

Watervliet Jr./Sr. High School Bulletin: August 2017



A Message from the Principal

Dear Watervliet Parents/Guardians,

We hope everyone is having a safe and relaxing summer. We too have been enjoying the nice weather, summer related activities, family and friends.

I am excited to welcome and introduce Ms. Bundas, our new high school social studies teacher who will join our team this year. We are in the process of hiring other teachers to fill positions in art, reading and ENL.

Our next correspondence will be sent via Parent Portal the third week of August. This will include a tentative copy of your child's schedule for the 2017-2018 school year and other important forms. Please complete and submit these forms by Sept. 6 via the portal.

There are various reasons for student schedules to be considered tentative at this time. At the conclusion of summer school we recalculate grades and we also take another look at teacher and class availability, class sizes and room assignments.

We also are currently working through NYS assessment results to ensure that every student who is eligible for intervention services gets them.

In this newsletter, you will find news from the middle school and high school guidance department as well as information about summer reading, the grades 7-12 Open House on Sept. 21, academic intervention services, and the Parent Portal.

We will begin the school year with "kickoff" assemblies to address expectations for behavior, attendance and academic achievement. We will be aggressively addressing the behaviors that detract from the academic atmosphere and culture necessary for optimal learning while emphasizing academic expectations and the importance for students of putting forth their best effort. Every student will have the opportunity to challenge themselves socially and academically every day.

This year's assemblies are on Thursday, September 7 and Friday, September 8. Thank you in advance for supporting our message of the importance of education.

Every student will receive a new handbook that includes the Code of Conduct and information regarding the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA), which supports the development of a school environment free of discrimination and harassment. We ask that you take a few minutes to review this information with your child as it provides a clear explanation of the expectations and procedures we have for students attending WJSHS.

Newsletters will be posted electronically to our website throughout the school year. If you do not have Internet access, please contact the main office at 518-629-3300 and we will provide you with a paper copy.

We hope this newsletter provides information you and your child need to get off to a great start and will help you better guide and support your child's educational experience at Watervliet Jr./Sr. High School.

We look forward to a great school year.

Ryan Groat, Principal

Watervliet Jr./Sr. High School

Volume 1, Issue 1

August 2017

"Every Student...Every Day"

Special points of interest:

- Tentative Schedules for 2017-2018
- "Kickoff" assemblies— Rules, expectations and positive recognition opportunities
- Parent Portal
- Summer Reading
- Open House /Senior Night
- Summer School

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Welcome
Class of 2023

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From Our Guidance Department

As stated on the front page in the **Principals Message**, tentative student schedules are being added to Parent Portal during the third week of August. Any change to a student's schedule between August 1 and the first day of school will be reflected in a revised schedule. Every student will receive a revised schedule on blue paper on the first day of school (Wednesday, September 6, 2017).

First Day of School Procedure will be as follows: When students arrive they will be directed into the gymnasium where staff members are assigned to distribute new schedules, assist and direct students who have a complex scheduling issue or are late entrants. The outside gymnasium doors will open at 7:35am. At that time students will be allowed to enter, pick up their schedule, have breakfast or go directly to their locker to prepare for first period.

High School Guidance Awareness and Updates

Seniors:

-If you have not already signed up for the SAT and/or ACT in the Fall, sign up at www.collegeboard.org and/or www.actstudent.org. Please visit the websites and mark your calendars so that you are aware of important test dates and deadlines!

- On Thursday, September 21, school counselors

will host Senior Night from 7:00-8:00pm in the media center. Parents and seniors are invited to discuss the college application process and have an opportunity to ask questions.

-We hope you are starting to think about college! Your guidance counselor will be scheduling a meeting in September regarding college preferences. Please try to narrow your search down to approximately 5-7 colleges prior to the meeting.

Juniors:

In October, we will be administering the PSAT (practice test for the SAT) for the entire Junior class. You may visit www.collegeboard.org to begin prepping for the PSAT, as well as become familiar with the different types of questions.

Sophomores:

At the end of October, we will be administering the PLAN (practice test for the ACT) to the entire sophomore class. Please visit www.actstudent.org for more information about the PLAN.

Freshman:

Welcome to the high school! Please visit our website www.vliet.neric.org to familiarize yourself with graduation requirements and the course description guide. Feel free to stop into the guidance office and introduce yourself and/or schedule a time to meet!

We look forward to working with you.

New 2017-2018: "Guidance Gossip" - The Guidance Department will be issuing five (5) newsletters during the school year. The newsletter will share important dates and events as well as advice and suggestions that will assist students and parents. Please keep an eye out as the first edition will hit the website in September!

Guidance Department Availability:

Please be aware, our school counselors do not work the entire summer. Mr. Olszewski will return to the office August 3, 4, 28-30 and Sept. 1. Mrs. McAvoy will return to the office August 7, 8 and 28-31. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email Mr. Olszewski at dolszewski@vlietschools.org or Mrs. McAvoy at kmavoy@vlietschools.org. Mrs. Creaser, our middle school counselor, will be back in the office from August 21-25. Please feel free to email Mrs. Creaser at kcreaser@vlietschools.org. You may also contact the guidance office secretary (Mrs. Johnston) at 518-629-3300 ext. 1129.

Parent Portal

The Watervliet City School District offers the web-based communication tool, Parent Portal, that allows parents and guardians to view their children's academic profiles via the internet anytime, anywhere. This technology also offers access to interim and quarterly report cards.

The eSchool Portal was piloted several years ago and proved to be highly effective for those parents and teachers using it on a regular basis. It is available for parents with students in grades 7-12. Our goal for the 2017-2018 school year is for 100% of our teachers and parents to use it consistently to improve communication between home and school.

There is no cost to use the system. Once your child receives their schedule you can log onto the Parent Portal website.

At our first Open House of the 2017-2018 school year, Thursday, September 21, you will have the opportunity to discuss or ask any questions you may have regarding this educational service.

As we work toward our goal of 100% usage, we ask that if you need more information, have misplaced your child's username and password, or just need assistance in successfully navigating the technology, please contact district registrar, Mrs. O'Brien at 518-629-3204.

Access information, such as usernames and passwords, will also be available at our first Open House event on Thursday, September 21 from 6:00-8:00pm.

Summer Reading Lists

Summer reading offers an excellent opportunity for students to stay connected to literature, enhance literacy skills developed during the school year and gain knowledge. In June, WJSHS English teachers sent a letter home with information about assigned reading for the summer.

Students are **required** to read two selections from the list before the start of the 2017-2018 school year. Students may

borrow the books from the public library, purchase the books at local books stores and/or borrow the books from the school district, if available. Please see our website to view the original letter and the graphic organizer to help record important details from the readings.

Upon returning to school in September, students will be given an assignment and the responsibility of completing it by Friday, September 19 to assess their understanding of each book. These assignments will be calculated as your child's first grade for English class.

While we are promoting reading as a skill, the enjoyment of reading, particularly summer reading, is important too. Reading for enjoyment is a practice that helps children increase their vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension.

While the utmost care has been used in preparing a list of books that is best suited for students grades 9-12, parents are encouraged to review the titles that their children have chosen for content and level of difficulty. We hope that you and your children can enjoy both your summer and your reading.

7th and 8th Grade News and Notes

7th Grade Orientation Day- Please mark your calendars as we have scheduled orientation for Tuesday, September 5 at 1:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Attending students will receive their schedule, locker number and combination. The event will provide students and parents the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the building, classrooms and teachers as well as ask questions before the first day of school. The event will end with an Ice Cream Social in our cafeteria, hope to you then!

7th and 8th Graders-If you need a copy of the school supply list or information on the summer reading, all information is posted on our school website at vliet.neric.org. Please check our website

often for informational updates. Teachers' email information is also listed here so you may stay in contact with your child's teachers throughout the school year.

School will start on Wednesday, September 6 at 8:00 a.m. Please have your child arrive no later than 7:45 a.m.

All students will begin September 6 in the gymnasium, which will be open at 7:35am. Staff member will be available to hand out *final* copies of schedules, escort students to classes and/or assist counselors with any last minute changes.

Seventh grade students will receive schedules on Tuesday, September 5 at orientation at 1:30pm.

Schedules for 7th graders will be distributed again on Wednesday, September 6 at 7:45am in the gymnasium in case someone could not make orientation.

Please be patient and we ask for your understanding with the process.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Creaser our 7th and 8th Grade Guidance Counselor at kcreaser@vlietschools.org. She will also be at the school from August 21-25.

Summer School

Summer school in New York State draws to a close on Tuesday, August 15. Regents exams are offered on Wednesday, August 16 and Thursday, August 17. Please be sure to keep a close eye on your child's attendance. It would be a shame to miss out on improving a grade(s), passing a class or Regents, or moving to the next grade because they did not receive enough seat time.

Please review the schedule to ensure that your child attends the correct date and time for testing.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school your child is attending for summer school.

Wednesday, August 16

8:00am 12:00pm

Algebra I	Algebra II
English Lang. Arts	Global History
Chemistry	

Thursday, August 17

8:00am 12:00pm

US History	Liv. Environ.
Earth Science	Geometry

Open House 2017

The Watervliet Jr./Sr. High School Open House event will take place at the High School. We will be opening our doors and utilizing the gymnasium, cafeteria and classrooms. Please highlight your calendar as it will take place on September 21 from 6:00-8:00pm.

The administrative and guidance team will work together to coordinate the event so that it will offer a multitude of information which will benefit you and your child this school year.

We will send out a flyer/reminder as the date gets closer. The flyer will include an evening agenda with specific topics and times.

We are excited to offer you this opportunity to stay well informed in order to help guide your child's educational

experience here at Watervliet Jr./Sr. High School. The early school year visit provides familiarity with the facility, an opportunity to meet teachers, provide critical information about your child and gain critical information regarding classroom resources and expectations.

We look forward to seeing you all there, if not sooner.

Academic Intervention Services

Once we receive New York State assessment results for Math and English Language Arts we will mail the individual reports home. Depending on your child's performance level, s/he may be eligible to receive Academic Intervention Services. New York state requires schools to provide an appropriate level of academic support to those students scoring below level 3, which is defined as proficient.

The level of need will determine the level of services. For instance, if your child scores a level 1 or 2 on either assessment it will automatically qualify them for mandated services. We may provide services to those students that scored at a low level 3, but within a range that indicates specific areas of weakness. The services may range from periodic monitoring by the classroom teacher to 40 minutes of additional instruction and/or remediation by a highly qualified teacher.

Academic Intervention Services are separate from special education services. If your child is currently receiving Special Education services, s/he may receive additional services without interfering with the child's Individual Education Plan. If you have any questions about the services please feel free to contact your child's guidance counselor (page 2).

Welcome Class of 2023

Mobina Abbasi
Arsam Akhtar
Rasheed Albakour
Tayveon Anderson
Shawn Banks Jr
Matthew Billetts
Anthony Bisner
Evan Boodrow
William Burke
Josiah Cady
Isabella
Carbonneau
Jonah Carroll
Kevin Cecchetto
Franklin Chalue Jr.
Jason Chaplin Jr
Daytwan Coleman
Timothy Dalton
Grady Delap
Ethan Delgado
Nevaeh Edmonds
Matthew Ehrke
Mathieu Fay
Mustafa Fayaz
Isaiah Fernandez
Alyia Finch
Andrew Fisher
Jaden Forezzi
Gianna Gaunay

Gage Gibson
Autumn Gillam
Emma Grimmick
Paige Grimmick
Jordan Harvey
Yazmyn Head
Tijay Henny
Logan Jamrosz
Anthony Jefferson
Jonnie Jones
Faiz Khan
Dennis LaMarche Jr
Karina Leibach
Xavier Lewis
Daniel Martinez
Dylan Mattia
Demetri McPherson
Cayden Miller
Serena Miller
Daniel Moore
Emma Murray
Ali Nazari
Fereshteh Nazari
Desiree Overton
Leyonce Palmer
Christian Petersen
Gabriel Petersen
Peyton Peterson
Thaddeus Phillips

Sierra Plunkett
Thomas Pompey
Sophia Prew
Dayona Price
Domenic Rivera
Raina Rohenaz
Amir Sanders
Avante Saunders
Isaiah Shark
Toby Shufelt
Daminicka Silva
Malik Simms
Shannon Skawinski
Bianca Smart
Peytan Smeltzer
Alexander Smith
Rhiley Soto-Gutierrez
Baylee Terry
Alexander Thomas
Eric Thompson
Daven Torres
Hector Torres Jr
Nicholas Vitello
Jamel Ward Jr
Keiyarrah Washington
Tylasia Watkins
Lee Watkins Jr.
Richard Welden III
David Wilder