November 22, 2016

Dear Wilson Focus School Families:

The 2016-2017 school year is off to a great start! I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. I look forward to working with you throughout the remainder of the school year.

As we prepare for the upcoming school selection process, I wanted to take a moment to review how and why Wilson Focus School came into existence and how recent legislation has changed its status.

As you know, in 2007, the Nebraska Legislature created the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy counties, which would be supported by a common levy, to ensure that school districts who serve the greatest number of free and reduced lunch and ESL students received adequate funding to support those students’ educational needs. Eleven public school districts in the two-county area – Bellevue, Bennington, DC West, Elkhorn, Gretna, Millard, Omaha Public Schools, Papillion LaVista, Ralston, Springfield Platteview and Westside – entered into the agreement.

Wilson, Lewis & Clark Middle School and Burke High School were designated as the Focus School pathway for those students attending schools within the 11 districts. The measure aimed to encourage diverse educational opportunities within the metro area.

In 2016, the Nebraska Legislature passed LB1067, which eliminated the Learning Community common levy. As a result, Wilson Focus School is no longer a Learning Community school. It is now an Omaha Public Schools Focus School. As such, any non-resident or resident OPS student may apply to attend the school; however, because of the Omaha Public Schools’ new Student Assignment Plan, Partner Plan, transportation eligibility guidelines are changing for the 2017-2018 school year and beyond.

The following guidelines will apply:

- Current non-resident Wilson Focus students who attended prior to the 2017-2018 school year will continue to receive transportation through the Focus School pathway to Lewis & Clark Middle and Burke High School, unless they move.

- Current OPS resident Wilson Focus students who attended prior to the 2017-2018 school year will continue to receive transportation to Wilson until they transition to the next school level.

- Future OPS elementary students applying to Wilson Focus must be accepted prior to June 15 to be eligible for transportation. Students accepted after June 15, will only be eligible for transportation if there is a bus available with an established stop, within two blocks of the student’s residence.

- Future non-resident (Nebraska Option) students are not eligible for transportation.
Eligibility for transportation to the Lewis & Clark Middle School Focus Program:

- Non-resident students transitioning from Wilson Focus to Lewis & Clark are eligible for transportation through the Focus pathway.
- New non-resident students applying to OPS as Nebraska Option students are not eligible for transportation to Lewis & Clark.
- Any OPS student who resides in the home attendance area of Lewis & Clark is eligible for transportation if he/she resides more than 1.5-miles from the school.
- Any OPS student who resides in Middle School Partner Zone 3, according to the new Student Assignment Plan, Partner Plan, and lives more than 1.5-miles from the school is eligible for transportation. Visit [www.sap.ops.org](http://www.sap.ops.org) for more information.

The application process for school selection to Wilson Focus will remain the same. Parents can obtain an application form by contacting the school at (402) 733-1785.

I know families have been anxious to receive this information, so you can begin planning for next school year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to give me a call at (402) 733-1785.

Thank you for your continued support of Wilson Focus School and the Omaha Public Schools!

Sincerely,

Bret Anderson, Principal
Wilson Focus School