

August 28, 2018

Dear Friends and Fellow WAAS Parents,

This past summer, many physical changes were made to classrooms to improve their functionality, both for the students and teachers. Considerable funds from the 2018 budget were used in updating all of the classrooms and halls as well as purchasing new furniture and Aquos TVs. These updates have boosted teacher morale and student pride, mainly because they know that the improvements will carry them to the next level of academic excellence.

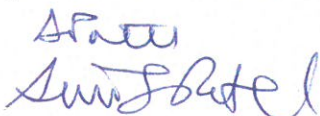
Considerable funds were utilized in updating all the classrooms, halls, furniture and technology. While this progress is substantial, there remains much to be done for our science classroom. Most of the science lab/room budget was utilized simply to prepare for an upcoming state-of-the-art STEM lab. The school is now physically ready for the STEM lab our children deserve! Please take a look at the brochure in this packet which describes the proposed new lab.

As fellow WAAS parents, we are eager to have this amazing new learning environment installed as soon as possible for our children. To that end, we are spearheading the fundraising for our STEM Lab. We hope that you will join our efforts by making a substantial contribution towards our goal.

The lab, fully installed, will cost approximately \$50,000. With the combined generosity of our involved parent community, we know that we can make this state-of-the-art lab a reality for our children - hopefully by Christmas break! The lab can be physically installed in a matter of days. Imagine our kids returning to school to find the gift of this amazing facility!

If each family were to make a \$500 tax-deductible contribution per child, we can make this happen THIS YEAR! \$500 is a suggestion of course, but ANY contribution will help. Consider it to be an investment in your child's future. Mrs. Upton will issue a receipt for your donation.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Giacomelli, Mrs. Upton or us. Thank you in advance for your contribution to this amazing school!



Sandip and Ami Patel

(Sahil - 8th and Sheel - 7th)



## WILMINGTON ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

August 28, 2018

Dear WAAS Families,

The Wilmington Academy of Arts & Sciences (WAAS) has many captivating qualities. Limitless possibilities is one aspect of WAAS that attracts families who value education and highly qualified educators. Within the past five years, WAAS has experienced tremendous growth in enrollment, technology, curriculum and our exceptional instructional team. Students have experienced many successes within the community, including increased participation in extracurricular activities and teams, advancing and excelling at the state level. We are certainly proud and honored to be among excellence within the WAAS community as we continue to work together to seek opportunities to make our school an even better place for our children to learn and thrive.

Over the past five years, the rigorous science program at WAAS has become one of a kind in the state of North Carolina. Middle school students are taking high school level, lab-based coursework and earning high school credits upon completion of a three-year program. Aside from taking science courses online, we are blazing a trail in the state for one of the only middle schools offering higher level, lab-based science *in the classroom* at such a young age. Our 4th and 5th grade students begin their middle school transition early as they travel to the science classroom for a two-year rotation of middle school curriculum. WAAS prepares young people for higher education and inspires many to choose science-based careers. We pride ourselves in preparing students for high school and future academic endeavors through a challenging and demanding curriculum. Our instructional team, students, parents and curriculum are top notch. Why not have an updated science classroom to reflect and support our stellar, unique science program?

Research shows that the physical structure of a classroom is a critical variable in affecting student morale and learning. A new science lab will match our ambition, maximize student achievement and provide students as young as 4th grade to experience working in an actual lab environment. The design will create a more cohesive classroom culture and students will feel proud and honored as they enter class each day. Students will make up a select cohort of young learners in our community with access to a state-of-the-art STEM lab. Students will leave WAAS empowered and with confidence, as they were given the tools, experience and skills necessary to accomplish their future goals. Our vision is to design a space where Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics are a fully integrated part of the daily learning experience. We are committed to becoming a school with a state-of-the-art STEM environment, providing our students with the competitive edge and the needed building blocks for a strong

foundation toward their future academic and career paths. We want to assure that the possibilities certainly are limitless for our students.

Aligned with our mission statement, WAAS partners with supportive families to offer a challenging and nurturing environment for students of academic and personal promise. Our students deserve the highest quality facilities and learning environment. In order to successfully implement this science lab renovation project, we need your support. It is our hope that you will consider donating to help us offset this cost. Your donation will directly benefit all students' education at WAAS as well as foster their successful future in STEM. Together, we can build 21st century learning and teaching environments for the innovators of tomorrow.

It is time we think beyond the mental image of how a typical school building and classroom should look. Since early spring, we have been working with a consultant to design a science lab that will meet the needs and interests of WAAS students in all grades. We are committed to creating a classroom where students are thinking about their ideal future selves. Please refer to the brochure that addresses our specific plan.

The Board of Trustees has appropriated additional money to complete this project; however, without the fundraising, it will be done in increments and take up to 2 years to complete. The WAAS community prides itself on never accepting less than what we are capable. An opportunity stands before us and, together, we can take our strong program to the next level for our students.

We believe the best way to predict our future is to create it. Thank you for partnering with us to make this vision a reality.



Lisa Giacomelli  
WAAS Science Teacher (Grades 4-8)



Beth Upton  
WAAS Director