

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Ellen Rogers Community Relations Coordinator, MSDWT Cell 317-435-0746 Email: <u>errogers@msdwt.k12.in.us</u>

Washington Township 2021 Points of Pride

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (January 10, 2022) – Since returning to the classroom full-time amidst the global pandemic, more students in Washington Township Schools are demonstrating notable gains. Many areas of improvement are related to attendance and academic achievement.

- Overall attendance/engagement has improved from this time last year. In fact, some schools have seen attendance rates improve by 10 percent.
- 91.7 percent graduation rate in 2021 up from 90.5 percent in 2020. This is the highest rate since 2009. In comparison, the 2021 federal graduation rate was 90.4 percent, while the state graduation rate showed a decline to 86.7 percent.
- The average grade point average from the first quarter rose from 2.34 a year ago to 3.06 in our middle schools.
- North Central High School first quarter student grade comparison from last year to this year demonstrates:
 - The percentage of As and Bs increased from 58 percent to 66 percent.
 - The percentage of Fs decreased from 20 percent to seven percent.
- Overall NWEA Math Proficiency went up nearly three percent from last Spring to this Fall, with several schools showing strong proficiency improvements in both reading and math. This is likely due to expanded summer school efforts.
- Spring ILEARN test results in English Language Arts demonstrate that many demographic subgroups of students (black, multi-racial, white, and students receiving special education services) scored above the state average proficiency percentage.
- Compared to students in Indiana districts with mirrored demographics, Washington Township students ranked at the top in areas assessed on ILEARN. In fact, our student achievement is first or second in all areas assessed by ILEARN out of 11 other districts who are of similar size, socio-economic status, and racial make-up.
- North Central High School was recognized for having the greatest number of National Merit Semifinalists in Marion County.
- Significant compensation increases and stipends were issued to teachers and staff. This was made possible by increased revenues in State Tuition Support, Operating Referendum funds, and grant dollars in an effort to ensure the District attracts and retains quality educators and staff.

While we celebrate our successes, Washington Township Schools understands there is more work to be done to improve equitable educational outcomes for all of our students. We are transparent about this work and

encourage the community to review our <u>District Strategic Plan</u>, our <u>school improvement plans</u>, as well as our <u>equity work</u> found on the Washington Township district website.