

WESTFORD ACADEMY



2017 - 2018

Parent Newsletter Vol. I

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 a part of our outstanding school community.

While you were away, the building was meticulously cleaned and looks better than ever, with too many highlights to list. Thank you to Tom Griffin, Alan Bennett 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. Our high school is a beautiful building because of Tom and Alan's leadership and their attention to detail.

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 all of our students. I am excited about the new school year ahead and I look forward to continued academic, athletic, and co-curricular success as a result of a great faculty, excellent coaches, and bright and talented students.

In addition to feeling safe and secure, it is my firm belief that our students excel because of their involvement in our school community beyond the school day. Be it athletics, extracurricular 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 their high school experience. Don't take a back seat, be a leader!

Many changes have taken place over the spring and summer months. We will welcome many new faculty and staff to Westford Academy this fall. All of the new hires are thrilled to join this great high school.

We will welcome the Class of 2021 for a full day of orientation on Tuesday, August 29th. All Westford Academy students (9-12) will be welcomed on Wednesday, August 30th for the start of the 2017 - 2018 school year. Back to School Night will be held on Thursday, October 5, 2017. A schedule for this important informational event will be sent out in mid-September.

In closing, please be advised that we have implemented some new traffic regulations for dropping off and picking up your son/daughter each day. The changes were developed by BETA Engineering and will begin on Day 1 of the 2017-2018 school year. All of the changes were made to assist with traffic in the mornings and afternoons, and to provide a safer school community. I will be sending out an email outlining the specific changes regarding the traffic patterns at W.A. very soon. I want to thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Westford Academy - School Calendar:

- Aug 29 School opens for Grade 9 Orientation
 - Aug 29 New Student Orientation, 9:30 AM, Upper Cafe
 - Aug 29 Seniors and Parents, "Senior Kick-Off", 6:30 PM PAC
 - Aug 30 All classes begin (9-12)
 - Aug 30 Fall Sports Information Night, 6:30 PM, PAC
 - Aug 31 Welcome Back Senior BBQ, 5-9:00 PM, softball field
 - Sep 1 - 4 Labor Day Recess
 - Sep 6 WATA Parent Info Meeting, 7:00 PM, PAC
 - Sep 12 Senior Parent College Workshop, 6:00 - 8:00 PM, PAC
 - Sep 26 DECA Parent Night, 7:00 PM, PAC
 - Sep 27 DECA Parent Night, 7:00 PM, PAC
 - Sep 29 Mr. WA, 7:00 PM, PAC
 - Oct 4 School Pictures
 - Oct 5 Back-To-School Event, Grades 9-12
 - Oct 5 No School Grades 9-12
 - Oct 9 No School, Columbus Day
 - Oct 10 No School, Professional Development
 - Oct 14 PSAT
 - Oct 16 - 20 Spirit Week
 - Oct 17 MEFA Financial Aid Night, 6:30 - 9:00 PM, PAC
 - Nov 10 No School, Veteran's Day
 - Nov 13 School Picture Retakes
 - Nov 22 Thanksgiving Recess, early release
 - Nov 23 - 26 No School, Thanksgiving break
 - Dec 2 Holiday Bazaar, 9-3:00 PM
 - Dec 7 Half Day, Professional Development
 - Dec 25 - Jan 1 Holiday Break
- (Dates are subject to change)**

Building Tours of Westford Academy

Tuesday, August 22nd and
Wednesday, August 23rd

Please come to the Bell Lobby anytime between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM for a student-led tour of Westford Academy. (The Bell Lobby is located just inside the front doors.)

Don't forget to bring your schedule and find out where your classrooms are!

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 everchanging global society.

How to Subscribe to Principal's Friday email

You can receive the Principal's Friday email by going to the Westford Public School's website:

<http://westfordk12.us>

Click on "Subscribe to Newsletters" on left-hand side of page and follow prompts.

From the Yearbook Advisor:

Attn: Class of 2018 - It is time to create your Yearbook and we need your help! Please bookmark the following link and look for updates regarding deadlines. It is imperative that you follow these deadlines in order for your book to be the best that it can be. If you haven't taken your Senior Portrait yet - make that appointment! Many photographers are super busy in the fall months and appointments are limited. Your final photo is due by November 4, 2017 and trust me that is sooner than you think! Senior paragraphs are due on October 14, 2017.

Check out the page below for more information regarding this and other deadlines that are in place. Enjoy the rest of your summer! Mrs. Mustoe [mailto:gmustoe@westfordk12.us] gmustoe@westfordk12.us [http://wa.westfordk12.us/pages/WestfordWA_Activities/Yearbook/index.html] http://wa.westfordk12.us/pages/WestfordWA_Activities/Yearbook/index.html

School Photos and Student ID's - October 4th

Student Identification photos will be taken by LifeTouch on Wednesday, October 4th during the school day. Student ID's allow students to take advantage of commercial and retail discounts offered by local merchants and can be used for field trips and conferences which typically require student status identification. The photo ID may be requested at co-curricular events.

The photos taken will also be available for purchase.

Important Information Regarding Military Recruiters

Federal law requires that the District release the names, addresses and telephone listings of students to military recruiters and institutions of higher education upon request for recruitment and scholarship purposes. However, in all instances listed above, parents may request that such directory information not be released without prior consent by notifying the school in writing by September 2017.

Senior Parking Passes

Seniors will be able to purchase parking passes the evening of the Senior/Parent "Kick-off" Night scheduled for Tuesday, August 29th at 6:30 PM in the PAC. Any senior purchasing a parking pass needs to bring their drivers license, the registration of the vehicle they will be driving, and have no outstanding obligations. Parking passes are \$50. We will accept either a check made payable to Westford Public Schools or cash (exact amount appreciated.)

Any Senior who does not yet have their license, may sign up with Mr. Ware to reserve a pass.

Only Seniors can purchase a parking pass and park at WA.

As a reminder, seniors will only be able to purchase a parking pass if they have submitted a draft of their college application essay to their Naviance account by noon on Monday, August 28th.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Mr. Ware

Items Forgotten At Home:

Should your child contact you during the school day and ask that you drop off his or her homework, project, lunch, sports equipment, musical instrument etc., please know that the main office will not take responsibility for getting these items to your child. Should you choose to bring these items in for your child, you can place them on the bookshelf just inside the main office. It will be up to you to communicate to your child that these items are in the main office ready to be picked up.

Working Papers:

If your child has been offered a job, and their employer has asked him or her to get working papers, please come to the Main Office during the hours of 9:00 and 3:00 PM for assistance.

Student Dismissals

If a Parent/Guardian wishes to have their child dismissed, please adhere to the following: Provide a note given to the attendance secretary, Linda Mahoney. OR: contact the attendance line at 978-692-5570 then press #1. AND: Have your child pick up their dismissal note from the Attendance Secretary. Please note that a dismissal is NOT valid unless these steps are followed. Westford Academy has a population of 1700+ students, please assist us with the dismissal process by following these steps.

The Guidance Department wishes to extend a warm welcome to our new and returning students and their parents. Students and parents 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

Class of:	2018	2019	2020	2021
Ms. Leah Birnkrant	A-Chasse	A-Cannuscio	A-Chevalier	A-Cincotta
Mrs. Karen Halloran	Chawla-Erdal	Cantalupo-Ewing	Chittu-Fitzgerald	Ciulla-Fournier
Mrs. Susan Lynch	Fan-Jani	Fairchild-Johnson	Flanagan-Johnson	Franklin-Khan
Mr. Brian Doherty	Jhavar-McCabe	Jones-Mazzafero	Jones-McGinn	Kim-McCabe
Mrs. Jill Karatkewicz	McCarthy-Palnati	McA'Nulty-Pickton	McGurn-Patil	McCarthy-Owen
Mrs. Tracy McLaughlin	Pandiscio-Skotz	Pillsbury-Sennot	Patta-Severance	P-Schultz
Mrs. Heidi Hider	Smith-Wauford	Sepe-Weber	Seyffert-West	Schwab-Vinith
Mrs. Wendy Pechacek	Welch-Zhu	Welch-Zhu	Westerheim-Zhu	W-Zheng

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's 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

Leah Birnkrant	X 2109	Susan Lynch	x 2120
Brian Doherty	X 2112	Tracy McLaughlin	x 2139
Karen Halloran	X 2114	Wendy Pechacek, Coordinator	X 2119
Heidi Hider	X 2110	Lynda Vernalia (Admin. Asst.)	X 2107
Jill Karatkewicz	X 2122	Micaela Violette (Social Worker)	X 7496
Patti Lonergan (Social Worker)	X 7495		

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 14, 2017
ASVAB	Friday, January 12, 2018
SAT	Saturday, March 10, 2018

Senior Parent Night

Parents of the Class of 2018, the Guidance Department invites you to Senior Parent College Night on Tuesday, September 12 at 6:00 PM in the PAC. Students do not have to attend, as they will receive the same presentation in school.

Financial Aid Planning

MEFA Financial Aid Night is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17th, at 6:30 PM in the Westford Academy PAC. A college representative experienced in determining financial need will walk parents and students through the federal financial aid forms and answer questions regarding this process.

2017 - 2018 HOMEROOM ASSIGNMENTS

Class of 2021 - Freshmen

HR#	Teacher	Students
100	St. George	Adolph-Bernstein
107	Welch	Bhasker-Cannuscio
108	Harrigan	Caplan-Couillard
109	Rybicki	Cragg-Dotivala
110	Robinson	Driscoll-Ferreira
112	Martell	Fisher-Gunnamreddy
114	Conti	Guo-Iosevich
117	Cook	Irzarry-Kallely
116	Bostrom	Kapasi-Lee
118	Devlin	Lehne-Magee
121	Jozokos	Makhija-McCarthy
123	Roark	McCauley-Moynihan
129	Gillett	Mrozinski-O-Connor
130	Bjorkman	O'Donnell-Pizette
131	K. Lackner	Podipireddy-Rudiman
132	Chausse	Ruelle-Shea
133	Fisher	Shen-Sussman
134	St. Denis	Tabor-Vinith
135	Geary	Walk-Zhang

Class of 2019 - Juniors

HR#	Teacher	Students
101	Colson	Ackerman-Baumgartel
103	McGregor	Beattie-Bryce
104	Cruuikshank	Bugos-Chen
115	Hardy	Cherian-Cornetta
119	Firzsimmons	Corr-DeLuca
136	Scully	DeOliveira-Ferrick
137	Norander	Ferro-Graham
139	McAnaney	Grant-Huynh
141	Lorenzo	Ikedo-Kleanthous
143	Kavanagh	Kohan-Long
145	Connole	Loosigian-McEwan
147	McHugh	McGee-Murray
148	Carney	Nair-Parr
150	Winokur	Patel-Ramoutar
202	McDonald	Redman-Sawka
204	Roman	Sawosik-Shen
206	Eang	Shepherd-Tashjy
248	Trehan	Tatarka-Ward
250	Oelerich	Warde-Zhu

Class of 2020 - Sophomores

HR#	Teacher	Students
200	Trouve	Acaboo-Bhagavathula
201	Rogers	Bhat-Burstein
203	Bonakdar	Cady-Crann
211	Girardi	Cressman-Dominici
213	Poynton	Donahue-Faulkner
215	Burns	Fernandez-Gould
219	Menice	Graffeo-Hillman
243	Fonden	Hoague-Keefer
244	Mahoney	Kenney-Kogan
245	Bramanti	Kotagiri-LyEm
246	Cournoyer	Macey-McPartland
247	K. Kucaj	McPhee-Nightingale
249	J. Kucaj	Nigro-Patel
251	Ingerslev	Patil-Punreddy
253	Holbrook	Purandare-Sarkar
255	Coates	Sawyer-Smith
257	Hart	Song-Turcott
259	Humphrey	Ullrich-West
261	Kumar	Westerheim-Zhu

Class of 2018 - Seniors

HR#	Teacher	Students
217	C. Brown	Acosta-Battle
218	Soo	Baumgart-Cajolet
220	Bernstein	Caldwell-Cline
221	Bowen	Cohan-Delouchrey
222	DeLong	Denly-Erdal
223	Kotary	Fan-Gillis
225	Albu	Giovino-Hietkamp
227	Garrison	Hill-Kelley
229	Knittel	Kenney - Li
231	Howard-Donlin	Lini-McA'Nulty
233	Bucchianeri	McCabe-Molinaro
235	Cronin	Mondro-O'Connor
236	Connerty	O'Neill-Prasad
237	Nidzgorski	Prasath-Sabnis
238	Chaput	Salama-Sporel
239	Quattrocchi	Sriram-Twombly
240	Stamp	Underhill-Waterhouse
241	Croteau	Welch-Zhu

WELCOME NEW STAFF!

Athletics

Adam Gagne - Athletic Director

Business/DECA

Danielle Trouve

Dean's Office

Amy Moore - Administrative Assistant

Dan Twomey - Dean of Students

Health and Wellness

Brian Roark - Curriculum Coordinator

TBD

History and Social Sciences

Adam Ingano - Curriculum Coordinator

Kimberly Sears

Mathematics and Computer Programming

Shirley Tan

Science and Engineering Technology

Rafael Aguade-Cabanas

Leslie Garrison

Mark Soo

Student Support Services

Madolyn Kendall

Arvid Tenney - Student Support Leader

World Language

Konstantina Bekiou

GRADUATION 2018

Graduation is scheduled for:

Friday, June 1st at 5:30 PM

Westford Academy Alumni Field

There are two rain dates:

Saturday, June 2nd at 5:30 PM

Sunday, June 3th at 2:00 PM

Senior Prom

Saturday, May 19, 7-11:00 PM

Royal Sonesta Boston, Cambridge, MA

Junior Cotillion

Saturday, May 12, 7-11:00 PM

Kimball Farm

Disney Trip (Seniors)

May 23rd - May 27th

Lost and Found Clothing

The lost and found box at WA is located in the Main Office. If your student has lost an article of clothing, please encourage them to come and take a look in the box!

Westford Academy's Greenhouse is under construction!

Westford Academy is excited about our newest on-site Eagle Scout Project, construction of a greenhouse in support of the new Environmental Science program. Kyle O'Connell is going into his junior year at WA, where he excels academically and is highly regarded by teachers. Kyle has designed the structure himself, worked hard to raise funds in support of the project, and is currently leading a team to construct the greenhouse for use beginning this fall. In addition to the new Environmental Science classes, several Biology classes also plan to use the space for experimentation. In conjunction with this project, Owen McGee is completing his Eagle Scout Project by constructing a storage shed to store equipment and materials for use with the greenhouse. Owen is also going into his junior year at WA, where he is a strong student in the classroom. Owen has designed and funded his shed project and anticipates beginning construction soon. For more information about these projects or the new Environmental Science program, please contact the WPS 6-12 Science Curriculum Coordinator, Jenny Kravitz (jkravitz@westfordk12.us).



New Student Orientation

All sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are new to Westford Academy are invited to attend a new student orientation session to be held on Tuesday, August 29th in the Upper Cafe at 9:30 AM. New students will be given an opportunity to become familiar with their schedules and will be able to ask questions. Peer counselors will be available to assist students with their transition.

Westford Academy Freshmen Orientation Program Class of 2021 August 29, 2017

Schedule for the day

7:30 – 8:00 Introductions in the PAC (Performing Arts Center)

- Mr. Antonelli, Principal
- Mr. Gagne, Athletic Director
- Class of 2021 Advisors: Mrs. Chaput and Mrs. Fisher
- Senior - Student Council President: Britta Cianciolo
- Mrs. Pechacek, Guidance Coordinator

8:05 – 9:15 All students go to homeroom

8:05 – 8:40 Meet your homeroom teacher & complete paperwork

8:40 – 8:50 Guidance Counselors visit homerooms

8:50 – 9:15 Peer Counselors visit homerooms

9:20 – 9:40 G Block

9:45 – 10:05 A Block

10:10 – 10:30 B Block

10:35 – 10:55 C Block

10:55 – 11:20 LUNCH *

11:20 – 12:30 ALL freshmen to PAC

11:20 – 11:50 Meet The Deans

11:50 – 12:10 Main Gym: Activities Fair/PAC

12:10 – 12:30 PAC: Q & A with Peer Counselors

12:35 – 12:55 D Block

1:00 - 1:20 E Block

1:25 – 1:45 F Block

(DISMISSAL) Students head to the busses

* Food Services welcomes all Grade 9 students to a pizza luncheon for the price of \$3.50! The lunch will include delivery pizza, Caesar salad bar, fresh watermelon, Otis Spunkmeyer cookies and choice of milk or water. Students can either pay in cash, or use their student ID# to access their prepaid meal accounts.

Pre-Payment Options for School Lunch

Please take advantage of the options to prepay your student's meal accounts. Prepaid meal accounts help the lunch lines go faster and give students more time to eat and relax. It also gives you the peace of mind of not having to worry about looking for lunch money every day or worry that it might get lost, stolen or used for other things other than lunch.

We encourage parents to utilize our online payment service, mySchoolBucks. This website allows you to deposit money directly into your student's meal account and view balance/purchase information for the past ninety days. If you have multiple children in different schools, you can enter payments for all students in one transaction.

If you choose to send in checks to prepay your student's meal account, please place your check in an envelope addressed to the Cafeteria Manager at your student's school. Please make checks payable to Westford Schools Lunch Program. Please put your Student's Name and Student ID Number on the check. You can send in one check for multiple students at one school but not for multiple students at different schools. Make sure to note each Student's Name and Student ID Number on the check and the amount you wish deposited in each meal account. You can also continue to send in cash daily for lunch.

Please see the Westford Public Schools Food Services Webpage at:
<http://www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com>

Freshman Activities Fair will take place on Freshmen Orientation/Welcome Day - August 29th

You will hear repeatedly from students that getting involved in activities not only helps to make school more fun, but it also helps you do better in your classes! Students at WA have an incredible range of clubs and organizations in which to get involved. Look through this list... these CLUBS will be represented at the Freshmen Activities Fair on August 30th.

Anime Club	GSA/Gay-Straight Alliance	Model UN
Art Club	German Club	Museum Club
Astronomy Club	Ghostwriter Newspaper	Photography Club
Badminton	High School Quiz Show	Programming Club
Baking Club	History Club	Project Purple
Band - Concert/Marching Band	HOSA Future Health Professional of America	Robotics
Bollywood Dance Club	Human Rights	S.A.D.D.
Book Club	Independent Musicians Group	Science Club
Broadcast/Communications WABC	International Club	Scrapbooking Club
Chess Club	Investing Club	Ski Club
Chorus and WA Cappella	JSA Junior State of America	Spanish Club
Cirus and Outing Club	Knitting Club	Speech and Debate
Color Guard	Latin Club	Troubadours - Strings
DECA	Literary Magazine	Unicycle Club
Environmental Club	Mandarin Club	WA Friends
French Club	Math Team	WA Literacy Outreach
Future Educators of America	Mock Trial	

***ORGANIZATIONS: WA PRIDE, Community Service Team, Peer Counseling, WATA, Student Council, NHS, Yearbook are listed on webpage as well. WA website: http://wa.westfordk12.us/pages/WestfordWA_Activities/index

Westford Academy Ghostwriter

Check out the Westford Academy Ghostwriter (school newspaper) for all sorts of information regarding WA. We will be featuring all the new staff members, fall sports, and advice for the freshmen in the first couple weeks. Visit us at www.waghostwriter.com

Historical Silent Film Honors Westford Veterans

The Westford Academy History Department in conjunction with the Town of Westford Veteran Services is offering a World War I Silent Film with organ accompaniment by acclaimed organist Mr. Peter Krasinski. The event will feature the highest grossing silent film "The Big Parade" starring John Gilbert and Renee Adoree. The showing will take place on Sunday, November 12 at 2:00 PM in the Westford Academy Performing Arts Center. Ticket prices are \$10.00 for adults and \$7.00 for school age youth (5-18) and will be sold at the Westford Funfest on September 9th or by contacting Mr. Scully at Westford Academy (sscully@westfordk12.us). Veterans and children under 5 are free. There will be an intermission and drinks/snacks will be available for purchase. Proceeds will fund the 2018-2019 silent film student performance at Westford Academy.

Late Buses

The Late buses will begin running on Tuesday, September 12th. Late buses leave Westford Academy at 3:00 PM from the Flag Lobby entrance to the building. There are 4 late buses and any one of the bus drivers can help your child find their correct bus (late bus routes will also be posted in the Main Office).

Welcome back to school from WA's DECA Club!

DECA is Westford Academy's largest club with over 400 members. Why so much interest? DECA is a competitive business club, with activities simulating real-life business scenarios in a vast array of events from Accounting to Restaurant Management to Sports Marketing. There is something for each WA student in every grade. DECA provides its members an opportunity to experience career situations, problem-solve, think critically, and develop important, personal skills for immediate and post-WA success. "Build Your Legacy" with DECA.

Freshmen: Stop by our table in the gym at the Activity Fair. Say hi to our DECA Officers.

ALL WA Students: September - DECA information is dispersed to students/parents. October is "DECA Month" - membership signups and other activities begin. Earn your ticket to this year's International Career Development Conference in Atlanta, Georgia!!!"

Colegio Amor de Dios school in Salamanca - Exchange

Westford Academy will be welcoming a group of 15 students and 2 teachers from the Colegio Amor de Dios school in Salamanca, Spain from September 6 - September 19. This is the first half of our exchange program which will involve 15 WA students traveling to Salamanca, a city known for having the 3rd oldest university in the world, and living with their host student and attending their school for two weeks in April.

