



Alan N. Johnson, Superintendent

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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February 16, 2016

Dr. Karen Hacker
Director
Allegheny County Dept. of Health
542 4th Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear Dr. Hacker:

On behalf of the Woodland Hills School District, I would like to thank you and the Allegheny County Health Department for extending the opportunity to be a Live Well Allegheny School District. Our District has several initiatives already underway and more planned in the 2015-2016 school year. We believe that these will bolster our efforts to become comprehensive community schools that serve our students, staff, families and the community at large. We look forward to the partnership with your department.

Our junior-senior high school was one of the original Live Well grant recipients and has been an active participant in that program since 2014. In addition to that we have also pioneered the Project Connect healthy dating and relationship program sponsored by UPMC Children's Hospital and the PA Coalition against Domestic Violence at our junior-senior high school as well. Last year that expanded to include our becoming the first high school in Western Pennsylvania to implement the Coaching Boys Into Men positive lifestyle reinforcement project. These programs have had a tremendous impact on the over 1600 students who call that building their own. The junior-senior high school has also participated in the PA Youth Survey (PAYS) and we have a fully operational data sharing arrangement with the Allegheny County Department of Human Services.

Our elementary schools, along with our innovative, Rankin Wolverine Promise Program are four (4) year participants in the PA Department of Agriculture's 'Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Program'. The elementary schools, along with the junior-senior high school, have been active participants in the Yoga In Schools programs for which we were recognized by being asked to speak at the Yoga In Schools National Conference in 2015. Our elementary schools, again along with the Rankin Promise program were also the first schools selected to be part of the Allegheny General Hospital/PA Lung Association/Duquesne University Asthma oriented STARS program. We are also in a partnership with Allegheny General to form the first in-school treatment facility for students with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease issues at our Wilkins Primary School. We have also recently completed training our nurses to be part of the Open Airways smoking prevention and cessation program for students and

adults. We have also had an active school gardening program at the former Fairless Elementary School and we are now in the process of restarting that again at the Rankin Promise facility. Last but certainly not least, our elementary aged parents were invited to a Mom's, and separately, Dad's Night out Program dedicated to informing parents while also offering opportunities for building pro-social bonding between parents and their children. This event takes place each year under the auspices of UPMC Children's Hospital and the Project Connect initiative.

Finally, every summer we hold a large event for all of our Woodland Hills residents that is designed to inform, enlighten and educate parents and community members about our school and the many agencies and service providers we partner with here at Woodland Hills. This event is held on the next to last Saturday of the summer at the Woodland Hills High School soccer field. This past year well over 500 residents attended the events.

We welcome excitedly the opportunity to become a *Live Well Allegheny School District*. We look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,



Alan N. Johnson
Superintendent

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Cc: Miss Hannah Hardy
Miss Tara Reis, Board President
Mr. Michael Belmonte, Board Vice-President