



BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL
115 Greenough Street
Brookline, Massachusetts 02445

August 27, 2018

Dear Members of the Class of 2022,

As the deans for your class, we join our Head of School, Mr. Anthony Meyer, in welcoming you to Brookline High School! We also want to tell you a little about what to expect, both on the first day of school and at the high school, in general.

On Thursday, September 6 at 8:00 am, you will arrive to a Cypress Field full of faculty advisors, student mentors, and many others, all gathered to greet and lead you to your first assembly at BHS. From there, you will spend time in your advisories, learning about one another and the high school. You will also follow your schedule so that you can meet your classmates and teachers and begin learning and working together. In keeping with a long-time BHS tradition, our PTO will join with the Brookline Rotary Club to host a barbeque lunch for our 9th graders and transfer students in our beautiful quadrangle (The Quad).

You should also know that the two of us are part of a larger group of student support personnel called your Dean's Team. You have been assigned both a guidance counselor and a dean on our team, which also serves this year's eleventh graders. We are located across from the library in room 285. Our guidance counselors are Ms. Bent, Mr. Gorman, Mr. Jones, Ms. Young, Ms. Neff-Verre, and Mr. Libenzon. The person you will first meet in our suite is likely Ms. Fagan, our wonderful secretary. Our team's role, most broadly, is to help monitor and support your academic and socio-emotional growth. We will work hard over the next four years to help you work hard and gain as much as you can from your time at BHS.

We know that you probably have a lot of questions about BHS. We are confident that most of your questions will be answered by your teachers, Junior Mentors, deans, and guidance counselors within your first two days of school. However, we've included some answers to frequently asked questions on the back of this letter. You may also want to browse our website - <http://bhs.brookline.k12.ma.us>

Brookline High School has an incredible faculty and staff and a welcoming, intelligent, and caring student body. We welcome you and your parent(s)/ guardian(s) to our BHS community!

See you in less than two weeks,

Lisa Redding
Dean of Students

Brendan Kobus
Associate Dean of Students

FAQs about BHS

Q: Are cell phones allowed at BHS?

A: Our personal electronic devices (PEDs) policy allows students to carry their phones during the school day. However, it calls for **no talking on phones anywhere in the building**, including the Quad. In addition, **in classrooms, using cell phones is strictly prohibited** unless you have explicit permission from the teacher. Students can use their devices between classes to text and surf, however, this freedom requires awareness of and responsibility toward others. Your classroom teachers will have their own cell phone policies for their classes. Make sure you know what they are!

Q: Are headphones allowed at BHS?

A: Wearing headphones or earbuds, either in the ears or anywhere *above* the neck, is **not** permitted in school from 8:15 am until the end of the school day. Headphones may be visible and worn on or below a student's neck. At no time is music allowed to be playing from headphones or speakers in the hallways. The *only* exception to the headphone rule is if you are working quietly in the library or if you are in a classroom **and** have explicit permission from your teacher to wear headphones on your ears.

Q: Is my lunch pin number the same as it was in elementary school?

A: Yes! Make sure you know your lunch pin number for Friday, September 7.

Q: Is the Parent Portal login and password the same?

A: Yes.

Q: Is it true that poor attendance can cause me to not earn credit for a class?

A: **Yes! The BHS attendance policy sets a limit on both *total* absences and unexcused absences.** A student 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. Based on information we have gathered from previous students, 71% of 9th graders who missed 13 or more classes earned a D+ or lower in a core academic class at the end of the year. Our goal is that no student be in danger of losing credit for reasons of poor attendance. We rely on parents and guardians to partner with us to keep our records accurate and monitor their students' attendance via the Parent Portal.

Q: What should I do if I need to miss school for an appointment or illness?

A: Have your parent/guardian call or email Ms. Fagan at 617-713-5035 or Sharon.Fagan@psbma.org to let us know when you will be out and why.

Q: Do grades in 9th grade matter?

A: Yes! Academic performance in 9th grade often predicts how well a student will perform in later grades. For example, students who fail a core academic class in 9th grade are at an increased risk for eventually dropping out of high school. Given how critically important 9th grade is for students, teams of educators at BHS will be closely monitoring the attendance and class performance of all 9th graders.