

August 23, 2020

Greetings,

What a lovely weekend, it seems that there is a noticeable change in temperature and colors to initiate excitement for the Fall season and start of the school year.

We are excited to reconnect with our students and engage with them in a meaningful way. We are actively preparing for their return. Teacher task teams, the custodial team and Supervisors and Administrators are hard at work preparing our school to meet DESE and local Health Board COVID safety requirements and guidelines. We have been examining and reviewing academic instruction and assessment with a hybrid and remote focus, creating a professional development plan to support remote instruction and learning and planning student support and orientations for transition back to school in a setting much different from their last day of attendance. As you can see there is much going on as we best prepare for your return and a safe, fun and successful school year.

This also segues into another aspect of preparation for the school year; You. How we help prepare you and how you help prepare yourself. The start of the 2020 - 2021 school year will be different than any first day of school ANY OF US have experienced. WE are ALL in this TOGETHER.

To help prepare our students we are developing specific orientations for each class. These Class Orientations are currently being scheduled for the week of September 8 - 11; Further details will follow in next week's Principal's Message. Student attendance for their class orientation will be required and student's can expect to receive their academic schedule, cohort assignment, chromebook and a walking tour of the school to see the updates and changes for a safe return.

For students to help themselves prepare for a return to school we provide the following information regarding expectations we expect of you:

- **Safety Requirements**

At all times adhere to and follow the stated, posted and communicated COVID safety requirements:

- Wear a mask at all times upon entering on Stoneham High School property
 - Exemptions
 - Teacher initiated mask breaks
 - Eating lunch at lunch desk
 - Documented medical exemption
- Maintain Social Distance of 6 feet in all interactions and engagement with students and all SHS Faculty
- Hygiene
 - Handwashing and sanitizing frequently

- **Academic Expectations**

General, school wide student expectations and specific class expectations regarding engagement with remote learning will be clearly communicated in our Return to School Handbook which will be shared within the next week or so. However, I can share now that the start of school on Wednesday, September 16 represents that school is on and we are on, just as we are for ANY start of school.

Though we will be starting the school year in a hybrid platform of in-person and remote learning and could possibly even be determined to switch to a full remote platform, one thing is certain, and is absolutely different than your last experience with remote learning this past Spring, and that is that your academic work matters; work, projects, assessments and tasks asked and assigned to you matter. Completing work matters, Grades matter. Class attendance matters. Class participation and discussion matters. Talking and communicating with your teacher matters. Being a student, engaging in their learning matters.

In other news, I am sure that you have heard or read the recent MIAA announcement regarding athletics for the Fall season and overall school year. Please go [HERE](#) for an update from our Athletic Director, David Pignone.

As stated a few times above, we are still active in our preparation and will share further details in the next weekly Principal's Message. Next edition will include more details for Class Orientations and our Return to School Handbook.

Have a great week and as always please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Best,
Bryan Lombardi
Principal