



BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL
Office of the Headmaster
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Dear Brookline High School Students,

I welcome all of you to our 2018-19 school year at Brookline High School. This year, BHS celebrates its 175th anniversary. Our school has a long, rich history of academic excellence and continue to earn this reputation through your hard work, intellectual curiosity, and desire always to improve. Nearly two centuries into this educational endeavor, it is you, our Brookline High School students, whose growth and learning remain at the center of our school.

More concretely, I write to offer a few reminders about what we value at BHS, how we begin school, and the ways we will support you in this academic year.

Brookline Beliefs

Throughout my fourteen years as a teacher and administrator at BHS, we have shared important, explicit values with our students. As much as it is easy to pass over these or experience them as more adult noise, I challenge you to consider them and determine how to realize them in your important work at Brookline High School this year:

- **This is hard. You can do it. We will help you.** At BHS, we want and need to challenge you and for you to believe in yourself. We also must assist you in achieving success.
- **Freedom AND responsibility.** You will experience much freedom at Brookline High and must take responsibility for your actions and their effects on others and our community.
- **You are not done yet.** While this idea of in-process-ness is important for all us humans, it is particularly true of adolescents. We need embrace a growth mindset at BHS.
- **We create the culture we want.** Culture is shaped over time by human actors: you, me, everyone. Let's genuinely work together to make BHS the place we want and need it to be so that all students and staff feel safe and secure to learn, grow, and achieve.

Schedules

On Tuesday of last week, our Assistant Head of School, Mr. Mason, sent students and families their schedules for this year. This communication spurs a great deal of excitement for 2018-19 and some concern about having the appropriate academic program. I ask that you follow the process he outlined, completing a google form [here](#) should you have questions, concerns, or

needs you have with your schedule. Mr. Mason then will respond with whether attending our Arena Day on Thursday 8/30 makes sense given your needs. This is a clearer, more efficient process than emailing multiple staff members. Our counselors return soon and will take the lead on further schedule changes. Remember, school is more than a week and a half away.

As the deans for the Class of 2022, Lisa Redding and Brendan Kobus, wrote in their letter to ninth graders, we begin classes with a day devoted to those who are new to our school. We will have many staff members and students in front of school and throughout the building and campus to help you find where to go. We are a welcoming community and new students quickly become a part of BHS. We then welcome all students to school on Friday 9/7. I can hardly wait. Deans Redding and Kobus attached a copy of our schedule for these first two days of school. Opening days [9/6 -9/7 schedule](#).

Attendance Procedures

Before we begin school, it is important to understand our attendance procedures. As noted, we expect our students both to enjoy our freedoms and to assume responsibility for their academic performance, including good attendance. Please review our attendance procedures in the [BHS handbook](#). In short, the BHS attendance policy sets a limit on both total absences and unexcused absences. You may not have more than 21 total absences (even if they are excused) in full-year courses or 11 total absences in semester-long courses. Attendance is vital to learning. We are also rolling out a common tardy expectation this year, trying to ensure that you have as much time in class as possible as such learning time is sacred. Our belief is simple: no student should be in danger of losing credit for reasons of poor attendance.

Community

Beyond holding student growth and learning at our center, perhaps the most critical work I do as your principal is around cultivating a sense of community that fosters diversity and inclusion, safety and security. Good learners take risks and make mistakes. Each of us - students, teachers, staff, administrators - needs to understand that we have an essential responsibility to one another. I will elaborate more on these responsibilities during our opening assemblies; for now, please know I expect a great deal from each of you and will do whatever I can to support a healthy community within which intellectual discourse is robust and respectful.

I can hardly wait to see your awesome selves on September 6th and 7th. We are working hard to ready our school for you, our most important occupants.

Go, Warriors,



Anthony Meyer
Head of School