

WESTFORD ACADEMY

2009-2010



Back to School Issue

Parent Newsletter

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL...

JAMES P. ANTONELLI



Dear Parents and Students:

It is my sincere hope that each of you had an enjoyable summer and created some lasting memories. On behalf of the Westford Academy faculty and staff, I would like to welcome you to a new school year. To our new students and their parents who are joining us for the first

time, I am confident you will enjoy being part of our outstanding school community.

While you were away the building was meticulously cleaned and looks better than ever! Thank you to Rich McLaughlin, Bob Crocker and their outstanding crew of workers. Hot summer days do not make cleaning a 290,000 square foot building an easy task, but our custodial crew did a fantastic job.

This year we welcome ten new staff to Westford Academy following the retirement of Mr. Al Duffett, Mr. Jim Kastritis, Mr. Ken Kravetz, Ms. Anne Stowe, Mr. Bob Ricardelli and Mrs. Norma Graham. Although we will miss our colleagues, we are excited about the new faculty that will be joining us.

As the Principal of Westford Academy, my first priority is to maintain the positive school culture that is fostered each and every day within our high school. Evidence indicates that students and staff excel when they feel safe and secure in their environment. As an alumnus of Westford Academy, I am extremely proud of our academic institution and will work tirelessly to provide the best education, in the safest environment, for our students and staff.

In addition to feeling safe and secure, it is my firm belief that our students excel because of their involvement beyond the school day. Be it athletics, co-curricular activities, theater arts or other opportunities, our students are well-rounded because of what they learn each and every day in and beyond the classroom. I encourage all students to get involved and stay active, thus providing lasting memories from your high school experience. Don't take a back seat, be a leader!

We will welcome the Class of 2013 for a full day of orientation on September 1st. In addition, we will meet with the students of our senior class and their parents at 7 p.m. on September 1st to discuss senior year expectations. All Westford Academy students (9-12) will be welcomed on Wednesday, September 2nd for the start of the 2009-2010 school year.

Finally, this is an extremely important year at Westford Academy as we will be visited by a Committee from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges in mid-October. This committee will visit from October 18 - 21 and examine our entire school. This process happens once every ten years and is part of our accreditation. Please stay tuned for additional information through my Friday emails.

James P. Antonelli

WESTFORD ACADEMY SCHOOL CALENDAR – 2009 - 2010

| | |
|--|------------|
| School Opens for 9 th Grade Orientation | Sept. 1 |
| School Opens for Grades 10, 11, 12 | Sept. 2 |
| Senior Kickoff for Seniors & Parents, 7 PM, PAC | Sept. 1 |
| Welcome Back Dance... 7-11PM...Cafe | Sept. 3 |
| Labor Day Recess | Sept. 4 |
| Fall Sports Info Night, 6:30 PM, PAC | Sept. 8 |
| School Pictures | Sept. 9 |
| Grade 9 Parent Orientation, 6:30PM, PAC | Sept. 9 |
| Senior Parent College Workshop, 7PM, PAC | Sept. 15 |
| Back to School Night, Gr. 9-12, 6-9PM | Sept. 17 |
| No School Students | Sept. 17 |
| Progress Reports | Oct. 6 |
| In-Service Early Release | Oct. 9 |
| Columbus Day - No School | Oct. 12 |
| PSAT administered, Grades 10 & 11 | Oct. 17 |
| NEASC Re-Accreditation Visit | Oct 18-21 |
| Marks Close - First Quarter | Nov. 4 |
| SAT administered for Seniors | Nov. 7 |
| Veteran's Day - No School | Nov. 11 |
| Report Cards | Nov. 13 |
| Thanksgiving Recess, Early Release | Nov. 25 |
| School Reopens | Nov. 30 |
| Progress Reports | Dec. 15 |
| December Recess - Begins at Close of School | Dec. 23 |
| School Reopens | Jan. 4 |
| Martin Luther King Day-No School | Jan. 18 |
| Mid-Year Exams | Jan. 21-26 |
| Marks Close - Second Quarter | Jan. 26 |
| In-Service (Early Release) | Jan. 28 |
| Staff Development Day (No School) | Jan. 29 |
| Junior Parent Seminar, 7PM, PAC | Feb. 2 |
| Grade 8 Parent Orientation, 7PM, PAC | Feb. 3 |
| Report Cards | Feb. 8 |
| Program of Studies Distribution | Feb. 4 |
| Course Request Recommendations | Feb. 10 |
| Course Request Forms due | Feb. 12 |
| Winter Recess - Begins Close of School | Feb. 12 |
| School Reopens | Feb. 22 |
| Progress Reports | Mar. 9 |
| Staff Development Day (Early Release Day) | Apr. 1 |
| Good Friday- No School | Apr. 2 |
| Marks Close -Third Quarter | Apr. 8 |
| Report Cards | Apr. 16 |
| Spring Recess - Begins at Close of School | Apr. 16 |
| School Reopens | Apr. 26 |
| SAT administered for Juniors | May 1 |
| AP Exams Administered | May 3-14 |
| Senior Progress Reports | May 6 |
| Progress Reports (Grades 9, 10, 11) | May 13 |
| Senior Final Exams | May 20-25 |
| In-Service (Early Release) | May 25 |
| Memorial Day - No School | May 31 |
| Senior Awards Night 7PM | June 3 |
| Senior Awards Breakfast 8:30AM | June 4 |
| Graduation - 5:30PM Westford Academy | June 4 |
| Rain date Graduation- 5:30PM | June 5 |
| Rain date Graduation- 2PM | June 6 |
| Awards, Grades 10-11, 7PM, PAC | June 7 |
| Awards/Recognition - Grade 9, 8:30AM, PAC | June 8 |
| Last Scheduled Day of School (tentative) 1/2 Day | June 18 |

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WESTFORD ACADEMY
 30 PATTEN ROAD
 WESTFORD, MA 01886

FROM THE DESK OF ADAM GOLDBERG, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL ...

Can it be that summer is almost over?! I hope you had an enjoyable summer filled with rest, relaxation, hobbies, and time spent with family and friends. We are very excited to begin this new school year as many people have been busy this summer preparing the building for your return! This fall holds a particularly significant event for WA as we host a visiting committee for re-accreditation in October. You will hear a great deal more about this in the upcoming weeks, and I strongly encourage you to sign up for the Principal's Friday emails to stay on top of all upcoming dates and announcements. All parents are welcome to attend the Opening Reception for the Visiting Committee, which begins promptly on Sunday, October 18th at 1:45 pm in the PAC. There will be several other opportunities for parental involvement and participation in this process. If you are interested in meeting and/or speaking with members of the Visiting Committee, or have questions about the upcoming re-accreditation, please contact me at adamgoldberg@westfordk12.us. As well, there is a "WA Accreditation" link on the WA Home Page with additional information that will be updated regularly during the month of September. In the meantime, please enjoy the remaining days of summer; catch up/finish your summer reading, and we look forward to seeing you back walking the halls of WA soon. As always, my door is always open if you need anything or simply wish to stop by and say hello. I wish everyone a happy, healthy and successful school year!

SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

9th GRADE ORIENTATION PROGRAM

Food Services welcomes all 9th grade students to an All You Can Eat BBQ - \$2.75/student
Students may purchase BBQ tickets in the Bus Lobby as they enter Westford Academy on September 1st.
Tickets will also be sold at lunch.

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Student Greeters will direct all 9th graders to the Performing Arts Center | 7:15 a.m. |
| 7:30 - 7:50 | Introductions |
| 7:50 - 8:30 | Presentation from Administrators |
| 8:30 - 9:30 | Students report to homerooms |
| 9:30 - 1:44 | Class rotations |
| | 9:30 - 9:53 G Block |
| | 9:58 - 10:21 A Block |
| | 10:26 - 10:49 B Block |
| | 10:54 - 11:17 C Block |
| | 11:17 - 12:20 Lunch/Activities Fair |
| | 12:25 - 12:48 D Block |
| | 12:53 - 1:18 E Block |
| | 1:44 - 1:55 F Block |
| 1:44 - 1:55 | Students report to buses |

How to Subscribe to Principal Friday Email

You can receive the Principal's Friday email by going to the website <http://westfordk12.us/subscriber>, click on WA News and enter your email address.

Guidance News

The Guidance Department wishes to extend a warm welcome to all our new and returning students and their parents. Parents and students are encouraged to work closely with their assigned counselor. The counseling staff is highly skilled in the areas of school adjustment, course selection, interpersonal relationships, post secondary planning and personal growth issues. We seek to provide support for students and parents during these school years.

Counselor Assignments

Students have been assigned to counselors as follows:

| Class of | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mr. Larry Guidetti | Akbaba-Cicccone | Adelstein - Chrysikos | Adams - Camargo | Abedi Tari - Capowski |
| Ms. Betsy Murphy | Claffey-Frampton | Ciampi - Fingerhut | Cammalleri - Donahue | Carey - Febbi |
| Mrs. Susan Lynch | Franceschi-Iyer | Fiore - Ingalls | Donnelly - Heath | Feuersnger - Hussey |
| Mrs. Barbara Kutner | Jann-Manville | Jackson - Livorsi | Hernandez - Lane-Smith | Ingalls - Mariano |
| Mrs. Wendy Pechacek | Malboeuf-Naugler | Loftus- Myers | Larson - Milisci | Martel - Owens |
| Mrs. Tracy McLaughlin | Newman-Sansone | Neptune - Scott | Miller - Raso | Padron - Sciuto |
| Mrs. Heidi Hider | Santa Lucia-Viscione | Secrist - Viscione | Rendall - Tyman | Sennott - Tyner |
| Mr. Mark Lucey | Walker-Zhao | Walsh - Zwieniecki | Valcourt - Zhang | Uccello - Zhou |

It is difficult to accept requests for changes in counselor assignments except for very serious reasons. As always, students may confer with any counselor about his/her concerns. However, the management of records and the monitoring of students are aided by alphabetical student assignments.

Monitoring Student Progress

Please help us in monitoring your student's progress by reading all school notices and reports and by readily conferring with teachers. A valuable first step would be to transfer important school dates (from the school calendar) to your family wall calendar. Place reminders 2 to 3 weeks before progress report and report card dates to let your son/daughter know you're interested and looking toward the upcoming school reports. Whenever you have a question or concern please do not hesitate to call.

Westford Academy Guidance Department - Press #2

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|
| Larry Guidetti | X 2109 | Betsy Murphy | X 2114 |
| Heidi Hider | X 2110 | Wendy Pechacek | X 2119 |
| Susan Beers | X 2111 | Susan Lynch | X 2120 |
| Barbara Kutner | X 2112 | Tracy McLaughlin | X 7501 |
| Mark Lucey, Coordinator | X 2113 | Linda Samaha, Admin. Asst. | X 2107 |

Junior and Senior Timelines can be found on the Westford Academy Guidance website (www.wa.westford.k12.us/Pages/index).

Dual Enrollment Program

Dual Enrollment with Massachusetts state colleges and universities are available to qualified students wishing to take college courses while still in high school. Have your student request information early for the second semester.

Test Dates

| | | | |
|------|----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| PSAT | Saturday, October 17, 2009 | ASVAB | Friday, January 8, 2010 |
| SAT | Saturday, November 7, 2009 | SAT | Saturday, May 1, 2010 |

Financial Aid Planning

Financial Aid Night is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m. in the W.A. Auditorium. A college representative experienced in determining financial need will walk parents and students through the financial aid forms and answer questions regarding this process. (Financial Aid Profile Forms - distributed in September/FFAF distributed in December)

Senior Parking Passes - \$50

Parking passes will be available to seniors on Tuesday, September 1st, from 5:00 -6:45 p.m. in the Bell Lobby of Westford Academy. Due to the limited parking spaces, parking passes are for *seniors only*. Unfortunately no exceptions will be made for underclassmen. Students are required to bring their drivers license, registration, and \$50.00. Checks should be made out to Westford Public Schools.

WESTFORD ACADEMY'S MISSION STATEMENT

Westford Academy, in collaboration with home and community, provides a safe environment where high expectations advance academic excellence. We are committed to promoting integrity and critical thinking, while fostering tolerance and life-long learning in an ever-changing global society.

WA After School Activities and College Admission

From the desk of Bob Ware, Dean of Students

As the new school year begins, we want to remind our students about the wide variety of activities offered at WA. Extracurricular and co-curricular activities represent an opportunity for students to develop constructive relationships with peers and adults. Our activity programs are ideal opportunities for students to learn skills and develop talents that are helpful in academics and in the real world. Becoming actively engaged in the W.A. activities can help prepare students transition to college.

Colleges are constantly searching for students whose unique interest and abilities will create a better, more diverse environment for all members of the campus community and beyond. Admission committees often read activity lists submitted by students. These committees seek students who demonstrate a solid commitment to a select number of activities over a significant period of time, not suddenly joining clubs during their senior year.

Westford Academy has over 50 after school activities. We encourage our students to take advantage of these opportunities. Please visit our website to view our activity offerings. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ware at bware@westfordk12.us

2009 - 2010 HOMEROOM ASSIGNMENTS

| HR# | FRESHMEN | HR# | JUNIORS |
|-----|----------------------|-----|----------------------|
| 100 | Abedi - Berkowitz | 101 | Adelstein - Bhasker |
| 104 | Bernard - Burke | 103 | Blanchette - Chen |
| 107 | Burns - Chevalier | 136 | Chenell - Curran |
| 108 | Chrysikos - DiFonzo | 137 | Daley - Estabrook |
| 109 | Ditcham -Feuersanger | 139 | Fay - Gervais |
| 111 | Finegan - Gottlieb | 141 | Ghantasala - Hunt |
| 113 | Gounaris - Hickey | 143 | Hurley - Koph |
| 116 | Higgins - Kopf | 145 | Korandla - Leite |
| 118 | Kost - Lovitz | 147 | Leonard - Martin |
| 121 | Luo - McAleese | 148 | Mastandrea - Mizzoni |
| 123 | McCall - Morse | 150 | Moler - Peloquin |
| 129 | Mount - Paltsios | 202 | Perrone - Rosenberg |
| 130 | Pandey - Rajopadhye | 206 | Rosinski - Smith |
| 131 | Ram - Sankaran | 246 | Spadano - Thomas |
| 132 | Santos - Souza | 248 | Thompson - Wang |
| 133 | Sparks - Tincknell | 250 | Wauford - Zwieniecki |
| 134 | Tobin - Viscione | | |
| 135 | Viswanathan - Zhou | | |

| HR# | SOPHOMORES | HR# | SENIORS |
|-----|-----------------------|-----|---------------------|
| 200 | Adams - Bernstein | 220 | Akbaba - Boyd |
| 201 | Bert - Burns | 221 | Boyle - Caviston |
| 203 | Bush - Chisholm | 222 | Chan - Cusson |
| 204 | Clark - DeBiase | 223 | Dalessio - Ewing |
| 211 | DeFusco - Dyer | 225 | Feng - Gomes |
| 213 | Elliott - Gallagher | 227 | Goodman - Hill |
| 215 | Gallo - Harkness | 229 | Hoch - Katkowski |
| 217 | Hayes - Hyslip | 231 | Kea - Lewis |
| 243 | Iyengar - Ko | 233 | Li - Mattila |
| 244 | Koerner - Lane Smith | 235 | Mazzola - Moran |
| 245 | Larsen - Magaw | 236 | Morrison - Oughton |
| 247 | Mahan - McHugh | 237 | Pancotti - Ritter |
| 249 | McKenney - Murphy | 238 | Robbins - Smith |
| 251 | Naduthota - Pawlowski | 239 | Socha - Tiew |
| 253 | Payne - Raso | 240 | Tippareddy-Whitcomb |
| 255 | Rendall - Schiavone | 241 | Wilkinson - Zhao |
| 257 | Sciabica - Tamaskar | | |
| 259 | Teden - Watson | | |
| 261 | Watterson - Zhang | | |

Welcome to New Staff

There will be a number of new faces on campus this September. We welcome the following educators to the Westford Academy family:

| | |
|---|---|
| BUSINESS James Moriarty | ENGLISH Lynn Bonakdar |
| FOREIGN LANGUAGE Patricia Brumbaugh | MATH Patricia Gifford John Nidzgorski Cheri Sobolik |
| SCIENCE Philip Logsdon | |
| SOCIAL STUDIES Scott Cruikshank Ronald Koehler Amanda Lorenzo | SPECIAL EDUCATION Joanne Arajuo Lisa Cobb Ashley Conley |

School Photos for Students on September 9th

Burlington Studios will once again photograph all students (grades 9-11) enrolled at Westford Academy on September 9th.

Burlington Studios will be providing WA students with modern photo ID's which will allow students to take advantage of commercial and retail discounts offered by local merchants and can be used for field trips/conferences which typically require student status identification. The photo ID is also required at all school dances (excluding the Welcome Back dance).

New Students Orientation

All sophomores, juniors and seniors who are new to WA are invited to an orientation session to be held in the upper cafe at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 1st. New students will be given an opportunity to become familiar with their schedules and to ask questions. Peer counselors will be available to assist students with their transition.

Senior Parent Kick-Off

Seniors and their parents are invited to a Senior Year Kickoff Program on Tuesday, September 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. Senior year is like no other, with its own set of pressures and opportunities. This venue allows the administration to express the importance of the student's senior year and share changes made in the Westford Academy Student Handbook.

Freshmen Study Skills Program offered at Westford Academy

Starting in mid September, we will be offering after school study programs for our incoming freshmen students. These session will begin on Tuesday, September 15 – October 20, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Veteran teachers and our current National Honor Society students will supervise these sessions. Each week will cover topics such as:

- Organization
- Time Management
- Being successful in class
- Taking Good Notes
- Studying Tips
- Test Taking Strategies
- How to get extra help

If you are interested in signing up for the program, please contact Mr. Ware at bware@westfordk12.us or x2138.