



## BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL

Office of the Headmaster

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Dear Public Schools of Brookline Eighth Grade Families,

As second semester begins at Brookline High, we welcome you to our school community. Our 9th grade team of teachers, support staff, and administrators is excited about your joining the high school next year. I write to share details about plans for this transition, particularly our use of Old Lincoln School (OLS) as an extension of the BHS campus for 9th grade students.

### **Brookline High School Renovation and Expansion**

Over the last three years, the BHS team has worked hard with district and town leaders, as well as Brookline citizens, to envision and plan a substantial renovation and expansion to our high school campus. Voters overwhelmingly supported a \$205.6 million dollar construction project that begins this June. Although we are thrilled about the future Brookline High School campus, we also acknowledge that there will be change, sacrifice, and a need for collective flexibility.

The school continues to work closely with architects from William Rawn Associates, as well as builders from Skanska, in developing the complete plan and phasing for the major construction that will happen around the Brookline High School campus. Beginning this June and continuing through the summer of 2021, many things will look and operate differently around the campus. Our goal is to maintain the same high expectations for what happens within the walls of the school and in our classrooms, even if students may have to find new paths from class to class, and even though drop off and pick up will take different forms on the streets around the school. As always, we will communicate changes to both students and families. Today we launched our new [BHS Expansion Project](#) section of the high school website that includes project updates, timeline, and FAQs about the construction and 8th grade transition into 9th grade.

Through the changes we remain focused on excellent learning and teaching at Brookline High. We will be seeing you soon in several different community events over the next two months that should answer questions and concerns and help you and your student explore the opportunities and excitement that is part of the BHS experience.

### **Cohorted Travel**

To best support ninth graders for the next two years of construction, we will use a cohorted travel approach within which students will spend time at the Old Lincoln School and at 115 Greenough. The cohorted travel model aligns with our school vision of what a Brookline High School education should be as outlined in the [Education Plan](#) we wrote to begin renovation and

expansion planning. The core of BHS is the academic, cultural, and social experiences students have while on campus. Using both locations allows us to make sure 9th grade students will continue to be exposed to the depth and breadth of our academic, elective, and support programs, and that the classes of 2023 and 2024 will immediately become full members of our community.

On our Expansion Project website, we have included an [Old Lincoln School FAQ](#) to help provide you with more details about how cohorted travel will work.

### **8th to 9th Grade Transition**

We have begun the annual process of orienting and informing current eighth grade students and families about the rich educational opportunities we offer at Brookline High School.

Given that we will use Old Lincoln School (OLS) for 9th graders during the next two years of construction, we anticipate more questions than usual about the transition to ninth grade. Over the next two months, we will hold seven separate events for families. Our goal is to help you and your student learn more about the high school curriculum, 9th grade program, use of Old Lincoln School, and, more generally, how to make the most out of the BHS experience.

- **Curriculum Night -- February 11, 7:00 p.m.** For parents, guardians, and caregivers to hear from Curriculum Coordinators about our academic program for ninth graders in each subject area. The evening starts at 7:00 p.m. with a 6:00 session for parents and guardians interested in learning about Special Education programs and supports.
- **Electives Night -- February 27, 6:00 p.m.** For parents, guardians, caregivers, and students to see our incredible elective spaces and learn about the remarkable work teachers and students do in these important domains.
- **Life at Brookline High School -- March 5, 7:00 p.m.** For families to hear from current ninth graders about their experiences transitioning to and taking advantage of all that Brookline High has to offer. Parents and guardians are welcome to attend, though this event is about helping eighth grade students hear from current ninth grade Warriors.
- **Athletics at Brookline High School -- March 11, 7:00 p.m.** Athletics at BHS. For parents, guardians, and students to hear about our many interscholastic sports offerings.
- **OLS Update and Q&A with 7th and 8th Grade Families, 6:00 p.m.** - March 19 at Pierce School.
- **OLS Update and Q&A with 7th and 8th Grade Families, 6:30 p.m.** - March 20 at Coolidge Corner School .
- **OLS Update and Q&A with 7th and 8th Grade Families, 7:00 p.m.** - March 21 at Baker School

### **9th Grade Student Support and Administrative Structure**

Throughout our planning, we have focused on ensuring we continue to provide a robust administrative and student support structure for 9th graders. Beginning next school year, Lisa Gilbert-Smith will serve as Dean of Students for Ninth Grade and will be located at the Old Lincoln School. Alexia Thomas and Brendan Kobus will serve as Associate Deans for Ninth Grade. They will be joined by a team of counselors and clinicians focused on ninth grade. At Brookline High School, our student support personnel work collaboratively with one another and with students, educators, and families. While we are making some shifts to adapt to the

construction project, I am certain that our monitoring and support of students will remain responsive, caring, and thoughtful.

I look forward to seeing you at our Curriculum Night on Monday February 11th. On this evening, the first of our seven transition events, we focus on learning and teaching. Curriculum Coordinators describe our ninth grade courses, articulate each department's pedagogy, and answer questions about Brookline High School offerings and opportunities.

We are so happy to welcome the Class of 2023 to Brookline High School. The next four years will be challenging and rewarding. While the shape of the campus will continue to change over this time, we will not waver in our commitment to making the Class of 2023's experience rich, and full of possibilities and wonder. We can't wait to meet you and your students in the coming months.

Sincerely,



Anthony Meyer  
Head of School



Hal Mason  
Assistant Headmaster



Lisa Gilbert-Smith  
Dean of Students