



Watertown High School

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

I would like to extend my best wishes to you for a Happy and Prosperous New Year. As we all settle into the long winter months, I look forward to the second half of the school year (Term 3 begins February 1st) and all of the activities that are planned for the students, parents and staff at Watertown High School.

This letter also brings my announcement that I will be retiring as Headmaster of Watertown High School at the end of this school year. I have had the wonderful opportunity to be associated with Watertown for my entire educational career. I was a student at the "old" Hosmer School and am a proud graduate of Watertown High. My teaching career began as a 7th grade English teacher at the East Junior High (now the Brigham House), and I will retire with the honor of being the Headmaster for the past 7 years. To all who have supported the school system and me, be it as a student or parent, I am extremely thankful. There is no other place I would have wanted to spend the last 38 years. Finally, after 4 years inside, let's all say a prayer that graduation for the Class of 2010 will be outdoors at Victory Field!

As stated earlier in the year, as the senior class (Class of 2010) begins the last half of the year, I would like to remind all senior parents and students that there are specific requirements in order to participate in the graduation festivities in June. Some of these requirements include community service, Senior Thesis paper and the successful completion of all courses and credits. Please encourage your senior to be diligent and to keep focused. My goal is to have ALL of our seniors participate in ALL of the senior activities and graduate on June 4th. Also, please be advised that Watertown High does **NOT** sponsor or promote any senior trips. The school does not encourage these student-run trips in any way.

The following is a list of upcoming events for February

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| 1 | School Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Town Hall |
| 1&2 | MCAS Biology Retests |
| 3 | Faculty Meeting 2:45 pm |
| 4 | Report Cards Issued |
| 5 | Raider Café 1st Lunch |
| 8&9 | Yearbook pictures (clubs etc.) |
| 10 | Department Meetings 2:45 pm |
| 11 | Coffee with the Headmaster 8:00 am Alumni Room |
| 15-19 | No School...Winter Break |
| 24 | Honor Roll Breakfast 7:30 am Kelley Gym |

This year's musical, "Grease", under the direction of Ms Abigail Cordell and Mr. Dan Wulf is well into rehearsal mode. Mark your calendars for February 25-26-27, for a wonderful night of musical entertainment. Grease back your hair, put on you "poodle" skirts and get ready to rock n roll with our talented students as we bring back the 50's to Watertown High School. Any parent with a classic car of the era, please contact me as I would love to have the mood set in front of the school on opening night!!

This year, the Physical Education Department district wide has been awarded a federal grant to improve the physical education program in order to improve activity and fitness levels of students. The new program is called "Fit, Fun, for Life". Snow Shoeing is one of the new activities! Students will be given enough notice when PE instructors schedule the snow shoeing unit so they are prepared with proper outdoor attire. As is in all PE classes, a change of clothes is required. For snowshoeing, students should have a coat, warm pair of pants, jeans or ski pants, hat and gloves. Sneakers will get wet, so boots or winter shoes will be necessary. If you would like to learn more about "Fit, Fun for Life", please contact Donna Ruseckas, Coordinator of Physical Education.

iPARENT ALERT!!

If you **STILL** have not yet signed on to iPARENT, I encourage you to do it ASAP. By signing up, you will have immediate access to all of your child's current school records and your email will receive all of my Connect Ed messages. Next year, the staff will be utilizing an electronic grading system and the only way you will be able to "see" your child's grades/progress is thru iPASS. Once you are signed in, you are all set for the rest of your child's career at WHS.

Effective this year, the Mid Term exam is a separate grade from the Term 2 Grade. No longer is it factored in to the 2nd Term. Likewise, the Final Exam will appear as a separate grade at the end of the year. This new structure will mean that each term counts for a total of 80% and the 2 exams will be calculated for a combined 20%.

Finally, effective this week, the school library will be open in the afternoon after 2:30 pm for all students. Under the direction of Mr. David Meurete and Mr. Hugh McLaughlin, 2 staff members, students will have the opportunity to utilize the library for both academic assistance and a quiet place to study. I look to this new program to be yet another opportunity for students to find academic assistance and success here at the high school.

As always, I thank you for your support of our school. Please contact me or either of my housemasters, Ms Katherine DiNardo or Mr. Michael McDermott, if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours truly,

P. Michael Noftsker
Headmaster

