



Watertown High School

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Superintendent

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October, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As we begin our second month of school, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to the 2009-2010 school year and the wonderful community of Watertown High School.

As your Headmaster, it is my responsibility to keep open communication and dialogue between school and home. Please check our website, www.watertown.k12.ma.us for information about the high school. As I initiated last year, the majority of my communications home will be done via "backpack" with your child. In addition, all correspondences, report cards and progress reports will be available on line either on the WHS website or through iPARENT. All of these efforts save money and time but most importantly, they make our communication more effective. Attached to this letter is your child's Progress report for Term 1. This report will give you a good idea as to your child's progress for the first five (5) weeks of this year. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the specific teacher or your child's guidance counselor.

For the parents/guardians of the Senior Class of 2010, I would like to remind everyone that there are specific requirements in order to participate in the graduation festivities in June. **Some of these include community service hours, Senior Thesis paper, and the successful completion of all course and school requirements.** Please encourage your child to be diligent and keep focused. My goal is to have ALL of our seniors participate in ALL of the senior activities throughout the year. 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.

There are many activities taking place at WHS during the fall. The athletic teams are competing in soccer, cross country, football, field hockey, and girls volleyball. The drama/music department is practicing for the presentation, "The Importance of Being Uncle Roscoe", under the direction of Abigail Cordell from the Middle School. Please come out and support our students in all of these venues. **"Raider Pride"** is everywhere.

This year's co-presidents of the PTSO are Kelly Geagan and Theresa Barba. Our first meeting will be held in the teacher's cafeteria on Thursday, October 15th at 6:30 pm. Please attend as it will be a short meeting to explain what the PTSO does and how they work with the high school. The next 2 meetings will be January 7, 2010 and April 8, 2010 both at 6:30 pm in the Alumni Room.

Due to our budget issues, an activity (user) fee has been established for the high school. There is a one time fee of \$175.00 to participate on an athletic team, and a one time fee of \$25.00 to join a club. There is also a waiver procedure for those that cannot afford this fee. Please contact Mr. Michael Lahiff, Athletic Director or me if you need assistance with this fee. I do not want any student to be turned away from a club or team due to financial difficulties.

The following is a list of important events that will be taking place over the next 2 months. Please take a moment to mark those events that are pertinent to you and your child:

October 15	Senior (Class of 09) Parents' Night	7:00 PM Alumni Room
October 15	PTSO Meeting	7:00 PM Alumni Room
October 17	PSAT Testing at WHS	7:45 AM
October 30	Halloween Dance	7:00 PM in cafeteria

The 2010 Yearbook has begun production for our seniors. Please refer to our Watertown High we page for a link to a new feature. Through the yearbook link, you will be able to forward pictures, order the yearbook, and do a remembrance page of your child. My thanks to Maurin O'Grady, the yearbook advisor, for making this option possible for parents and students.

Our school year is "off and running" in a positive manner. The school has instituted three new/revised policies: attendance, eligibility and use of electronic devices. Please check the student handbook (available on line or hard copy from your child) to review these most important changes. If you have any questions please contact Katherine Dinardo or Michael McDermott, the two housemasters.

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 requires high schools to provide student recruiting information upon request by the military recruiters. If you **DO NOT** want your junior or senior child to be contacted by the various services, please contact my secretary, Geri Zani, (617-926-7760) by October 10th, and I will have your son/daughter's name removed from the list.

The high school staff has been diligent in being pro-active as result of the H1N1 crisis. All classrooms have been supplied with hand sanitizer and the bathrooms are stocked with supplies. Remember that your child will be sent home if he/she has a fever over 100.4 and must remain home until the fever is gone without the use of Tylenol or aspirin.

Once again, I thank you for your continued support and confidence with the administration and staff of Watertown High School. Last week's threat emergency makes all of us pause and realize the times in which we live and I will continue to make decisions to protect your child's safety and well being. As a continued effort to keep Watertown High a more secure building, all doors will be locked and entrance to the high school will be through the front door on Columbia Street. There will be no entrance from any other doors.

Yours truly,

P. Michael Noftsker
Headmaster

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