

WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL
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PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ SEPTEMBER 2010
For up to date info visit our website at www.whspfa.org
FROM THE OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL TOM GWIN

Welcome to the 2010-2011 academic year! School begins Wednesday, September 8th. Ninth graders should report to the high school auditorium at 7:45 a.m. and will be dismissed at 11:15 a.m. Tenth graders, eleventh, and twelfth graders should report to homeroom at 11:30 pm. Check the opening day schedule found later in the newsletter for further details.

The PAL (Peer Alliance Link) program will again ease the transition of the incoming ninth graders. About 100 PALs (10th, 11th and 12th graders) will serve as mentors to the freshmen, helping them out in homeroom and providing a tour of the school, on the first day. Each PAL will serve as a mentor to three ninth graders. After homeroom, ninth graders will run through an abbreviated schedule and then attend the Club Fair in the cafeteria. All clubs will have booths set up and provide information to the freshmen. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors will attend homeroom and run through an abbreviated schedule in the afternoon.

Assistant principals Jerry Chapman and Sue Mochrie have been working with me through the summer planning the upcoming year. Jerry will oversee the 9th and 11th grades, while Sue will supervise the 10th and 12th grades. Student schedules were emailed or snail mailed to parents and students mid July. If you have not received a schedule, please email whsemail@winchester.k12.ma.us. If there is any kind of issue with the schedule, an email describing the problem should be sent to the same email address.

Increasingly we are using electronic resources to communicate with the school community. I primarily will use email to communicate to parents and students. Each week I will email a WHS Weekly Update for parents and students. For up to date information regarding WHS, please log on to www.edline.net. Many of you have activated your Edline accounts and created your screen names and passwords. Activation codes have been mailed to freshmen parents. If you are a new parent/guardian to WHS, please email whsemail@winchester.k12.ma.us to receive your activation code.

Please contact the school whenever you have questions or concerns. You son's or daughter's guidance counselor is an excellent first source of information. Directly contacting teachers and administrators is also effective. The names of the teachers and the assigned guidance counselor will be printed on the schedule that your son or daughter will receive on the first day of school. Teachers and counselors are available via e-mail and voice mail—e-mail is your best bet.

After this issue, the remainder of the newsletters will be sent via email. However you may request a paper copy to be mailed. Instructions for receiving a paper copy are found later in this newsletter or check the WHS PFA website www.whspfa.org.

I am looking forward to an outstanding school year. This Fall we will be working on the *Focus on the Future* project, the development of a strategic plan for the high school. Focus groups for community members, parents, and students will be scheduled in September and October. Stay tuned for more information. Enjoy these last days of the summer and see you in September.