

WAYLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Wayland, Massachusetts



9TH GRADE PARENT HANDBOOK

2019-2020

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Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s) of 9th Graders:

We are delighted to welcome you to Wayland High School! To help you and your 9th grader with the transition to high school, this handbook was developed several years ago. It has become a living document, one which is revised each year. Here are some quick pointers regarding our means of communication to help you acclimate:

- **E-news:** This is probably our most efficient method of communicating with you. Please subscribe by following the [link](#) on the WHS home page.
- **Student Handbook:** Your child will review important elements of the handbook during the first days of school. It contains information about our clubs, rules, attendance, and school policies and procedures. A [digital copy](#) is available on the WHS home page. We advise you to review it as well.
- **Student email accounts:** Each WHS student is assigned an email account. We use these accounts to communicate about academics, school events, and disciplinary issues.
- **Daily Announcements:** These are [posted](#) on the WHS website every day.
- **Home Access Center (HAC):** This gives you access to information about your child's attendance, schedule, quarter grades, and disciplinary record. We also use HAC during the course registration process. Please [sign up](#) for your account from the WHS home page if you do not already have an account.
- **WSPN:** Our award-winning student-run [news site](#) is an excellent source of school news.
- **Teacher/Course Web Pages:** Each year our faculty puts more and more of their course information online, including homework assignments and project information.

If you cannot find the information you need in this handbook or from sources listed above, please feel free to contact the main office (508-358-7746).

We look forward to working with you and your incoming 9th grader next year and in the coming years. Welcome to Wayland High School!

Sincerely,



Allyson Mizoguchi
Principal



WAYLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Allyson Mizoguchi, Principal
Laura J. Cole, Assistant Principal
Sean C. Gass, Assistant Principal

Telephone: 508-358-7746
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264 Old Connecticut Path
Wayland, MA 01778

August 2, 2019

Dear 9th grade students and caregivers,

As the Assistant Principal for grades 9 and 10, I am excited and honored to welcome you to the class of 2023 at Wayland High School. While you wrap up what I hope was a fulfilling and restful summer, we are busy getting ready for your first days of high school. On August 27th, 9th grade students begin an important chapter. You can expect the next four years to be both nurturing and challenging, full of both joy and hard work, and of course, a time of immense growth.

Like you, this will be my first year at Wayland, and I am thrilled to be starting with the class of 2023. I started my career in education teaching in San Francisco before moving into instructional leadership and administration. I taught both English and History to 9th graders, as well as advanced level courses to higher grades and English development courses to second language learners. After moving back to Massachusetts five years ago (I am originally from Cambridge), I worked at Salem Academy Charter School before joining the Wayland team. If I'm not in school or on the sidelines at a Warriors game, you'll find me spending time with my children, running, buried in a book, or out on the water in a boat or on a board.

My colleagues and I hold a strong belief that every student is capable of excellence when they are held to high expectations and provided the support they need. We believe that in-depth learning is both essential and exciting, and we embrace the challenge of preparing students for the collaborative, interconnected, global 21st century. A central value of our community is the power of diversity and different perspectives, and we will jump in to the work of developing our understanding of others' lived experiences and perspectives.

Throughout the year, you can expect to see me often in hallways, classrooms, at events and more. I will be connecting with each 9th grade student and family in the coming weeks, but do not hesitate to reach out to me at any time; I am always interested in having a conversation. Feel free to contact me or anyone on our main office team with any questions you might have. Welcome to Wayland High School!

Sincerely,

Sean Gass
Assistant Principal
sean_gass@wayland.k12.ma.us
508-358-3702

August, 2019

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the Class of 2023! We are looking forward to the next four years as your child's class advisors and getting to know the class through all of our varied activities.

We encourage each student to get involved and share new ideas. Please look for updates and coming events in the monthly WHSPO newsletter and eNews blasts on Fridays.

We hope you enjoy the rest of the summer, and we look forward to seeing you and your children in

September!

Sincerely,

Ms. Kate Gamwell
School Psychologist

Ms. Aimee Lima
Academic Center Coordinator

ACADEMICS

How much help do students receive organizing themselves for success?

At Wayland High School, we provide our students with a greater degree of freedom than many of our peer institutions. We do this because we want to provide our young adults with opportunities to practice making responsible decisions, work cooperatively, and afford one another the respect and consideration that is essential to good communication and productive human relationships.

Although students are provided with a counselor and can always access their teachers for help, we also expect students to play an increasingly larger role in organizing themselves for success.

Students are expected to use an online or paper planner to record homework assignments and upcoming test dates. Planners will be for sale in the main office for a nominal amount; students may also use an organizational system on their laptops (Google calendar, etc.) that works for them. Students may visit the Academic Center, located in the Library Media Center, at any time to receive organizational support.

The **Student Handbook** is published online (please see http://whs.wayland.k12.ma.us/for_students/student_handbook) and will be reviewed in the first few Advisories for our 9th graders. It includes a detailed description of all the rules, policies, and procedures that govern student life at WHS. Please take the time to review this book with your son/daughter early in the school year.

Home Access Center: Students will be able to use their HAC account to review their own attendance data, disciplinary record, schedule, and quarter and final grades. We also use HAC for course registration

“How do I get a copy of my student’s schedule?”

You can use HAC to see your child’s schedule. Schedules are generally distributed to students on the first day of school; 9th graders receive their schedules at Orientation.

"Could you please comment on getting extra help and teacher availability?"

Students often schedule appointments with teachers and seek support during free blocks; this is a prominent part of our academic culture. Teachers are available during the school day, as well as before and after school by appointment, to assist students in need of help. Because of the departmental nature of the high school, students can often receive help with a problem from other members of the department, not just the student's own assigned teacher. As one of our past 9th grade parents wrote: "Maturity and independence are also important when your child needs help with school work. They must seek it out because the teachers will not come looking for them. The students are told this over and over but it takes a little longer for some to realize this. If parents knew this they might emphasize it from their side."

Academics come first! Your student’s academic obligations come before athletic practice, drama rehearsal, and other co-curricular events. Most students find that they can arrange to have their academic needs met during the school day by effective use of their own unscheduled blocks and the planning periods of teachers. When this is not possible, students are expected to have their questions answered after school even if that conflicts with athletics or other co-curricular events.

Academic Center: Students report that an important resource for them all four years is the Academic Center, located adjacent to the Library Media Center. The Academic Center is led by a full time coordinator and staffed by teachers and a team of student and community volunteers. The primary function of the Academic Center is to provide another venue for students to seek extra help with academic or organizational matters during their free time.

"When do Progress Reports come out?"

"Progress Reports," as you have come to know them, are not issued at the high school. We issue "Academic Warnings" only when a student is experiencing a steep decline in academic performance. You may use Home Access Center (HAC) to view your student's current grades. Report cards are issued within two weeks after quarter grades close.

Academic Warnings - In the middle of each marking period, students who are in academic trouble are notified by means of academic warnings. Every student receiving an "F" or "D" or who has shown a sharp reduction in grade in any subject may be notified. Students who begin to fail after this point may be notified up to and including the week before report cards are sent out. In other words, warnings may be sent out at any time that a student is showing signs of being in trouble academically. Warnings may also be sent to those students who are not working up to their capabilities.

If you have questions about your student's performance and would like an update, please contact teachers directly by calling the department office or emailing him/her. Email addresses can be found by navigating from the WHS home page (see [Contact Us](#)).

"What are the academic policies relative to dropping & adding courses?"

We have fairly strict policies relative to the dropping and adding of courses. They appear in the Program of Studies and are as follows:

1. Students may not enter a quarter course after one week of the course has elapsed.
2. Students may not enter a semester course after 2 weeks of the course have elapsed.
3. Students may not enter a year course in a different subject after 4 weeks of the course have elapsed.
4. Students may not enter a different level of the same subject in which they are enrolled after the third week of the 3rd quarter has elapsed.
5. Students may not drop any course during the last 2 weeks of any quarter.
6. A "W" (for withdrawn) will appear on a student's report card if he/she drops class after 50% of it has elapsed.

"How are placement decisions made at the high school? How does course sign-up work?"

Teacher course recommendations and student course selection are made online through Home Access Center. In March, teachers initiate the process by conferring with their students and then posting their course recommendations through HAC. Students and their parents can view and confirm these recommendations through their online accounts. At this point, students also add elective course requests into HAC. Parents should sign up for a HAC account by following the link on the WHS home page.

Course recommendations are typically based on students' level of achievement and motivation and whether they have met any specific requirements of the following year's course sequence. Specific course prerequisites and override procedures are listed in the Program of Studies.

An integral part of the course placement process is ongoing conversation among the student, teacher, guidance counselor, and parents. Questions and concerns about the following year's courses should be discussed openly and regularly among all individuals involved so that students have a balance of rigor and support among all of their courses, and so that students may explore new areas of interest while meeting all graduation requirements.

It is the student's responsibility to make an appointment with the counselor to discuss his/her academic program. Students should see the guidance counselor to make discretionary schedule changes. Any changes in course level must have teacher/departmental approval.

“Why can’t my student bring home his or her test in some subjects?”

Some teachers at WHS have a policy of not allowing certain graded assessments (usually tests) to leave the school with students. The teachers who choose to handle their assessments in this manner are doing so for numerous reasons:

1. Test security for “tried and true” assessment items: The questions on the assessments have been carefully crafted and tested for validity and reliability over the course of many years. Course and grade consistency: Holding onto assessments allows teachers teaching different sections of the same course to provide their students with consistent levels of rigor and expectations as students in other classes with different teachers.
2. Longitudinal data: By using some of the same questions from year to year, teams of teachers can monitor the efficacy of instructional practices and assessments.
3. Educational philosophy: Students learn to value and focus on the learning process, not just the test grade, when less emphasis is placed on the test itself.

In these classes, the assessments are always returned to the students. With teacher guidance, students identify their strengths and weaknesses. In class, students conduct a thorough review of the assessment and often complete a formal reflection; also, students are encouraged to look at the assessment with their teacher at anytime during the year. Students are best served in their studying for future tests by using their notes, labs, handouts, textbook, book work, classwork, and formative assessments and by meeting with their teacher.

“I understand that the high school has mid-term and final exams. How does this work?”

Most academic courses at the high school have mid-term exams, and final exams are given by the science and math departments. Parents should not make any plans that would require students to miss exams. Exams may not be taken early. Keep in mind that any snow day extends the school year and the final exam schedule. Please do not plan summer activities that start before the official last day of school.

No classes will meet on exam days, and your student will take up to two exams each day. The first exam block runs from 8:00-9:30 a.m., the second exam from 10:15-11:45 a.m. Students will be given an additional 30 minutes after the scheduled ending time of each exam block. Transportation is provided to and from school with a special bus run.

One of the greatest surprises for 9th grade parents associated with the mid-term and final exam schedule is the fact that the school day ends for students at 12:00. The afternoons of each day should be devoted to studying for the next upcoming exam and healthy stress-relieving activities; this should be considered in your planning.

For courses that offer a final exam, the mid-term grade and the final exam grade each count for 10% of the student's final grade at the end of the year. Quarter grades 1, 2, 3 and 4 each count for 20% of the student grade; the mid-term and the final exam grade, combined, count for the remaining 20%. Teachers may deviate from this formula if the student's performance changes dramatically in the second half of the school year.

“How is honor roll determined at the high school?”

Determination for honor roll is made according to the steps outlined in the Program of Studies and the Student Handbook. These procedures are outlined here:

An honor roll list is processed at the end of each marking period and includes those students who have earned an unweighted 3.0 grade point average on an A = 4.0 scale in all graded subjects. Students who receive an incomplete or less than a C in any subject may not qualify. A supplementary honor roll will be

issued for those students who qualify after making up incomplete grades.

High Honors - Students who earn a 3.6 unweighted grade point average in all major graded courses and meet the requirements for the honor roll are named to the high honors list.

"How is academic excellence recognized at the high school?"

A Senior Awards Assembly and an Undergraduate Awards Assembly are held each year in the spring. Numerous awards are given at these assemblies to students who have excelled in courses throughout the year. At the Undergraduate Awards Assembly, "book prizes" are also given to selected students who meet the standards set by the respective colleges.

BELL SCHEDULE

"The rotating bell schedule is very confusing. Please explain it."

Schedule Rotation: Wayland High School uses an eight period schedule that rotates through six blocks a day over eight letter days. Full credit classes meet six days out of every eight-day cycle. Because it is an eight day cycle, the days do not fall predictably on conventional days of the week. For example, an A day that falls on a Monday will next fall on a Thursday. The ["Calendar" link](#) on the WHS home page will show all the letter days for the year.

BLOCK	LETTER DAY (with periods scheduled for that day)							
	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>
I	1	4	3	2	1	4	3	2
II	2	1	4	3	2	1	4	3
III	3	2	1	4	3	2	1	4
IV	5	8	7	6	5	8	7	6
V	6	5	8	7	6	5	8	7
VI	7	6	5	8	7	6	5	8
Missing	4	3	2	1	4	3	2	1
	8	7	6	5	8	7	6	5

The bell schedule was designed to create flexibility in scheduling, increase our ability to schedule "double labs," provide in-school time for teachers to meet with students, and to provide students with the potential benefit of having some days when they could sleep in, study in school, or seek extra help.

Because most of our students are only scheduled for six or seven periods (or "classes"), they usually have at least one free block each day (see table above). For example, a student who does not have a class scheduled fifth period will have a free block on A and E days (4th block), C and G days (6th block), and D and H days (5th block). Conversely, that same student's scheduled 2nd period class does not meet on C days and G days.

Although this system looks complicated, students quickly learn their schedules.

The Bell Schedule: On most Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays we use the “Bell 1” schedule below. We use “Bell 2” for club days, class meetings, extended Advisory meetings, or other special events. Notice that Advisory, which is mandatory, is always scheduled after 2nd block on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursday, and Fridays.

**BELL 1 M, T, TH, F
WITH ADVISORY**

	First Lunch	Second Lunch	Third Lunch
I	8:35-9:29	I 8:35-9:29	I 8:35-9:29
II	9:34-10:28	II 9:34-10:28	II 9:34-10:28
Advisory	10:33-10:40	10:33-10:40	10:33-10:40
III	10:45-11:39	III 10:45-11:39	III 10:45-11:39
1 st Lunch	11:44-12:14	IVA 11:44-12:11	IV 11:44-12:38
IV	12:18-1:12	2 nd Lunch 12:13-12:43	3 rd Lunch 12:42-1:12
V	1:17-2:11	IVB 12:45-1:12	V 1:17-2:11
VI	2:16-3:10	V 1:17-2:11	VI 2:16-3:10
		VI 2:16-3:10	

BELL 2 (MONTHLY 25-MINUTE ADVISORY & CLASS MEETINGS M, T, TH, F)

	First Lunch	Second Lunch	Third Lunch
I	8:35-9:26	I 8:35-9:26	I 8:35-9:26
II	9:31-10:22	II 9:31-10:22	II 9:31-10:22
Meeting	10:27-10:52	Meeting 10:27-10:52	Meeting 10:27-10:52
III	10:57-11:48	III 10:57-11:48	III 10:57-11:48
1 st Lunch	11:53-12:23	IVA 11:53-12:18	IV 11:53-12:44
IV	12:27-1:18	2 nd Lunch 12:20-12:50	3 rd Lunch 12:48-1:18
V	1:23-2:14	IVB 12:52-1:18	V 1:23-2:14
VI	2:19-3:10	V 1:23-2:14	VI 2:19-3:10
		VI 2:19-3:10	

BELL 3 (WEDNESDAYS WITHOUT ADVISORY)

	First Lunch	Second Lunch	Third Lunch
I	8:35-9:24	I 8:35-9:24	I 8:35-9:24
II	9:29-10:17	II 9:29-10:17	II 9:29-10:17
III	10:22-11:10	III 10:22-11:10	III 10:22-11:10
1 st Lunch	11:15-11:45	IVA 11:15-11:39	IV 11:15-12:04
IV	11:49-12:38	2 nd Lunch 11:41-12:11	3 rd Lunch 12:08-12:38
V	12:43-1:31	IVB 12:13-12:38	V 12:43-1:31
VI	1:36-2:25	V 12:43-1:31	VI 1:36-2:25
		VI 1:36-2:25	

SCHOOL CULTURE

"I heard that there are no substitutes at the high school. What happens when teachers are absent for meetings or because of an illness?"

Excepting cases of long-term absence, there are no substitutes provided at the high school. When a teacher is absent because of a conference or short-term illness, students are free to go to the commons or the library. Most students handle this very well by taking advantage of this additional study and preparation time. Teachers often leave assignments or have long-term projects on which students are expected to work. Please encourage your child to develop good work habits and good use of this additional study/preparation time. Long-term absences are covered either by department staff members or an interim teacher.

"Does the high school have study halls?"

Mandatory study halls are held for 9th graders during first and quarters. Freshmen begin with no free blocks. Third quarter, freshmen who earn a C+ or above in all of their classes are released from study halls. Freshmen progress through these gradual steps toward freedom. During study hall, attendance will be taken. This time is designed for students to work on assignments, prepare for upcoming quizzes and tests, and develop good study habits.

We also have “restricted study” during unscheduled blocks for those students who fail to follow our code of conduct.

"What do you mean by 'open campus'?"

Usually when people refer to the "openness" of the Wayland High School campus, they are referring to the fact that there are **no structured study halls** (except for 9th graders) during students' free blocks. Students must learn to use their free time wisely. They may go to the commons where there is a snack bar, and where they have the opportunity to socialize or work in groups. They may choose to go to the library or the Academic Center to study or do research. This may be the time when they seek out teachers for help in a given subject area; many students routinely spend their free periods in one of the several student learning centers (SLC's).

Freshmen and sophomores are expected to be in school if they have a first block class and they may not leave campus until 3:10 p.m. (Wednesday at 2:25 p.m.). With parent permission, juniors and seniors may leave campus after their last class of the day.

After the first quarter, 9th grade students have the same late arrival privilege as sophomores. They may sign in at the main office **with a parent note** for their first class of the day (i.e., not necessarily at 8:30 a.m. due to our rotating schedule). Ninth and tenth grade students do not have early dismissal privileges. Late and early dismissal privileges are just that -- privileges. They are revoked at any time that the school feels the student is not showing sufficient responsibility and maturity.

Seniors who have successfully completed 30 hours of community service are eligible for "open campus" privileges. They are expected on time in their first block class. They may, with parental approval, leave campus during their free blocks.

The "open campus" arrangement is excellent preparation for handling time-management issues after high school. We have had strong, positive feedback from our graduates that the "open campus" culture helped them in the transition to their future plans, whether they involve work, college, or service.

Once again, open campus is clearly a privilege and one which requires parental permission. It can be revoked at any time.

"What does community service mean for an incoming student at the high school?"

Wayland High School has a long-standing commitment of encouraging community service as a powerful learning experience. In order for a student to be eligible for open campus privileges as a senior, he/she needs to have completed thirty (30) hours of community service by his/her senior year. A list of approved service ideas may be obtained from the guidance office. Please encourage your child to start community service as early as possible. This will not only permit them to fulfill their school obligation, but also fosters a lifelong habit of service.

"How does my son or daughter learn or find out about what's going in the school?"

Morning announcements are posted online daily. Students should become accustomed to reading these morning announcements on a daily basis as this is where all school-related activities are announced. We post information on our TV screens throughout campus as well.

Student email accounts: Each WHS student has been assigned an email account. We use those accounts to communicate directly with students about school events and academic and disciplinary issues. Students are expected to check their email at least once a day.

Freshmen Seminar: This seminar meets once during each class cycle for the first semester. It is designed to allow students an opportunity to meet with their guidance counselor, upperclass Peer Mentors, and other school personnel to discuss how best to succeed as a high schooler.

WSPN: Our online newspaper is a wonderful way for students and parents to stay apprised of the latest WHS events and happenings.

"I understand that there are class officers and class activities. What does this mean for my 9th grader?"

Each class has a class advisor or co-advisors who oversee all class activities for the four years at Wayland High School. These class activities become increasingly more complicated and complex as the students progress through the four years. The class officers and executive board meet with the class advisor throughout the year to plan class activities and events. Class officers for the 9th grade class are elected in the first month of school; thereafter, class elections for the following year are generally held in May. Each year there is a major fundraiser to raise the funds necessary to pay for class night and graduation. In addition, each class usually participates in one major activity, such as a dance, a class barbecue or a trip to an amusement park.

"What is Winter Week?"

"Winter Week" happens the week following mid-term exams. The programs vary dramatically from year to year. The school takes this opportunity to bring in a variety of speakers and events whose topics we believe to be of high interest or importance to students. Student Council members work closely with members of the faculty to plan these events. In some cases, whole classes attend these presentations. In other cases, attendance is based on individual student interest.

"How do students and parents learn about clubs and other activities?"

Our morning announcements are read in homeroom classes and posted online for students to read at their leisure. Club and class activities are announced via this format and also in the WHSPO newsletter and on TV screens around campus. The Student Handbook includes a listing of our formal school sponsored clubs.

Students will be introduced to all of the clubs at a Club Fair in September.

"What is the Advisory Program?"

The Advisory Program launched in 2012-2013 to positively impact school culture through constructive, small-group discussion and activities on relevant, meaningful topics. During the 2019-20 school year, the Advisory program will experience a reboot with a new schedule and new student groupings. Starting this year, Advisory will meet more frequently (four times a week) for less time, along with periodic "extended Advisory" meetings for discussion on school-related topics. In addition, groupings will be grade-specific. We have made these changes in order to strengthen connections between students and faculty and to improve overall communication in the school community. Each advisory group, comprised of 14-15 students, will be co-facilitated by two staff members. Freshmen specifically gain significant support and acclimate to WHS through Advisory activities specially assigned to ease their transition.

DISCIPLINE

"What is the disciplinary code at Wayland High School and how do I see a copy of the rules?"

We have developed a progressive disciplinary code at WHS that encourages students to embrace the responsibilities that come with the increased freedoms of being in high school. Our students generally take their responsibilities very seriously. The Student Handbook, available online, contains all the rules and consequences. Students will review major highlights of the Student Handbook during the first week

of school.

Restricted Study: Students who violate our code of conduct will earn a corresponding number of restricted study hours. Students are expected to serve their restricted study assignments starting the day following notification and continue attending restricted study until all assigned restricted study blocks have been served. Failure to serve restricted study will result in additional restricted blocks, and when necessary, out-of-school suspension.

Probation and the Accumulation of Excessive Restrictive Studies: Students who accumulate excessive restricted study hours will be put on probationary status. Students on probation lose all privileges starting on the date of notification, including but not limited to the following:

- late arrival, early dismissal
- drama rehearsals and performances
- club activities
- class activities such as trips, dances, class night, senior cruise, and graduation
- the right to free blocks (in extreme cases)
- some school field trips (in extreme cases)
- sports practices (and games, in extreme cases)

ATTENDANCE

"What is the attendance policy for the highschool?"

It is very important to us that we develop in our students a sense of the importance of good attendance and promptness in their daily activities, especially because students will fail any class for which they have two or more unexcused absences (please see the Student Handbook for details including state law and School Committee policies).

Excused Absences: The Wayland School Committee Policy dictates that students may be excused temporarily from school attendance for the following school committee-approved reasons:

- a. Illness or quarantine and medical appointments
- b. Bereavement or serious illness in family
- c. Weather so inclement as to endanger the health of the child
- d. Observance of major religious holidays
- e. Approved school-related activity
- f. College visits (not mentioned in School Committee Policy, but usually allowed at WHS)

Parents must notify the main office in writing, by email, or by phone (508-358-5861 and 358-7746). Notes to excuse absences are required if verbal contact is not made and are due the day the student returns. The note must state the reason for absence (School Committee approved) or it will not be accepted.

Excessive Excused Absences: In instances of chronic or irregular absence reportedly due to illness, the school administration may request the following:

1. A physician's statement certifying such absences to be warranted
2. Proof that the student is undergoing appropriate treatments (e.g., therapy, counseling, etc.)

Family Trips and Planned Extended Absences: Family trips and other non-School Committee approved

absences must be approved by the administration two weeks prior to the absence. Extended absences are strongly discouraged, and teachers are not obligated to “make up” lost class time with students who have been on a family trip. It is the student’s responsibility to communicate with their teachers and to arrange a plan for all make up work.

Tardiness has been a problem for us at WHS and is one which we will again address with full vigor this fall. Students are considered to be tardy if they arrive at school after 8:30 a.m. First-block classes start promptly at 8:30 a.m. Tardiness is considered a partial absence and all policies relating to absence apply to tardiness. In other words, in order for a parent to excuse a student for being late, that lateness has to have been caused by those criteria approved by the School Committee for an unexcused absence (above).

- Students who arrive **prior** to 9:00 a.m. should go directly to class and present their tardy note to the teacher. If they don’t have a note stating an approved reason for tardiness, they will be considered tardy and appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken.
- Students who arrive **after** 9:00 a.m. must report to the main office in order to receive permission to attend class. Remember that this note must contain the reason for tardiness as well as the expected time of arrival.

PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

"I want to stay involved in the high school. How can I do so?"

We are immensely grateful for the support of our parent community! You may want to become involved with one of the parent support organizations – WHS PTO, CAPA, Boosters or Wayland Cares. These groups meet monthly and provide excellent opportunities for you to be involved with the high school. There is also a monthly Parent Information Exchange (PIE) meeting with the principal and guidance department for discussion of current issues at the high school. These meetings are announced in the WHSPO newsletter.

WHS PTO: The Wayland High School Parent Teacher Organization (WHS PTO) sponsors numerous informative meetings to share with you topics and issues of interest to you and your child. They publish a monthly newsletter which serves as the major written communication between the high school and parents. This newsletter will keep you up-to-date and informed about the latest happenings at the high school. WHS PTO also provides generous grants to teachers that supplement classroom innovation and sponsors regular teacher appreciation events. WHS PTO meets regularly and meeting times vary between early morning or evening.

We hope you will attend meetings and become an active member of WHS PTO. The first meeting is in September at a time and location to be announced. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the first Parent Information Exchange (PIE). For more information, follow the “Parent Organizations” link on the WHS homepage.

CAPA: The Creative Arts Parents Association (CAPA) encourages and supports the creative arts program at Wayland High School. In many cases it raises money to pay for cultural enrichment events and to support auditions and performance expenses so that the many talented Wayland artists, actors, and musicians may compete and perform locally and nationally. CAPA awards performing arts jackets, trophies, and pins to outstanding students in the arts. None of this could be done without the help and support of Wayland parents. For more information, follow the “Parent Organizations” link on the WHS homepage.

BOOSTERS: The purpose of Boosters is to foster and encourage the athletic teams of Wayland High School in all phases of inter-scholastic competition. It exists to recognize and reward excellence in sports,

not only with an emphasis on winning but in the belief that the development of leadership and sportsmanship coupled with healthy bodies and alert minds is the primary purpose of athletic activities. It also promotes the belief that the teams of the school, whether winning or losing, may be known for their character, team spirit and sense of fair play; and to do such other things as the members attending a meeting may decide on by a vote. For more information, follow the “Parent Organizations” link on the WHS homepage.

WaylandCares: The mission of WaylandCares is to reduce youth substance use and abuse and associated risky behaviors. An intergenerational initiative, the WaylandCares promotes teen healthy decision making through effective prevention strategies that include policy setting, education, communication, programming, mentoring and role modeling. The WaylandCares operates on the premise that it is the responsibility of parents and the Wayland Community to make the environment safe for its young people, and that young people need the community’s support to make healthy decisions. For more information, follow the “Parent Organizations” link on the WHS homepage.

ATHLETICS

"What should I expect if my son or daughter chooses to play a sport next year?"

This varies greatly from sport to sport and from student to student. Occasionally, a 9th grade student makes a varsity team. This is unusual but not unprecedented. Most 9th graders will play either on 9th grade teams or on JV. Students who choose to participate in athletics generally report that it is one of the most meaningful and important aspects of their high school career. For parents, the changes necessitated by a student's involvement in athletics are among the most significant challenges you may face. A 9th grade parent wrote once with this assessment of her experience:

“... independence comes up again in a different way with after school sports. No matter how many plans a parent makes for afternoons, weekends or holidays, they all take a back seat to sports. New 9th grade parents don't realize that sports may begin a week before school does, practices may not be missed in some sports without a penalty, and many coaches have practices on weekends and vacations. The other thing about sports that parents might not realize is that they end at different times on different afternoons...so parents must be available to pick their child up when he or she calls. This can take place anywhere between 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.”

Athletics is another example of a "you get what you put into it" process. The rewards and gains are tremendous; so is the commitment and discipline required.

"Is there a user fee for sports at the high school?"

Yes - each student athlete pays a \$300.00 per sport, per season fee (family cap of \$1,200). This is regrettable but necessary because of budgetary limitations. The user fees are used to pay for basic expenses incurred in athletics: officials, busses, equipment, etc.

"Is there pre-season for 9th grade athletes?"

Yes. All 9th grader athletes should expect to report the first day of athletics, along with all the upperclassmen. Remember that students may only participate if all proper clearance procedures have been adhered to. If you are unable to report for the first day of practice please contact Mr. Heath Rollins, the Athletic Director, at 508- 358-7488.

"Are there athletic events when school is not in session?"

Indeed there are. Wayland is a member of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association and participates in the Dual County League. The coaches and athletic directors from these various schools coordinate a schedule for competitions and tournaments. Practices take place routinely over vacation (except during religious observances); it is common for scheduled competitions to take place over vacation periods as well. Parents of 9th graders should discuss with their student athletes and the coach or athletic director what impact participation in a given sport will have on vacation periods.

FINE ARTS

"What fine arts opportunities are available to Wayland High School students?"

Like athletics, the fine arts program at Wayland High School is frequently a very memorable part of the students' experience at WHS. In the extracurricular realm, students may participate in the performing arts through music, theater, a capella and choral groups, and dance (Window Dance Troupe). In the curricular realm, students must pass at least four credits of courses in the Fine Arts department in order to graduate. We offer an array of courses in the visual and performing arts (please see the Program of Studies for a full description), and students are encouraged to explore and develop new skills through these offerings.

Performance groups include choral, instrumental and dramatic. The high school band and the high school chorus rehearse during school time. Special groups rehearse at other times as scheduled by the directors. Select instrumental and choral groups practice after school on Wednesdays as well as Wednesday evenings. Students selected for these special performance groups work closely with their directors to work special practice sessions into their school responsibilities.

Wayland Public Schools, Wayland, Massachusetts 01778
SCHOOL CALENDAR 2019 - 2020
Approved by School Committee 6/18/2018

August 26	Monday	All staff reports for preparation
August 27	Tuesday	Staff Preparation and 6 th & 9 th Grade Orientation
August 28	Wednesday	First Day of Classes (Wednesday schedule)
August 30	Friday	NO SCHOOL
September 2	Monday	Labor Day – NO SCHOOL
September 30	Monday	Rosh Hashanah – NO SCHOOL
October 9	Wednesday	Yom Kippur – NO SCHOOL
October 14	Monday	Columbus Day – NO SCHOOL
November 11	Monday	Veterans' Day – NO SCHOOL
November 27	Wednesday	Thanksgiving recess (early release/no lunch) Elementary Schools @ 11:30 a.m. High School @ 12:15 p.m. Middle School @ 12:20 p.m.
December 2	Monday	Classes resume
December 20	Friday	Holiday season recess (begins at close of normal school day)
January 6	Monday	Classes resume
January 20	Monday	Martin Luther King Day - NO SCHOOL
February 14	Friday	Winter recess (begins at close of normal school day)
February 24	Monday	Classes resume
April 10	Friday	Good Friday – NO SCHOOL
April 17	Friday	Spring recess (begins at close of normal school day)
April 27	Monday	Classes resume
May 25	Monday	Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL
June 7	Sunday	W.H.S. Graduation (3:00 p.m.)
June 17*	Wednesday	Tentative last student day (Wed. schedule)
June 18*	Thursday	Tentative last teacher day
June 24*	Wednesday	180 th School Day with 5 snow days

***Tentative date-actual last day for students and teachers would depend upon completion of 180 scheduled class days. Parents are asked to avoid making plans prior to June 24.**

Please be informed that September 18, November 20, January 8, and February 26 will have earlier release times as follows: Elementary (11:30 am); High School (12:15 pm); Middle School (12:20 pm). Lunch will not be served.

In addition, in order to help your planning, MCAS testing schedules can be found on the DESE website. When they become available, a link will be provided.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Main Office	358-7746
Attendance	358-5861
FAX	358-8082
Academic Center	358-4823
Arts	358-3724
Athletics	358-7488
English	358-3720
Guidance	358-3707
Languages	358-3721
Math	358-3723
Media Center	358-3715
METCO	358-3716
Nurse's Office	358-3712
Science	358-3725
Special Education	358-3722
Social Studies/Business.....	358-3726