painting four classrooms: **COMPLETE**  
Ross Street #11 road & fence construction: **COMPLETE**  
Woodbine Avenue #23 parking lot: **COMPLETE**  
Woodbridge HS auditorium air conditioning: under construction  
Woodbridge HS auditorium carpet: **COMPLETE**  
Woodbridge HS gym divider removal: **COMPLETE**  
Woodbridge HS gym floor: **COMPLETE**  
Woodbridge HS heating system upgrades: under construction  
Woodbridge HS new projector screen in auditorium: **COMPLETE**  
Woodbridge HS painted main foyer: **COMPLETE**  
Woodbridge HS track repair: **COMPLETE**  
Woodbridge MS clock replacement: **COMPLETE**  
Woodbridge MS gym bleachers: under construction  
Woodbridge MS painting in gym and third floor: **COMPLETE**  
Woodbridge MS refinished gym floor: under construction

*You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand.*

[Woodrow Wilson](#)



JFK HS Football/Soccer Field



CHS Football/Soccer Field



WHS Auditorium



WMS Auditorium



AMS Gym Floor

*Coming together is a beginning;  
Keeping together is progress;  
Working together is success.*

Henry Ford

## Woodbridge Township Board of Education

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Brian Molnar</b><br/><i>President</i><br/>Term - 2014</p>             |  A portrait of Brian Molnar, a man with dark hair and a goatee, wearing a dark suit and a light-colored tie. He is standing in front of a bookshelf filled with books and an American flag.  | <p>Negotiations Committee</p>   |
| <p><b>John Golden</b><br/><i>Vice President</i><br/>Term - 2016</p>         |  A portrait of John Golden, a man with glasses and a receding hairline, wearing a dark suit and a green tie. He is standing in front of a bookshelf filled with books and an American flag. | <p>Finance &amp; Insurance Committee<br/>Chairperson<br/>Negotiations Committee<br/>Security &amp; School<br/>Safety Committee<br/>Transportation Committee</p>   |
| <p><b>Frank DellaPietro III</b><br/><i>Board Member</i><br/>Term - 2014</p> |  A portrait of Frank DellaPietro III, a man with a mustache, wearing a dark suit and a light-colored shirt. He is standing in front of a bookshelf filled with books.                      | <p>Security &amp; School<br/>Safety Chairperson<br/>Transportation<br/>Committee Chairperson<br/>Athletics &amp; Extracurricular<br/>Committee<br/>Building &amp; Grounds Committee<br/>Finance &amp; Insurance Committee</p> |

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| <p><b>Daniel Harris</b><br/><i>Board Member</i><br/>Term - 2015</p>             |  A portrait of Daniel Harris, a man with glasses wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is standing in front of a bookshelf and an American flag.                       | <p>Building &amp; Grounds Committee<br/>Chairperson<br/>Ad Hoc Committee<br/>Athletics &amp; Extracurricular<br/>Committee<br/>Personnel &amp; Grievance Committee<br/>Policy &amp; Planning Committee</p>                        |
| <p><b>Brian F. Small</b><br/><i>Board Member</i><br/>Term - 2016</p>            |  A portrait of Brian F. Small, a man wearing a dark suit, light blue shirt, and patterned tie. He is standing in front of a bookshelf and an American flag.                             | <p>Athletics &amp; Extracurricular<br/>Committee Chairperson<br/>Personnel &amp; Grievance<br/>Committee Chairperson<br/>Ad Hoc Committee<br/>Building &amp; Grounds Committee<br/>Security &amp; School<br/>Safety Committee</p> |
| <p><b>Monica<br/>Michelle Smith</b><br/><i>Board Member</i><br/>Term - 2014</p> |  A portrait of Monica Michelle Smith, a woman with dark hair wearing a red jacket over a black top and a pearl necklace. She is standing in front of a bookshelf and an American flag. | <p>Negotiations Committee<br/>Chairperson<br/>Curriculum Committee Chairperson<br/>Cafeteria Committee<br/>Technology Committee</p>   |
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|--|--|--|
| <p><b>Ezio Tamburello</b><br/> <i>Board Member</i><br/>                 Term - 2015</p>      |    | <p>Ad Hoc Committee Chairperson<br/>                 Policy &amp; Planning<br/>                 Committee Chairperson<br/>                 Curriculum Committee<br/>                 Negotiations Committee<br/>                 Personnel &amp; Grievance Committee</p> |
| <p><b>Jonathan Triebwasser</b><br/> <i>Board Member</i><br/>                 Term - 2016</p> |   | <p>Cafeteria Committee Chairperson<br/>                 Curriculum Committee<br/>                 Finance &amp; Insurance Committee<br/>                 Technology Committee</p>  |
| <p><b>Eileen Zullo</b><br/> <i>Board Member</i><br/>                 Term - 2014</p>         |  | <p>Technology Committee<br/>                 Chairperson<br/>                 Cafeteria Committee<br/>                 Policy &amp; Planning Committee<br/>                 Transportation Committee</p>   |

*Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers. It may not be difficult to store up in the mind a vast quantity of facts within a comparatively short time, but the ability to form judgments requires the severe discipline of hard work and the tempering heat of experience and maturity.*

Calvin Coolidge

## Student Letter

Each month we hope to publish a letter from a Woodbridge Township School District student. This month's letter comes from Colonia HS senior John Fantell. John hopes to attain a degree in engineering upon graduation and later an MBA. John has served in various leadership roles during his four years of high school, such as Class Secretary and as a member of the Student Advisory Committee. He is also a member of the Juggernauts academic competition team, the ski and snowboard club, and the winter track team. Over the last three years, as part of his Science Research course, John has conducted research on photovoltaic cells, testing ways to improve their design and efficiency. His research has been presented at the North Jersey Regional Science Fair and the Monmouth Junior Science Symposium. In March 2014, out of several hundred research papers submitted to the Monmouth Junior Science Symposium, his research was selected as the top "Advanced Material Science Paper," earning him an exclusive tour of Picatinny Arsenal in Rockaway Township, NJ.

Outside of school John practices the Korean martial arts discipline of Soo Bahk Do Moo Duk Kwan, which he has trained in for five years. In addition to his training, John instructs special needs martial arts classes, assisting kids who have Asperger's syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, and other physical and/or cognitive disabilities.

Conventional wisdom gives us the impression that Junior year is the most challenging period in our academic career thus far. Although this may be true for some, I would argue that senior year is the real "prime time." The most academically inclined students study incessantly, swapping out hours of sleep in an effort to push their GPA up that one or two percentage points. Athletes relentlessly practice in order to set a record that will highlight their three or four years of intense physical training. The music prodigy choreographs his or her "encore" performance, one that will resonate with an audience of parents, faculty, and friends for days after the final curtain falls. Yet, on top of all the lofty goals we establish for ourselves as seniors, there is one more goal that comes to mind-- applying for college.

College in itself means many things: for some students it is an escape from a repetitive routine that has defined much of their lives, while for others it is a period of academic and social development. For most individuals, though, college is an opportunity that opens the door to a successful career. However, like all fortunes in life, applying does not come with ease. Although one could argue that the college preparation process starts freshmen year (and yes, I do concede to the fact that you begin constructing your college resume the minute you enter high school), I want to focus on the more definitive leg of this long, intricate journey.

For individuals like me, your neurons begin processing the inconceivable concept of leaving home for a world of independency around the time you take your first SATs. The SATs are the first and least amusing stage (if amusing at all) in the *pre-college* roller coaster. Besides throwing words at you that the average person cannot even pronounce, the test fetters you to a desk for approximately five hours and takes place on a Saturday morning to make matters worse. Fortunately, if you are satisfied with your score you will never have to set foot in another SAT testing environment again.

For those as indecisive as I am, the next part of the journey will take long — but it will certainly be rewarding. Researching and visiting colleges (which for me started early junior year, although it is never too soon to start) is the heart of the selection process. Is this school

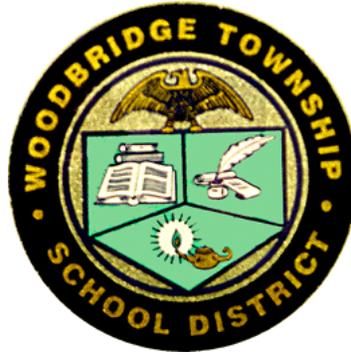
too small for me? How is the food? Am I sure I am far away enough from home? These are all questions that we, as rising college students must ask ourselves, for the majority of us will be living within the college world of our choice for at least four years. For this reason it is critical to attend personal tours, visitation days, and admissions seminars which will broaden our scope on a range of factors: from class size to average retention rate, to studying abroad options, and internship opportunities.

By the time that high school starts the bulk of college exploration is complete (of course this varies greatly from case to case). With the return of the school year comes that familiar late arrival home, after a rigorous cross country workout or a fierce football game. This is the time, if you have not already started to draft a reflection of your entire life — in less than six hundred fifty words. Anyone can write a “good” or fair “essay”, but writing an exceptional essay — one that will distinguish you from every other applicant — takes work. According to many of the college admissions counselors I have personally spoken to, the essay is the most important element of your resume (besides your transcript) because it speaks for you as an individual in areas where test scores or grades may not.

I wish to conclude with what I believe is the final scripture in the college preparation process-- dedication. Colleges want individuals who create goals; individuals who challenge themselves, and individuals who aspire to become more socially aware citizens. These goals, like any others, cannot be achieved without dedication. Just as oxygen and carbon do not react to create water, a lousy essay and procrastination will not *open* the doorway to the school of one's dreams. Understanding this is the final, and in my opinion most important rule to applying, as the principle of dedication far extends past college deadlines. It is one that should carry you throughout your entire life.

*Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day. You shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense.*

[Ralph Waldo Emerson](#)



# Woodbridge Township School District

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*The only place success  
comes before work is in  
the dictionary.*

*Vince Lombardi*