

Tewksbury Memorial High School

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August 9, 2019

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

Even though the weather still feels like summer, the beginning of the 2019-2020 School Year is right around the corner. This fall brings exciting academic opportunities for our students and faculty! This year we will be offering two new Advanced Placement courses, English Language and Computer Science. We are also offering dual enrollment for Statistics, Calculus, and Biology this year as well! This year 15 students will be enrolled in our Innovation Pathways program for the first time. You may find more information on our Guidance Department website: <https://www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us/high/guidance-department/> This is a grant funded program from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. As part of our continued work around social emotional learning and building an inclusive school community all sophomores and 50 staff members will participate in Challenge Day on October 2nd and 3rd. We will also have 50 juniors who participated in Challenge Day last year, be a part of the program this year. The Challenge Day organization is the world leader in building school communities where students and adults feel safe and connected. Here is the link to their website: <https://www.challengeday.org/>. Last year we had 200 students and 50 staff members participate in Challenge Day and the impact on our school was positive and transformative. You may have also noticed that we have completed our Project Adventure course at TMHS this summer. The course will be implemented into physical education as well as in other content areas. We will also be piloting an advisory block for all students this year. Students are randomly assigned to an advisory teacher for the year. The advisory groups will meet 4 or 5 times this year. The purpose of advisory is to foster a positive school culture and personalize all students' learning experiences. One of the objectives of Advisory Block is to allow students time to figure out who they are, where they're headed, and how they're going to get there. Through advisory, each student has an additional teacher who knows them and can help them navigate high school so that they leave with a meaningful, personalized plan and are prepared for postsecondary options.

In our continued efforts to keep all of our students safe and informed about the dangers of alcohol and drug use, we will be having our yearly Social Host mandatory pre-prom program for all juniors and their parents in late February. Seniors and their parents must attend this pre-prom program only if they did not attend the program last year as a junior. More details concerning the exact date and time for this event will be sent out this fall in our newsletter.

As part of our efforts to be a more environmentally conscious and informed school community, we have installed six refillable water bottle stations around the school. There are two in the cafeteria, one on each floor, and one at the turf field. We encourage students to bring a refillable water bottle to school each day. The water at these stations is filtered and tested unlike the water in store bought plastic water bottle.

Please join me in welcoming the following new faculty and staff to TMHS: Ms. Kate Clark will be our new French/Spanish teacher in the World Language Department. Ms. Kelly Constantino, R.N., from the Dewing School, will be our new lead nurse in our building and she will also be teaching and running our CNA program this year. And Ms. Jing Fang will be our new math teacher. And Ms. Emily Murphy and Ms. Chloe Manousos are our two new classroom instructional aides.

Also, Ms. Mary Jo Kelleher will be our new lead teacher for our CTBE Department and Ms. Kennan Daniel will be our new head of the Guidance Department. We will be hiring a new guidance counselor as well to replace Ms. Karen Baker O'Brien who will be moving into a district level position.

Please take the time to read all of the following information concerning upcoming events and procedures for the beginning of the school year.

We would especially like to welcome the Class of 2023 to TMHS! **There will be upperclassmen available on Monday, August 26th and Tuesday, August 27th at TMHS to provide guided tours for all new students. On Monday, August 26th tours will start at 1:00 pm and on Tuesday, August 27th tours will start at 6:00 pm. Please register at the following link: <https://forms.gle/mTAXPwXFkUMcgWMT8>**

TMHS Website:

We update the website with information about upcoming events, deadlines, and guidance information regularly. The dates for Parent Open House and Parent-Teacher Conferences are posted on our website and calendar. Please find the following link to our website: <https://www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us/high/>.

TMHS Guidance Office and Events:

It is important for both students and parents/guardians to stay up to date on all pertinent information related to their class. This year, TMHS invites both students and parents/guardians to several events during the course of the year with the goal of providing our school community with current information regarding your student's class. Please visit the Guidance Office webpage <https://www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us/high/guidance-department/> for information and dates about important events for both students and parents.

Student Handbook:

Please make sure that both you and your student take the time to review the student handbook. We make changes to the handbook each year and it is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the handbook and its contents. This year our student handbook will only be available electronically. Please find the following link to our student handbook:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RPDdPd0DKG3pa964uC2B5PH5L8Yd6pBWwhwkkIc580U/edit?usp=sharing> or go to our website and find the Student Handbook under **For Students** link. **Students and parents/guardians must verify they have reviewed the [Student Handbook](#) and the [Acceptable Use Policy](#) and return the sign-off form to their first block teacher at the start of school.** Student Handbook Sign Off Sheet:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1D86-II_ov9zHI70vRKNqS27B8JDE0v1sWQ9qh0nzPG4/edit?usp=sharing

Accident/Illness Form:

We have enclosed an accident/illness form for Freshmen that includes your student's address and contact information as reflected in Aspen. Since we use email to communicate with parents primarily we ask that you make sure that your email in Aspen is up to date when you are updating your other information in Aspen. Please make sure your contact information including emergency information is accurate.

If there are any changes please make the changes on this form and return to the Main Office by **Friday, September 6th**. **If there are no changes you do not need to return the form.**

Rotating Day Google Calendar:

Please find the following link to our rotating day google calendar. You can add it to your own google calendar by hitting the plus symbol on the bottom right of the calendar.

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/b/1?cid=dG1oc2FkbWluQHRld2tzYnVyeS5rMTIubWEudXM>

Student IDs/School Pictures/Senior Portraits:

All students are required to be photographed on **Wednesday, September 4th** during the school day for the purpose of student IDs and for the option of purchasing school pictures. Additionally, seniors should also be sure to make their appointments for their senior portrait with O'Connor Studios so that they can be sure to have their picture in the yearbook. O'Connor Studios can be reached at (978) 640-6250 or at <http://www.oconnorstudio.com/>.

Athletics/Extra-Curricular Activities:

It is important for students to feel connected to their school. When students are connected by being involved in clubs, activities and athletics they are often more successful in the classroom. I challenge all of our students to join at least one club, activity, and/or athletic team at TMHS. Bring your friends along and make many new ones in the process! The cost for all clubs is \$50 for one and \$100 for unlimited club participation. The cost for participation on one athletic team is \$150 and a family cap of \$600 for the school year. This year **all students participating in athletics or in a club must register at CommunityPass. You may also pay the user fee online through CommunityPass at <https://register.communitypass.net> with a credit card or using your checking account. Students will not be allowed to try out for a sport or participate in a club until the fee has been paid. You will be able to log in to CommunityPass on August 13th to pay.** All Tewksbury families have an account with CommunityPass. You received an email in April with your username and login. Please reference the enclosed directions for logging into CommunityPass.

Student Parking:

Parking spaces are only for senior and junior students. If you wish to obtain a parking permit (and meet the set requirements), you will be issued a decal. The cost this school year for a parking permit is \$150. All students must first register for a parking permit through CommunityPass at <https://register.communitypass.net>. You can pay the fee with a credit card or using your checking account through CommunityPass. You will be able to register and pay as of August 13th. See the insert with directions on logging into CommunityPass. After a student has registered for parking on CommunityPass the student should report to the TMHS office on **Thursday, August 22nd with a Xerox copy of their license and a Xerox copy of their registration. Seniors should report from 9:00 am to 11:00 am and Juniors from noon to 2:00 pm to pick up their parking pass.**

Student Schedules:

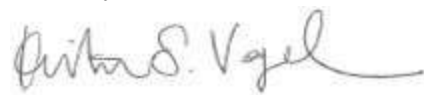
Student schedules are available to be viewed on Aspen: <https://ma-tewksbury.myfollett.com/aspen/logon.do>. Please review the student schedule to ensure correct placement. Students with incomplete schedules should contact the Guidance Office via email at pwhitehouse@tewksbury.k12.ma.us (Mrs. Whitehouse, Administrative Assistant) or call (978) 640-7838 ext. 2048 to schedule an appointment.

Don't forget...first day of classes is on Wednesday, August 28th. Students should arrive to school by 7:25 am and report to their **Day One A Block** class by 7:30 am. **Please find the following link for Opening Day Schedule:** https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PaCVvE8-qzfVvN6ziLqbB81yzZdDKv6RwtyVAg_6diE/edit?usp=sharing

I am looking forward to a year of fun and learning! Let's make the 2019-2020 School Year even better than last year-#weRISEatTMHS.

Enjoy the rest of your summer with friends and family!

Sincerely,



Kristen S. Vogel, M.A.T.
Principal

Attachments: [Community Pass Directions](#), [Consent for Medication Administration](#) and [Student Handbook Sign-Off Page](#)