

August 5, 2019

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

I hope that you are enjoying a beautiful Wisconsin summer, finding time to rest and relax amidst the many opportunities the season has to offer! As the calendar flips to August, we are beginning to gear up for the 2019-2020 school year. Sports are getting underway, students are stopping in to walk their schedules, and we are finalizing preparations for registration. One of the greatest gifts of a new school year is the renewed energy and sense of anticipation that it offers. Every year is a chance to start over, set new goals, and try something new. We look forward to partnering with students and their families to make this year the best one yet, supporting each individual as they grow both academically and personally over the next nine months.

As with each new beginning, the 2019-2020 school year will bring some exciting changes that reflect our efforts to grow as a learning institution.

Student Fobs: As a school district, Whitefish Bay continues to evaluate our policies and practices related to student safety. The high school understands that our open campus lunch system has been a point of vulnerability as it limits our capacity to restrict access to unauthorized visitors. Given that our ISHP/lunch period is one of the greatest academic and social/emotional assets, we sought a way to maintain a locked facility for the entirety of our school day while preserving this critical resource.

Beginning this year, each student will be issued a unique fob key that is tied to their student ID number. Thus, if a student loses a fob we can deactivate it at anytime. Students will be given a fob at the start of this year and it will remain theirs until it is deactivated following graduation. Students in grades 10-12 will receive their fob during registration, printed with last year's picture. Students in grade 9 will receive their fob on the first day of school, allowing us to print a new high school picture. All cards will list the graduation year of the owner.

Student fobs will be programmed to work from 7:45-8:15 am and from 12:24-12:54 pm at doors 1, 3, 9 and the Fieldhouse. This will allow our building to be locked and secured 30 minutes prior to the start of academic classes and remain locked throughout lunch. Students will use their fob to gain entry prior to school as well as when they return from lunch. If students are not in school by the start of 1st hour or 5th hour, they will need to enter through the front doors as they normally would. Additional information and training will be provided to students during the first week of school.

Tardy Kiosk New this year, students arriving late to school will need their ID to check in. We have a new tardy kiosk that will allow students to scan their ID and print out a tardy slip that will grant them access to their class. This should help to streamline the busy mornings in the office!

Changes to Student Device Use: It has become increasingly apparent that we need to tighten up our expectations around student use of personal devices (phones, earbuds, watches, etc.). The most critical data driving this need includes an alarming increase in academic dishonesty, a rise in student mental health concerns that are often associated with social media and the general observation that interpersonal communication is declining among students as they are constantly "plugged in." To those ends, the new handbook language is as follows:

- During instructional time, (bell to bell for periods 1-7) students may only use digital technology devices, including cell phones, available to them (either personally owned or school provided) for purposes pre-authorized by the teacher.
- Devices such as apple watches, Fitbits, etc. that can send and receive messages are prohibited at school.
- Earbuds and Headphones are allowable during ISHP/Lunch only, and must be out of sight during all other times.
- Cell phones may never be used (before, during, or after school) in a locker room, restroom, or other places where privacy is expected.
- Cell phones may not be used during emergency drills.
- The District shall not be responsible for the safety or security of personal electronic equipment that students choose to bring to school. Students who bring any personal electronic device(s) to school do so at their own risk to possible theft, damage, misappropriation of data/equipment, or other loss.

In order to enforce this expectation in all learning environments/instructional spaces, students will be required to place their phone in a designated storage space (pocket/bin) for the duration of each class period (start bell to end bell). If a student is found using a cell phone without authorization, the student must surrender their phone to staff without objection or hesitation, doing so would result in an additional referral for insubordination. Failure to abide by these expectations will result in consequences that are further outlined in the student handbook. We truly believe that these steps will create a healthier learning environment for students and staff alike and we appreciate everyone's cooperation and support.

Instructional Focus: Over the last three years, teachers have been focused on deconstructing standards into student-friendly learning targets. This year, they will further classify those targets into knowledge, skill, reasoning or dispositional targets and assign a Depth of Knowledge level to each target, corresponding to an increasing level of cognitive demand. Stemming from this work, teachers will be evaluating their assessments for both authenticity and alignment to the intended purpose. Our goal is to ensure that our assessment tasks reflect the outcome for what we want students to both *know* and *be able to do*. It is likely that assessment design will become more diverse, allowing students to demonstrate their understanding in a variety of ways.

Finally, we are committed to becoming an AVID high school. As our District Vision...*our WHY.....* is to *empower ALL students with the knowledge, skills and character to thrive in a changing, global society*, I am confident that Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is our *HOW*. AVID is a national framework which "supports schools and educators in utilizing research-based strategies for rigorous teaching and learning that empower students with academic and 21st century skills to maximize postsecondary options." With AVID, the goal is not simply college and career eligibility for every student, but academic independence and success long-term. Our AVID focus for 2019-2020 will be centered on inquiry-based, collaborative strategies along with focused note-taking.

Registration: With school starting in a little less than a month, it's time to begin preparations for the upcoming year. Registration forms for the 2019-2020 school year are now online. Please **logon to Family Access**, click on 2019-2020 Student Registration and follow the step by step process to register. Workstations are available in the counseling office if parents prefer to come to school to complete this process. Please note that this must be completed before we can release schedules/textbooks.

The dates and times for pictures/books are August 19 from 8AM-12PM and August 26, from 10AM - 2PM. If students are unable to attend one of these dates, they may still have their picture taken during the makeup day in September and pick up their books during lunch/ISH the first week of school.

For the first time ever, we will be able to accept online payments for those who prefer credit cards! Parents are also able to mail in the fees with a check payable to Whitefish Bay High School or students can drop off their fees when they stop in for pictures/books. **A copy of your invoice needs to accompany all checks or cash.** Fees for this year are \$82 for freshmen-juniors and \$100 for seniors (to include graduation expenses). Please note that if students have elected to take a first-semester course(s) that require additional fees for consumables, these will be added to the base fee (fees for second semester classes will be assessed in January). Finally, exam fees for AP tests must be collected during our registration process as the College Board is requiring payment in the fall, rather than spring which is new for them this year. A few additional (optional) points related to registration:

- Parents, especially those of new students, are welcome to join their student in conducting this business.
- Students in grades 10-12 will need their new ID/fob card to check out their textbooks so they should pick that up first. Freshmen can simply present their student schedule to the bookstore to receive their books.
- Student schedules, including locker numbers and combinations, will be provided on picture days so that students may put their textbooks in their assigned lockers. Note: All textbooks from prior years need to be returned before any new textbooks can be checked out.
- If you choose to purchase pictures, you can follow the link online or print out an order form to take to picture day.
- Seniors may have their picture taken by VIP as their senior portrait for the 2020 Tower Yearbook.
- 2019 Tower Yearbooks purchased last year may be picked up in the main lobby.
- Please remember to purchase English trade books (paperbacks) needed for each assigned English course. The list of books is available online with the registration forms.
- The Parent Association has gone online! Please click on the link to their website to join a variety of parent organizations AND/OR provide any contact information that you would like available through their student directory.

Finally, please read the Start of School Information (attached), and the News, Notes and Reminders listed below. Enjoy the rest of your summer and best wishes for successful 2019-2020 school year!

Sincerely,

Amy Levek, Principal

NEWS, NOTES AND REMINDERS

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Family Access allows parents and students the opportunity to keep tabs on student academic performance as well as demographic, attendance, discipline and scheduling information. The Family Access Message Center also enables school to home communication via email. To ensure a functional connection with this critical resource, please be certain to have a current email on file with us. Should your email address change, you can update it in Family Access through the Account Info link located at the top of the home screen. In addition, parents and students have the option to receive emergency alerts from the school. In order to receive these alerts, please be sure that an accurate cell phone number is also listed in Skyward. High school students must have the field titled "student phone 3" filled in. This number can be entered in step 2a of the registration process under student information. Existing students/parents/employees who opted in last year will not have to do it again. They will continue to receive alerts. **New staff/students/parents will get an opt in text at 10 am the day after their number goes into the system.**

COMMUNICATION THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Each Monday, students and their parent/guardian will receive an email containing the Parent/Guardian Link. It will also be posted to our website. This is similar to the Thursday Folder that is utilized K-8. The Link will update you with timely information, dates for future events, information related to building initiatives, and significant student/staff accomplishments. As a principal, I trust that you are informed of the content contained in the Link. Thank you for skimming it each week. A current email is necessary in order to receive this information directly.

DROP-OFF OF FORGOTTEN ITEMS

We understand that students occasionally forget important items at home. Due to our school safety protocols as well as our overall office capacity that serves both the high school and the District office, we cannot regularly accept non-emergency items in the office during the school day. If you need to deliver an item, please make every attempt to meet your child at ISH/lunch from 11:55-12:54. Knowing that this is not possible for some families, please use your discretion to limit drop-off items to emergencies only. We encourage students to have a \$10 emergency lunch fund in their backpacks to reinforce responsibility and resourcefulness.

IN THE CASE OF CONCUSSION

If you believe that your son or daughter may be suffering from a concussion, please seek medical care and let us know as soon as possible. Whether school-related or not, we ask that you contact our School Nurse, Jackie Turkal at 414-963-3989 so that we are aware of your child's condition. While Ms. Turkal will certainly alert relevant staff, we also encourage you to maintain contact with your son/daughter's teachers, coaches and counselor so that we can do our part to accommodate individual student circumstances.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED: Opportunities exist in the District for parents/guardians to work as a paid substitute teacher and/or paid substitute paraprofessional (aide). If this type of opportunity is of interest to you, please contact the Human Resources Office by email (hr@wfbschools.com) or by phone at (414) 963-3960 and you will receive more information on the necessary steps to join the daily pool of substitute teachers and/or substitute paraprofessionals (aides).

STAFF CHANGES FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

The 2019-2020 school year will bring a few new faces among the high school staff. We are excited to benefit from the skills and talents represented among our new hires.

New Staff	Former Staff	Explanation
Randee Drew	Jean Christiaansen	Ms. Christiaansen secured a new position closer to her home. As a result, Randee is moving from his position in the main office to his new home in activities in order to expand his role as our Engagement Coordinator.
Kelly LeGrand	Jim Davis	Mr. Davis retired at the end of last year, having spent 23 years in Bay. Taking his place is a WFB Alum who used to be on Jim's swim team! Kelly LeGrand comes to us with Special Education experience 6-12.
Jessie Sterner Miller	Derek DeVinney	Given that Mr. DeVinney was pursuing his Masters Degree in Library Science, he was snatched up by another District that had an opening. We were fortunate to fill his library para position with Jessie Sterner Miller who comes to us with experience in education and counseling.
Jonathan Petersen	Aimon Dwan	Ms. Dwan relocated at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. Taking her place is Jonathan Petersen who comes to us with many years of experience working with orchestra students from grades 4-12.
Cory Bova	New Position	Given our efforts to increase specialized instruction in reading and mathematics as well attend to an increase in our special education needs, Cory Bova is joining the team. Cory brings a reading license in addition to his special education background.
Emily Rice	New Position	Last year, a number of our math teachers were teaching six classes. With a small increase in sectioning for math, along with an opening for our AVID 9 teacher, we were able to hire Emily Rice to fulfill a full time math/AVID position!
Lisa Taylor	Julie Henningsen	When Ms. Henningsen moved to the position of Associate Principal, we temporarily filled her Learning Center position last spring. Following a full interview process, we were fortunate to find Lisa Taylor to fill the role of primary LC teacher and math interventionist.
Angela Brist	Katie Kieffer	Given that Ms. Kieffer completed her Masters Degree in Education Leadership, she was rightly hired to an administrative position. As a result, we were able to hire Angela Brist who brings a unique combination of Biology/Physics certifications to our science team.
Kristen Jones	Randee Drew	Given that Mr. Drew moved to athletics, we hired Kristen Jones to join us in the main office. Kristen will serve as our Attendance/Discipline secretary next year.
Kayla Heyen	Becky Van Derra	Ms. Van Derra resigned at the end of last year in order to stay home with her new son. Taking her place is Kayla Heyen who be joining our special education team.
TBD	Kenn Miller	Kenn Miller has decided to step down as our auditorium manager and we are still in the process of hiring his replacement!