

SIMSBURY HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Guardians of the Class of 2026:

I'm guessing that the past three school years have not looked anything like you thought they would when you started to think of the future as you were experiencing the many emotions that came upon you when your child started school for the first time and here you are now sending your child off to high school. Please know that we welcome your child and everyone at Simsbury High School is ready to assist in your child's journey over the next four years. You won't be going at it alone as all of us are part of the same team that wants to help each child maximize their abilities. While many things may seem new to you, our school has some well-established traits and traditions. Foremost in our thoughts are the three tenets that make up our core values and beliefs: **preparation**, **passion**, and **personal growth**. Each year I let parents know about these traits and how they are manifest in our school.

We firmly believe that your child is entering one of the best high schools in the country on many levels, not the least of which is our ability to **prepare** students to do well in life after high school. Teachers, advisors, coaches, and many other adults in our building will appropriately challenge your child to learn, compete, and perform at the highest levels. We build in supports for every freshman by making sure all of our ninth graders have at least one study hall or resource period each day. In addition to this support we also offer an English resource center, math lab, study skills/organization support, homework club, etc. Of course, the best supports are the classroom teachers, all of whom are available for extra help either before or after school at various times throughout the week. You should contact your child's school counselor if you have specific questions about the academic resources available to your child.

Passion comes in many forms. While some students find deep levels of commitment to something in the classroom, others might find themselves highly motivated on a stage, a field, or a room full of people playing a game they are working to master. We want your child to find his or her passion. Besides our excellent and varied course offerings we also have over twenty sports, multiple plays and musical shows, bands, and clubs ranging from the typical school government organizations to the Anime Club. We want our hallways filled with passionate people!

High school is a time for **personal growth** and a more complex understanding of personal responsibility. The adults in our building will help to teach your child to make good, socially responsible choices as they grow into adults. During adolescence students are given more freedom, and the world becomes more complex as are the decisions that they face. The consequences of their actions are higher, and with your support we believe we can teach students to positively interact and contribute to the world and become independent young adults who can self-advocate and find appropriate resources when they need assistance.

I'm excited to begin to meet many of your children at our Forms and Photo Fair on Wednesday, August 24 (look for your student's assigned time on the enclosed forms) and at the freshmen student/parent orientation program on Monday, August 29 (6:30pm).

Enclosed you will find a basic supply list to get your student started. There will be additional items needed once the students meet their teachers. I look forward to working with you and your child over the next year. I encourage you to check out our school website for additional information. If you have specific questions or concerns feel free to contact me at kpera@simsburyschools.net or 860-658-0451 ex. 440.

Go Trojans!

MA-Kenneth S. Pera

Freshmen Assistant Principal

~ Teaching students to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow with confidence and integrity ~