



# Webster City High School

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*"Where Kids Matter Most"*

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Monday, February 13, 2017

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Students and teachers at Webster City High School are well underway in preparation for Spring Term, scheduled for February 27-March 10<sup>th</sup>. During these two weeks prior to Spring Break, students and teachers will be immersed in project-based learning. Our goals for students are to:

- Learn more about their interests, passions, and themselves.
- Connect their passion and interest to a career or college of their interest.
- Present their project to their peers and the community.

Over the course of the last two weeks, students have participated in class meetings as well as small group planning meetings with their Advisors to learn more about the type of learning experiences they will be having during Spring Term. Students have been asked to identify a topic of interest to them and make connections to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills – including communication, self-management, employability, financial, health, and technology literacy. Simultaneously, teachers have been planning their units/courses and learning how to facilitate student learning in a project-based environment.

This past week (Feb. 6-10), students began to identify the teacher-led courses they are most interested in while identifying the passion-project they would like to further develop. Students may be involved in job shadowing, interviewing community members and other experts about their topic prior to preparing their final product. This week (Feb. 13-17), students will be matched with classmates who have similar passions and assigned a project-manager (teacher) to help them further develop their passion projects. Students will find out who their project manager is on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, and will have time during the week (Feb. 20-24) during Advisory to further develop their passion project.

Then on Monday, February 27 and continuing thru Thursday, March 9, students will report to their project manager's classroom at the regular time of 8:15 for attendance, announcements, and general information before beginning their project work for the day. If your student has an Iowa Central class, attends the Career Academy in Eagle Grove, goes to Fort Dodge for automotive classes, or has arranged for an off-site learning experience they will report directly to those locations as regularly scheduled. Throughout the day, students will work with their project manager and peers to research, design, and develop their project; and attend the teacher-led course they have signed-up for.

Ultimately, students will present their passion project final product in small groups at the conclusion of the experience on March 10<sup>th</sup> in a format of their choice. Students will be assessed individually on their content knowledge, skills in communication and self-management, along with their 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Rubrics will be used for grading and students will receive a pass or fail based on the criteria in the rubric. In the afternoon of March 10<sup>th</sup>, we invite parents and community members to the high school to walk around and discuss projects with the students and review materials that have been produced.

If you interested in learning more about what Spring Term will look and feel like for your student, I encourage you to check out the resources below:

- Teacher-led Course Offerings
  - <http://tinyurl.com/znthp6y>
- Roland-Story Ends J-Term With Public Displays (Story City Herald, January 18, 2017)
  - <http://tinyurl.com/gonw5xj>
- Five (5) Keys to Project-Based Learning (6:00 video)
  - <http://tinyurl.com/jmdahd9>
- Spring Term Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
  - <http://tinyurl.com/jmdahd9>

If you have any questions about Spring Term or would like more details, please feel free to contact me

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