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Celebrating Excellence



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Dear Families,

On behalf of the Student Services staff, I am happy to welcome you back to the new school year. We value, appreciate, and seek out your partnership to ensure that all children can achieve their highest potential. We recognize that in order for children to be successful in school they need support from both home and school. A strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. We want you to know that we will do our best to carry out our responsibilities to ensure your child's academic and social-emotional success.

Enclosed you will find the Parent's Notice of Procedural Safeguards. In accordance with federal special education law, school districts are required to distribute these "Safeguard" brochures once per year to parents and guardians of students enrolled in special education services. I encourage you to maintain this brochure to reference throughout the school year. Should you require an additional copy, we will be happy to provide that for you upon request. If you have any questions regarding the contents of these "Safeguards", please contact the appropriate case manager at your child's school. Additionally, the "Safeguards" have been posted on the Special Education website.

You will also find enclosed, a one page *Annual Information Letter to Parents* regarding 603 CMR 23.00. Should you want a copy of 603 CMR 23.00, they are available, upon request, and may be obtained from the School Principal or from the Student Services & Special Education Office. You may also find 604 CMR 23.00 online with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

These packets have a copy of the Massachusetts Parental Notice with One-Time Consent to allow the School District to access MassHealth (Medicaid) benefits form. All information concerning your child is **strictly confidential and will not affect your**

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child's benefits or services. This program is supported by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). If your child is eligible to participate in the reimbursement program, please sign the One-Time form granting permission to seek this federal claim. If you have already done so, thank you. If not, please return the form to the Special Education/Student Services Office.

Also, families should be aware that Tewksbury Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (TSEPAC) is an important, free resource for many families in Tewksbury, and also to my department in the role of school and family liaison and communication. We encourage you to participate in the free workshops that are offered throughout the school year, or to contact the TSEPAC leaders with any concerns or questions that you may have. Your participation is necessary and will assist the district in building a stronger educational environment for your child. The TSEPAC informational brochure is included in this packet.

I look forward to this new school year and to working in partnership with parents, guardians, staff, and community leaders as we all strive to achieve a common goal of ensuring a positive school experience for all our students. Best wishes for a smooth start to the new academic year.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Pelletier

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