

TO: School Committee

FROM: Tim Piwowar, Superintendent

DATE: February 7, 2025

RE: Portrait of a Westwood Graduate

---

At our November School Committee meeting, I presented a [draft version of our Portrait of a Westwood Graduate](#), which was developed in the fall by a working group representing a broad cross-section of community stakeholders, who were supported by our contract with Dore + Whittier and their educational consultant, MLP Integrated Design. Following that meeting, we engaged in a process of gathering feedback through surveys to staff and community members, as well as two live listening sessions. I want to thank all those who provided their thoughts on our draft, as we want to ensure that our Portrait of a Westwood Graduate is reflective of our values as a community.

In December, our working group was reconvened to analyze the feedback we received in order to make adjustments to our initial draft. Finally, a smaller subgroup of the working group met twice in late December and mid-January to produce our final content, shared below:

---

## **Portrait of a Westwood Public Schools Graduate**

### ***A Vision for WPS Students, PK-22***

#### **Graduates of the Westwood Public Schools will:**

##### **Think Critically and Creatively**

Critical and innovative thinkers possess the skills, knowledge, and strategies to be curious, continuous learners. They understand information, develop content mastery, solve problems, adapt to novel situations, and design their own paths.

- Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize multiple perspectives and viewpoints
- Reflect, ask questions, and use reasoning and evidence to problem-solve
- Seek knowledge and apply understanding to adapt to novel situations

##### **Communicate and Collaborate**

Collaborative communicators connect effectively across identities, cultures, and generations. They leverage their skills and voices to be productive speakers, listeners, writers, creators, and contributors.

- Listen actively with purpose of understanding before making decisions
- Navigate interactions to work effectively with a variety of individuals and audiences
- Communicate and contribute respectfully through various modalities and platforms

### **Act with Integrity**

Individuals with integrity are guided by a deep sense of self and compassion for others. They demonstrate authenticity, responsibility, and empathy in their decision-making and actions.

- Demonstrate courage to make positive choices even in difficult situations
- Model integrity and honesty in their words, actions, and work
- Adapt to and employ technology ethically and responsibly

### **Engage Locally and Globally**

Engaged learners connect with local, national, and global communities to be a force for positive change. They find purpose and joy in service to one another and our world, and in improving conditions for all.

- Engage in service to others and contribute actively to make change in their community
- Explore different communities and perspectives
- Persevere in the face of challenges to be a force for positive change.

—

To finalize our Portrait of a Graduate, the next phase involves creating a graphic representation of our work to help as a communication tool for students, families, and the community. During our last working group session, we examined different graphic models from other districts and generated some initial ideas on how our design could best represent Westwood. In reflecting on that meeting (and all of our working group meetings), the contributions of our students were incredibly impactful and we knew we needed to look for an opportunity to bring more student voice into the design process.

I am happy to share that we will be holding a half-day design workshop, led by Dore + Whittier, in which students will go through the design process with an expert in the field, generating concepts which will then be used by our design team to develop a finished product. We are really excited about this opportunity to engage our students in this authentic work, not only for the experiences that they will have in the process, but also for how it will help make our finished product as strong as possible.

While the graphic work is underway, we will be able to simultaneously begin our strategic planning process this spring, which will be driven by our desire to meet our outcomes for students that are defined by our Portrait of a Graduate. I am excited to begin our strategic planning, and look forward to discussing our rollout of the process with the Committee at our meeting in March.

Finally, a huge thanks to all the members of our working group for all of their contributions and efforts. It was truly a pleasure to work with so many people from across our community that are dedicated to ensuring great outcomes for our students in Westwood, and I hope that they will continue to be involved in our future endeavors. Please see their names below:

Westwood Portrait of a Graduate Working Group

Caitlin Ahern, Assistant Superintendent  
Kevin Bai, Student, WHS  
Erin Banty, Dean, TMS  
Joanna Bengel, Social Worker, WHS  
Stephanie Bhatti, Parent/Guardian/Caregiver, Sheehan/TMS  
CarolAnn Brodeur, Parent/Guardian/Caregiver, Martha Jones/TMS  
Hillary Carpinella, World Language Department Chair, TMS/WH  
Sandria Chen, Student, WHS  
Katie Clarke, Math/Science Department Head, TMS  
Devin Clifford, Parent/Guardian/Caregiver, Pine Hill  
Katy Colthart, Director, Westwood Youth and Family Services  
Amy Davenport, Principal, WHS  
Lori DeAngelis, Instructional Assistant, Pine Hill  
Claire Dorman, Grade 3 Teacher, Sheehan  
Nate Feinfeld, Student, WHS  
Lateefah Franck, Director of Equity, Integration, and Community Partnerships  
James Giurleo, Community Member  
Caroline Higgins, Director of Guidance, WHS  
Kate Holmes, English Department Chair, WHS  
Maura Jereb, K-12 Director of Visual Arts  
Lemma Jn-baptiste, Director of Finance and Operations  
Matt Kuklantz, Principal, Martha Jones  
Kate LaCroix, Parent/Guardian/Caregiver, TMS/WH  
Theresa Ann Laham, Parent/Guardian/Caregiver, Downey/TMS  
Diana Legere, Music Teacher, TMS  
Ammy Lowney, Parent/Guardian/Caregiver, Downey  
Lisa Maguire, Parent/Guardian/Caregiver, Downey/TMS  
Christina Martin, Parent/Guardian/Caregiver, TMS/WH  
Susan Maselli, Director of Student Services  
Christy McKenney, Math Specialist/Coach, TMS  
Asanka Moehring, Parent/Guardian/Caregiver, Sheehan  
Tony Mullin, Westwood School Committee  
Shawn Mullins, Science Teacher, WHS  
Steve Ouellette, Director of Technology, Innovation, and Learning  
Ember Parker, Guidance Counselor, WHS  
Ally Pavlic, Parent/Guardian/Caregiver, Westwood Integrated Preschool/Martha Jones  
Dori Parmelee, Westwood School Committee  
Tim Piwowar, Superintendent  
Mike Redmon, Principal, TMS  
Talia Reiss, Student, WHS  
Sudha Sarma, Parent/Guardian/Caregiver, TMS  
Sarahluna Sassine, Student, WHS

Dan Sorrell, Student Culture and Engagement Coordinator, WHS  
Katherine Stewart, Humanities Department Chair, TMS  
Tracey Truman, Grade K Teacher, Sheehan  
Nick Vidnovic, Parent/Guardian/Caregiver, Pine Hill  
Yan Wang, Parent/Guardian/Caregiver, Westwood Integrated Preschool  
Chon'tel Washington, Director of Human Resources  
Angela Wilson, English Teacher, WHS/Professional Development Coordinator  
Ada Zhong, Parent/Guardian/Caregiver, TMS/WHS