

# Tewksbury Memorial High School

320 Pleasant Street

Tewksbury, Massachusetts 01876

[www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us](http://www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us)

## PRINCIPAL

Kristen S. Vogel

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Sean E. O'Leary

M. Eileen Taylor Osborne, Ed.D.

## MAIN OFFICE

(978) 640-7825

## FAX

(978) 640-7829

## GUIDANCE SERVICES

(978) 640-7838

August 6, 2018

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

Even though the weather still feels like summer, the beginning of the 2018-2019 School Year is right around the corner. This fall brings exciting academic opportunities for our students and faculty! This year we will be offering Senior Project for all of our seniors! Seniors have the opportunity to pursue an externship, research project, or community service project during the fourth quarter. This past school year was our pilot year and we had 115 seniors participate! We are looking forward to having most of our seniors participate in this exciting opportunity this year! Also, starting with the Class of 2021, students have the opportunity to earn a Global Competency Certificate to be issued at graduation if all the requirements are met. There will be a website with all the information for this certificate available in the fall. 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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 100 students and 25 staff members participate in Challenge Day and the impact on our school was positive and transformative. You may have also noticed that we have added the beginnings of a Project Adventure course at TMHS! The course will be implemented into physical education as well as in other content areas. The program allows us to continue the work that the Wynn Middle School has done with Project Adventure for many years. 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 a mandatory pre-prom program for all juniors and their parents in late February or early March. 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. We are also excited to have chromebook carts for all teachers who teach Science, Mathematics, English, Social Studies and World Language. Students and teachers will be utilizing the devices to enhance and support teaching and learning. All registration and payments for athletics, clubs and parking must be done through CommunityPass. Enclosed are directions for accessing CommunityPass. Similar to last year, I have scheduled the Admin Chats for parents/guardians throughout the course of the year and informal sessions for parents to come and meet with me. The chats will have a content focus. I have asked the department head/lead teacher for each major content area to be at the Admin Chat to answer any questions you might have. I hope that you will be able to attend one of the chats so that we can have the opportunity to hear your thoughts and ideas. I also encourage students to set up an appointment with me or just stop by my office to share an idea or thought.

Please join me in welcoming the following new faculty and staff to TMHS: Ms. Margaret Murray will be joining our CTBE Department as a Computer Technology teacher. Mr. Dylan Malynn will be joining our Science Department as a Physics teacher. Mr. Joel Mignault will be one of three new teachers in our Wellness Department. Ms. Brooke Pacheco is also joining our Wellness Department. And the third newest teacher of the Wellness Department is not new to us at TMHS, Mr. Steve Kasprzak will be teaching Physical Education and Health as well. Our library will have a new face greeting students as they walk in, Mr. Jay Zimmerman will be our new Library/Media specialist. Ms. Maura Pilotte will be joining our Special Education Department as a school adjustment counselor. Ms. Charlotte Brace, Ms. Meredith Fahey, and Mr. Dillon McTiernan will be our new classroom instructional aides. Ms. Elaine Walsh, R.N. from the Heath Brook School will be joining us as an additional nurse in our building who will also be teaching and running our CNA program this year.

Also, Ms. Julia Fabiano will be our new lead teacher for our Wellness Department and Ms. Jessica Simpson will be our new lead teacher for our CTBE Department.

Please take the time to read all of the following information. We have included important information about upcoming events as well as new procedures.

### **Administrative Chat Schedule for Parents/Guardians:**

Our Administrative Chats will be held on the following Friday mornings from 7:30 am to 8:00 am in the Principal's Conference Room at TMHS:

October 19, 2018	(Guidance)	January 18, 2019	(English/Social Studies)
November 16, 2018	(Athletics)	March 15, 2019	(Science/World Languages)
December 14, 2018	(Mathematics/Spec. Ed)	April 26, 2019	(Phys Ed./Bus/Art)

We would especially like to welcome the Class of 2022 to TMHS! **There will be upperclassmen available on Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at TMHS to provide guided tours for all new students. On Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup> tours will start at 1:00 pm and on Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> tours will start at 6:00 pm. Please register at the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/NM95vP3NnGPNC2cD3>**

**Students will meet every class for the first two days of school, August 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Please find the following link for Opening Day Schedule:**

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1gKCNpdYxKDS7nagYuwiGzhlCf50H20SahAp3P1zHnV4/edit#gid=0>

### **Home and School Communication:**

As always, please visit the Tewksbury Public Schools webpage for updates and information. **TMHS's traditional Parent Open House is scheduled for Thursday evening, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.** This informative session will explain new school procedures and give parents/guardians time to visit their sons' and daughters' classes to gain information on course expectations from the respective teachers. **Parent-Teacher Conferences take place twice a year, Thursday evening, November 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm and Thursday evening, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.** We will once again use online sign up for conference times. We will send an email and post the directions for signing up on our website sometime in November.

### **TMHS Website:**

We update the website with information about upcoming events, deadlines and guidance information regularly. Please find the following link to our website: <https://www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us/high/>.

### **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/1BaHXKMe-XjCjrSGJo6xpRCm3jhfywi\\_vM8DSibe2o78/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BaHXKMe-XjCjrSGJo6xpRCm3jhfywi_vM8DSibe2o78/edit) 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 enclosed sign-off form to their first block teacher at the start of school.**

### **Accident/Illness Form:**

We have enclosed an accident/illness form 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 7<sup>th</sup>. 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.

<http://www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us/MemorialHigh.cfm?subpage=1486047>

### **Student Gmail Accounts:**

Just a reminder that all students have a Gmail account. We use this email account to contact students about upcoming events, deadlines, and assignments. Students need to be checking this email regularly or forwarding it to the email they do check regularly. Their Gmail address is their last name, first initial and year of grad @tewksbury.k12.ma.us. For example John Doe, Class of 2017, will have [doej17@tewksbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:doej17@tewksbury.k12.ma.us). Students can find their Gmail login and password on their Aspen details page.

### **Student IDs/School Pictures/Senior Portraits:**

**All students** are required to be photographed on **Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>** 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/>.

### **Class Information Dates Schedule:**

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 mark your calendar or these important dates:

#### **Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>                      11:00 am–1:00 pm    Senior Common App Kick-off**

The Common App Kick-off is an opportunity for our seniors to get a head start on the college application process! The common application is the application that most colleges and universities across the nation use for their admission process. The application is all done electronically and becomes available to students on August 1, 2018. Guidance counselors will be available to provide help and advice on the college essay and the common app. Students should have access to their social security number, resume with activities, parents/guardians contact information, parent's occupation and education level in order to complete the application. Registration is not required, but is encouraged, so that we have an idea of numbers. Please contact Mrs. Whitehouse in Guidance to register.

#### **Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>                      7:45 am–8:45 am    Senior Parent Breakfast** **9:00 am–10:00 am    Senior Student Assembly**

Senior parents may come and enjoy breakfast while meeting your student's guidance counselors, college admission representatives, and other members of the TMHS community. Parents will have the opportunity to gain insight into the college application process. A brief presentation on accessing disability supports in the college arena will be made by Susan Woods, Associate Dean of Student Support Services at MCC. Afterwards, students will meet in the auditorium with the admissions representatives for the same informational meeting on the college process.

#### **Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>                      7:45 am–8:45 am    Freshman Parent Breakfast**

Freshman parents may come and enjoy breakfast while meeting your student's guidance counselors and other members of the TMHS community. This is a wonderful opportunity to review graduation requirements and programs available to students.

#### **Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>                      6:00 pm–8:00 pm    College Financial Aid Presentation**

Sophomore and junior parents are invited to attend a very important Financial Aid presentation conducted by MEFA. The recent changes in the FAFSA process and informative tips will assist parents in navigating this process.

#### **Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>                      7:40 am–12:15 pm    PSAT Exam for all Sophomores and Juniors**

It is recommended that all sophomores and juniors participate in the PSAT exam. Junior students who excel at PSAT exam may qualify for the National Scholarship Program. This exam gives our sophomores and juniors practice with the type of questions on the new SAT exam. It also gives the students feedback on their strengths and specifically what Advanced Placement courses they should consider taking.

#### **Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>                      6:00 pm                      8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night**

This is an exciting evening for the parents of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to meet the high school administration and members of the high school administrative team. Department Chairpersons will be available to answer all your curriculum questions.

**Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**

**7:45 am–8:45 am Junior Parent Breakfast**

**9:00 am–10:00 am Junior Student Assembly**

Junior parents are invited to attend a parent breakfast for an informative post-graduate planning presentation co-presented with Guidance and MEFA staff members. All junior students will attend an informational assembly on post-graduate planning.

**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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 pass. 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 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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:**

Please review the enclosed student schedule to ensure correct placement. Students with incomplete schedules should contact the Guidance Office via email at [pwhitehouse@tewksbury.k12.ma.us](mailto: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 29<sup>th</sup>.** Students should arrive to school by 7:25 am and report to their **Day One A Block** class by **7:30 am.**

I am looking forward to a year of fun and learning! Let's make the 2018-2019 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