

WAYLAND · PUBLIC · SCHOOLS

41 Cochituate Road

P.O. Box 408

WAYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS 01778

www.wayland.k12.ma.us

FAX: (508) 358-7708

Arthur Unobskey, Ed.D.
Superintendent of
Schools
(508) 358-3774

Parry Graham, Ed.D.
Assistant
Superintendent
(508) 358-3772

Richard Whitehead.
Director of Student
Services
(508) 358-3756

Susan Bottan
Director of Finance
and Operations
(508) 358-3750

Leisha F. Simon
Technology
Director
(508) 358-3714

September 10, 2018

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Wayland Staff:

We are excited to continue our participation in the Wayland-China Exchange Program in 2018-2019. Our Mandarin teacher and China Exchange Coordinator, Ms. Liu, has begun work with this year's participants to prepare them for their exciting eight-week trip to our sister high school, the Jingshan Yuanyang Branch, in the spring of 2019. In addition to the wonderful experience that this program provides for those students who travel to China, we are excited to observe the impact our exchange students have throughout the district when they return and discuss their experiences with students at different grade levels.

Unfortunately, the local Shijingshan District government will not allow our "sibling" students from Jingshan School Yuanyang Branch to travel to Wayland this fall as they have done in previous years. The school has cited the government crackdown on trips requiring fees from families as a reason for the district educational bureau's denial of all travel to the United States for the upcoming school year. Undoubtedly, however, there are other reasons, related to both national and local Chinese politics, that have prompted this decision. We are working diligently to restore the full exchange for the fall of 2019. In particular, I will travel to China this spring with the exchange students and will meet with the new principal at our sister school and advocate for allowing their students to come to the United States in the fall of 2019.

While it is disappointing that we will not be hosting our "sibling" students from China this fall, Ms. Liu will create a variety of ways for students to communicate with our friends in China in the fall and spring.

Please feel free to contact me at 508-358-3774 if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Arthur Unobskey, Superintendent of Schools
Wayland Public Schools