

SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

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"Always Here to Advocate for and Support our Students"

Mr. Frank Pugliese
Principal
631-821-8264



Mr. John Holownia
Assistant Principal
631-821-8133

August 2019

Dear Parents and Students:

The summer of 2019 has been anything but typical. However, the staff of Shoreham-Wading River High School are all excited to welcome our incoming 9th graders and students new to the district, as well as looking forward to seeing all of our returning students. With the summer quickly coming to a close, our staff is working hard to have the building ready for September 4. Students will return to find a newly designed parking lot designed with safety and security in mind. Inside the building more updates are being completed in our auditorium which include new lighting and sound systems. Classrooms in upper A, B, and C wings have been painted and look amazing. The main office, guidance suite, and nurse's office have all been completely remodeled. Finally, the cafeteria has also been redesigned to improve the experience for our students on a daily basis.

Another new addition to our building is Assistant Principal, Mr. John Holownia. John joins us after spending 13 plus years as a high school special education teacher and coach in the Comsewogue School District. I am confident that he will be a welcome addition to the administrative team and I know that he is looking forward to meeting everyone during the course of the school year.

As always, it is my wish that each and every student has their best year yet. Whether a freshman, a senior, or somewhere in between, it is our goal to provide each student with everything they need to be successful. In order for this to take place, a partnership must be established between the school and the home. All questions and/or concerns will always be addressed as quickly as possible. It is my hope that through this partnership each student finds great success.

Below you'll find important information regarding the start of school, and other important information.

Important first day of school information:

- ❖ All freshmen and new incoming high school students will begin school at 7:20 a.m. on Wednesday, September 4. Students in Grades 10-12 are scheduled to arrive between 9:40 a.m. and 9:50 a.m. Students in grades 10-12 should plan to arrive at their bus stop 2 ½ hours after the time indicated on the bus schedule for the first day only.
- ❖ All students will follow the enclosed truncated bell schedule.
- ❖ Please be sure to print your child's schedule off the parent portal.

Freshman and New Student Orientation:

Freshmen and New Student Orientation begins at 7:20 a.m. on Wednesday, September 4. Orientation will include a tour of the building, locker distribution and a "dry-run" of their schedule. We believe this will allow each student time to become familiar with the building, meet his/her teachers, guidance counselor, and the building administrators, thus easing their transition to the high school.

BOCES:

BOCES programs begin on Wednesday, September 4. Mid-day transportation will be provided.

High School Notices and Infinite Campus Parent Portal:

With the exception of this back-to-school mailing, we will no longer mail home high school notices. All information will be posted to the high school page of the District website, and/or emailed home. **Therefore, it is important that we have at least one email address on file per household and that you check the high school page of the District website and the Parent Portal regularly.** We will be using the email addresses in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal for this purpose. Parents may view and update contact information on the Parent Portal under the *Contact Preferences* tab. The enclosed emergency blue card also has a place for home and work email addresses.

Report cards and progress reports are not mailed home. Parents may access their child's grades through the teacher grade book on the Parent Portal. Student schedules, attendance and assignments are also available through the Parent Portal. **If you do not already have a Parent Portal account, send an email with your name, your child's name, and your household mailing address to parentportal@swr.k12.ny.us**

Home Base (Advisory):

We understand that every moment of the school day is in some way crucial to the academic, social, emotional, and physical development of our students. With that being said, I spent a significant portion of last year studying the use of our Home Base period. I also took the time to learn about the origins of Home Base and how it has evolved over multiple reincarnations. This was often a topic of conversation during Staff and Student Advisory Committee meetings and the shared conversations afforded me great insights and I am very confident about the direction of Home Base moving forward.

The 2019/20 Bell Schedule and the eighteen minutes allotted for Home Base will remain the same. However, the expectations regarding where students will be and what they will be doing during Home Base will be changing significantly, as will the expectations for our teaching staff. One of the guiding principles behind the establishment of a Home Base period is the building and nurturing of a strong relationship between each student and their Home Base teacher over the course of four years. In order for this to happen effectively, all students must be present in Home Base for the entire period every day. In the past Home Base was seen as free or open time. This will no longer be the case. During Home Base the teacher will check in with all students on their roster at least once a week with a 3-5 minute conversation regarding all aspects of your child's high school experience. We as a staff will be developing social and emotional workshops that will be delivered during this time as well, again requiring students to be in their assigned locations. When not meeting with their teacher, or taking part in a workshop, students are encouraged to use the time to complete homework, study for upcoming assessments, and relax with their friends in their Home Base classes. Students will not be permitted to wander the halls during this time. Only students without a lunch period, or with a documented reason, will be permitted to use the cafeteria at this time.

I firmly believe that in order for any program to be successful and for students to have the greatest positive outcomes, plans and structures must be put in place and routinely enforced. I ask for your help in communicating these expectations to your child. As always, I appreciate all of your support in ensuring the Shoreham-Wading River High School continues to be an exceptional high school.

Code of Conduct:

The Shoreham-Wading River student *Code of Conduct* is available on the main page of the District website, swrschools.org, under *Forms and Documents*. All students should review the document with their parents. The Code of Conduct sign-off form will be distributed during Home Base on September 4. All forms for students in grades 9/10 are to be returned to the Main Office and forms for students in grades 11/12 are to be returned to the A-Wing Office.

Please be advised that the Code of Conduct has been revised in two areas; electronic cigarettes and student dress-code. Please review these changes to the Student Code of Conduct so that everyone is on the same page for the start of school. The use of e-cigarettes is a significant concern and we ask parents/guardians to support the district. The use of escalating disciplinary consequences is never taken lightly, so please understand the policy will be uniformly enforced. We also ask for your assistance in enforcing the student dress code. We understand that student dress is a form of self-expression, however, we ask that students recognize the importance of dressing appropriately and in a manner that is not distracting to the educational process.

1. The following sanctions will apply for use or possession of tobacco, e-cigarettes, or vaping devices:

A. First Offense:

Parent/guardian notification and a two day in school suspension will be rendered. Students will not be permitted to participate in co-curricular and/or athletic practices/games on those day(s). The student will be required to consult with a counselor.

B. Second Offense:

Parent/guardian notification and a three day out-of-school suspension will be rendered, which also applies to all athletic and co-curricular activities. The Suffolk County Department of Health will be notified, and the student will be required to meet with a counselor on a regular basis.

C. Third & Future Offenses:

Parent/guardian notification and an out-of-school suspension for five days and a Superintendent's Hearing will be rendered. The Suffolk County Department of Health will be notified, and the student will be required to continue to meet with a counselor on a regular basis. This suspension will include absence from all athletic and co-curricular activities. If a suspension is interspersed by a weekend, the sanctions will stay in effect throughout the weekend, until the suspension has ended.

2. Student Dress Code:

The responsibility for student dress and general appearance rests with individual students and parents/guardians. However, the Board of Education requires students to attend school in appropriate dress that meets health and safety standards and does not interfere with the learning process. The Board also requires students to wear appropriate protective gear in certain classes (i.e., Home & Careers, technology education, science lab, physical education). The Superintendent of Schools and other designated administrative personnel shall have the authority to require a student to change his/her attire should it be deemed inappropriate according to the above guidelines. All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Teachers and other District personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting. A student's dress and appearance shall:

A. Be safe, appropriate and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process;

B. Recognize that extremely brief garments are not appropriate insofar as these garments distract, disrupt or interfere with the educational process;

C. Ensure that underwear is completely covered with outer clothing;

D. Include footwear at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed;

E. Not include the wearing of hats in the classroom or in school during school hours except for a medical or religious purpose, unless permitted by individual building policy;

F. Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous, or denigrate others on account of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability;

G. Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities;

H. Not include gang related clothing or paraphernalia.

Each building Principal or his/her designee shall be responsible for informing all students and their parent/guardian of the student dress code at the beginning of the school year and any revisions to the dress code made during the school year. If a teacher believes that a student's dress is inappropriate, he/she will contact a building administrator to seek a determination as to appropriateness of the clothing. Students who violate the student dress code shall be required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending item, and if necessary or practical, replacing it with an acceptable item. Any student who refuses to do so shall be subject to discipline, up to and including in-school suspension for the day. Any student who repeatedly fails to comply with the dress code shall be subject to further discipline, up to and including out-of-school suspension.

Cell Phones

During instructional periods, phones and/or phone accessories must be silent and out of sight. Students who use their phones/headphones during instructional periods without the express permission of the teacher may be subject to disciplinary action.

Attendance Policy:

The District's attendance policy will be strictly enforced. We believe that attendance in class is vital to academic success. Please make a note of the following policy:

- Full-year course: a student cannot miss more than 18 classes
- Half-year course: a student cannot miss more than 9 classes

Failure to meet these attendance requirements may result in a student being denied credit for the course.

Guidance:

Students are assigned a counselor based on the following breakdown:

Mr. Rosato.....A-Gor

Ms. Eschbach.....Gos-Mullen

Ms. SiemesMuller-Z

Special Education Services:

The District provides special education services and programs to students with disabilities pursuant to applicable federal and state laws. Any parent or guardian who suspects that his/her child has a disability may refer the child for an evaluation by the District's Committee on Special Education (CSE) to determine eligibility for special education services and programs. More detailed information on this process is available in, *A Parent's Guide to Special Education*, which is published on the New York State Education Department's website in English and Spanish. <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/policy/parentguide.htm>.

Parents or guardians should contact Dr. D'Elena, High School Psychologist, at 631-821-8143.

Calculators:

Students will be provided with a calculator for in-class work and for all examinations. Students are strongly encouraged to keep a calculator at home for all out-of-class assignments.

Sports Physicals:

Physicals are required for all students interested in participating in extracurricular sports. If your child did not have a physical performed by our school physician in the spring, arrangements should be made with your family's physician. Health forms are available on our school website or in the Main Office.

Student Email Addresses:

All parents of underclassmen are encouraged to create an email address with your child's first initial, last name and year of graduation,. For example, jsmith2020@gmail.com. to be used for all college-related correspondence, such as SAT, ACT, Advanced Placement Testing, Naviance and college applications.

Food Service:

The District provides a food service program which follows the goals of the District's Wellness Policy in providing healthy food for our students. Café hours are from 7:00 a.m. - 1:45 p.m. A packet regarding the Free and Reduced Food Program is posted on the District website, or may be picked up in the high school main office..

SENIOR PRIVILEGES

Parking:

Only *seniors* who possess a valid senior license may register their vehicle for on-campus parking. As per New York State law, students with junior licenses are not permitted to drive to school. Any student with a junior license who drives to school will be in violation of this law. Parking applications are available on the high school page of the District website, as well as in the A-Wing Office. Eligible students should submit their paperwork directly to the A-Wing Office at the start of the school year. Only completed applications will be processed. Seniors with a valid license will be permitted to park on campus until Friday, September 13. After September 13, only seniors with a parking tag will be allowed to park on campus.

Early Release/Late Arrival:

Seniors may be permitted to arrive prior to their scheduled first period class and/or leave school grounds at the conclusion of their scheduled day. The Early Release/Late Arrival form must be completed and turned in at the A-Wing office for approval. **Students should report of the Attendance Office to sign in/out until permission is granted.**


***Other Important Information:** On the first day of school, all students will be given a packet containing several important forms, a picture day flyer, and information about the PTSA and Wildcat Athletic Club. Please take a few minutes to review the forms with your child. All signed forms are to be returned to the high school main office as soon as possible. The bus schedule will be available on the parent portal.

Please make note of the following important upcoming dates:

- The first high school PTSA meeting will be held on **September 9**, in the library at 6:00 p.m.
- Pictures for students in grades 9-11 will be taken on **September 19 and 20** during your child's physical education class. Retakes will be taken on **October 28**. Picture day ordering forms will be distributed during Home Base on the first day of school.
- **Senior picture retake days** are **September 16 and 17**, in the high school auditorium
- The high school **Open House** is **September 26**, at 7:00 p.m. Parents of seniors are also invited to attend a presentation regarding the **Senior College Application Process**, at 6:00 p.m.

I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer vacation, and I look forward to seeing you on September 4.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Pugliese". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Frank Pugliese
Principal