

Tewksbury Memorial High School



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July 12, 2021

Dear Students, Parents, and the Faculty and Staff of Tewksbury Memorial High School:

I am hopeful that you have been able to find some time to enjoy the things that bring you pleasure during the summer months and that you and those close to you are safe and healthy.

This letter is intended to serve as a reminder of some important items relative to the 2021-2022 school year. Please know that additional information will be shared with you in the coming weeks and leading up to the start of school, including the distribution of students' schedule of classes through Aspen. I am hopeful that the information shared in this letter, as well as future communications, will answer many questions that students, parents, and staff may have.

Kindly note that there is the possibility that some of the information contained in this letter may change and should this be the case, updates will be provided promptly.

Student Orientation Program

The Tewksbury Memorial High School administration, Student Council, and other student leaders will host an Orientation Program on campus for students in the Class of 2025, Class of 2024 students who were in remote learning for the 2020-2021 school year, and students new to Tewksbury.

The Orientation Program will take place on August 23, 24, & 25, 2021 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and will require students to register for a 30 to 45 minute time slot on one day to attend a small group tour of the high school and learn more about its programs and offerings as well as ask questions, all in an effort to make for a smooth transition to the new school year.

The Orientation Program will culminate with a large-group gathering with refreshments on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. Additional information, including the process for registering for the Orientation Program, will be issued in the coming weeks; for now, please mark your calendar to attend this voluntary, student-only Orientation Program.

1:1 Chromebook Learning Program

I am excited to announce that all students at Tewksbury Memorial High School will be issued a Chromebook to be used in the coming school year and to be retained for their time as students at TMHS. This goal has been part of the long-term goals of the Tewksbury Public Schools to enhance technology as a teaching and learning tool, and the implementation of the 1:1 learning program seems to be a logical next step in the progression to reach this goal.

As we plan for a full, in-person return to school in the fall, it is believed that the students' use of their school-issued Chromebook in their classes will be a meaningful part of their day. The benefits that come from the implementation of a 1:1 learning program include the increased student and teacher access to technology, which enables student learning opportunities with online resources, media, and applications.

Learning with technology is a critical tool for students as they prepare themselves to be college and career ready. Digital resources assist students in understanding the value that technology can have in supporting their continual learning and adaptation to new resources and technology. Empowering students' learning in the 21st century means providing the best resources, tools and teaching methods that support deeper learning.

Identified below are several of the benefits of 1:1 learning that I have witnessed first-hand in my work as a public school educator. These items reflect student and teacher growth, self-reflection, and the desire to adapt and use technology as the powerful education tool it is. I look forward to seeing the benefits of this program so as to continue to enhance instruction, student engagement, and the continual adaptation of skills to support the high-level use of technology.

➤ Increased Student Engagement and Ownership of Learning

Students can learn at their own pace and use resources to support a variety of pathways and interests. These students will want to learn longer. I have seen students continue to work past their class time or want to work together, with technology in the school's learning areas.

➤ Access to Resources Outside of School and the Ability to Connect and Collaborate

Project -Based Learning can become greatly enhanced with the increase of digital resources. Students can collaborate and share resources within collaborative groups and can also present and demonstrate learning with video resources and digital presentations.

➤ Increased Teacher Adaptability to Utilize Tools to Instruct, Assess, and Collaborate

Many teachers have learned new skills, resources and applications which support students in organizing resources online, improving their in-class assessments using digital tools, and/or providing real time feedback and homework support through online resources.

➤ ***Tailored and Personalized Learning Experiences***

Student learning and their experiences while accessing resources in a 1:1 learning environment are increasingly personalized. Students have opportunities to spend time researching topics and developing research skills which support deeper learning and interests. Lifelong learning is supported through increased personalization and supporting student interests.

➤ ***Increased Student and Teacher Collaboration***

Using resources like Google Classroom and other online collaborative spaces, students can collaborate with students and receive real time feedback from teachers. Opportunities for formative assessment with students is greatly increased as teachers can immediately assess and review student learning progress.

In order to achieve the goal of effectively implementing our 1:1 Chromebook Learning Program, **a virtual Orientation Presentation will be hosted on Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. The web conference meeting link for this presentation will be sent out in advance.** This presentation will be recorded and posted on the high school’s website for viewing. This Orientation Presentation will provide families with a detailed overview of this exciting learning opportunity and provide time for questions to be answered. Following the Orientation Presentation, students are invited to come to TMHS to obtain their Chromebook according to the schedule below.

Grade 9	August 23, 24, 25, 2021	Chromebooks Obtained During the Orientation Program
Grade 10	August 18, 2021	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Grade 11	August 17, 2021	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Grade 12	August 16, 2021	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Community Pass

[CommunityPass](#) will be available to process User Fees for Athletics and Extra-Curricular Clubs beginning on August 1st.

Athletics

Registration and payment of the User Fee for Athletics for the fall athletics season must be done through Community Pass. (SWOL) [SportsWare](#) is open now to upload current physicals and any medical information.

Parents and students are reminded that sports physicals expire thirteen months from the date of the physical examination. Regulations issued by the Department of Public Health require that students have an up-to-date physical examination for their continued participation in athletics. This regulation mandates that upon the expiration of a student's physical examination, which is valid for thirteen months, the student is immediately not eligible for participation in interscholastic athletics until such time that a valid physical examination report is filed with the office of the Athletic Director. If your child's physical examination is due to expire during the athletic season or school year, make sure you schedule well in advance another appointment with your child's physician for a new physical examination so that your child remains eligible to participate in high school athletics.

Questions related to athletics should be directed to Mr. Drouin, Athletic Director, at rdrouin@tewksbury.k12.ma.us.

Summer Reading

Students are reminded to be working on fulfilling their [2021-2022 TMHS Summer Reading](#) requirements.

Advanced Placement Course Summer Assignments

Students enrolled in Advanced Placement classes for 2021-2022 are reminded to complete the "summer assignments" for their respective classes. Individual questions may be directed to the teacher of the Advanced Placement course(s) in which the student is enrolled.

Senior Year Expenses

Senior students and their parents are reminded that a student's senior year of high school can be very expensive. There is the cost of the senior prom, Senior Week activities, the graduation cap and gown, senior portraits, the yearbook, and a class ring to name but a few expenses. By bringing this information to your attention at this time, I am hopeful that you may have adequate time to budget accordingly for the many expenses that senior students and their parents will encounter during the upcoming senior year.

Student Parking Permits

To those students who are looking forward to parking on campus this year, parking passes will be issued at the high school on Thursday, August 26, 2021.

- Senior students may obtain their parking permit between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- Junior students may obtain their parking permit between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Additional details will be made available in the coming weeks. Questions regarding student parking permits should be addressed to Mr. O'Leary, Assistant Principal, at soleary@tewksbury.k12.ma.us.

Faculty and Staff Updates

Please join me in welcoming the following new staff to Tewksbury Memorial High School:

- Ms. Michelle Dick will serve as our new Assistant Principal at TMHS. Ms. Dick has replaced Dr. Osborne and she will work with students and their families whose last names begin with the letters A through K.
- Ms. Christine Fronduto has been appointed the new secretary in the guidance office, replacing Ms. Patricia Whitehouse, who will retire on August 31, 2021.
- Mr. Brian Gouthro has been appointed the new Department Head for the English Department, replacing Ms. Lynne Hardacre, who retired at the end of the last school year.
- Ms. Emily Jeffers has been hired as a new English teacher, replacing Ms. Lynne Hardacre.

We look forward to working with all of you in the year ahead as we continue to advance our school to the benefit of all students.

Thank you very much for your attention to the information contained in this letter. Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful remainder to the summer and know that additional information regarding the opening of the 2021-2022 school year, including students' class schedules, is forthcoming.

I am very much looking forward to seeing all of you soon and working together to achieve a rewarding school year for the Tewksbury Memorial High School community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon C. Bernard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jon C. Bernard, *Interim Principal*