WAYLAND HIGH SCHOOL

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 Wayland, MA 01778

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Dear 9th grade parents and guardians,

I would like to extend to you a sincere and enthusiastic welcome as we embark on the 2015-2016 school year! I hope you have enjoyed a restful, rejuvenating summer.

When I met your children at Step-Over Day in June, I was immediately struck by their high energy and joyful personalities. As the staff and I introduced ourselves, and then as our Peer Mentors took them on tours, they were clearly enthused about beginning their high school careers. Campus was buzzing with their questions and laughter. By all accounts, the Class of 2019 enjoys a very positive reputation, and we look forward to all the ways that they will contribute to and strengthen our WHS community.

As you may already know, I am starting my second year as principal yet have been a part of WHS since 1997 in two other roles (English teacher and Assistant Principal). Despite my long history here, each school year is a new opportunity to look again at our work with a fresh perspective. This year’s informal theme of “Connect” reflects my own desire to focus on strengthening the connections among disciplines and ideas, as well as the connections among the many individuals that comprise our high school community. I hope that our work in this area will be realized in your child’s experience as well.

The idea of *connecting* with new ideas and new people is particularly powerful during your child’s 9th grade year. As he or she transitions into the high school, I hope that your child latches onto new passions and interests, broadens his or her circle of awareness, and confronts unique and meaningful challenges. And, while this is all happening, your child will be assisted and nurtured through a network of formal and informal supports that will exist throughout his or her high school career. While we are dedicated to providing every child a rigorous, purposeful education, we are equally committed to noticing when a student needs an extra boost and finding the best way to give it. Teacher conferences, study halls, guidance seminars, our newly-fashioned Peer Mentor program, and the Academic Center are all part of our school-wide goal of dispensing support along with academic rigor.

There is a sea of information available to you as you and your child make this exciting transition to the high school, but we are wary of overwhelming you. For now, please see below just a few important pieces of information that you may find helpful, some of which are explained in much greater detail in the *9th Grade Parent Handbook* and in the Guidance Summer Mailings (located on the Guidance webpage under “For Families” on the high school website).

**OVER 🢡**

* **Please sign up for iParent!**  This is how you will find information about your child’s attendance, schedule, and discipline history.  **(Your child will receive his or her class schedule during Orientation.)** If you haven’t already, we also urge you to sign up for the high school eNews, which will feature weekly announcements and brief messages from me. Registration for iParent and eNews is under the “For Families” heading on the WHS website.
* **Please see the WHS website (**[**http://whs.wayland.k12.ma.us**](http://whs.wayland.k12.ma.us)**) for information on laptop distribution and guidelines.**
* **Our Peer Mentor program has been redesigned.** In order to strengthen the connection between 9th graders and their upper-class Peer Mentors, they will now be scheduled into the same guidance seminars. Once each eight-day cycle, 9th graders will meet with their counselor and a small group of Peer Mentors to discuss issues related to the high school transition and WHS culture.
* **Please be advised that students will not be given paper organizational planners.** We suggest that students use technology (Google calendar, homework apps, etc.) or purchase a paper planner that supports their organizational system. As another option, we will have planners for sale at the School Store. We urge you to discuss your child’s organizational system with him or her before the school year begins.
* **Please mark your calendars with these upcoming dates**:
* Tues., Sept. 1: 9th Grade Orientation, 9 - 11:30 a.m.
* Thurs., Sept. 10: Back to School Night, 7 - 9 p.m.
* Tues., Sept. 15: 9th Grade Parents’ Information Night (affectionately called “Boot Camp”), 7:00 p.m.
* Fri., Sept. 18: First Parent Information Exchange (“P.I.E.”) with the Admin team and Guidance, 7:45 a.m., followed by first WHSPO (Parent Organization) meeting

Once again, I am delighted that you and your child will be joining me, the rest of our student body, and our incredible staff for this upcoming year of learning and connection. I truly look forward to enjoying a strong partnership with you in the coming years. Please never hesitate to reach me with any questions or for a conversation. Welcome!

Sincerely,



Allyson Mizoguchi

Principal