



WATCHUNG HILLS  
REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Elizabeth C. Jewett  
Superintendent

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Principal

March 30, 2017

Dear Parents,

It finally feels like spring, and our campus is showing signs of renewal and excitement. Athletic competitions began yesterday, and our spring musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, opens this evening and runs through Saturday night. And as your children have reminded you, we are only a week away from spring break and the end of the third marking period. Before the recess begins, however, I would like to share a few updates about life at school.

Yesterday, we completed the English language arts PARCC tests for sophomores and juniors. With the help of our teachers and students, we were able to raise the participation rate significantly over the last two years. We are confident, given the freshman class is required to take all PARCC exams in order to qualify for graduation, that when we complete the math tests and the freshman ELA in mid-May, we will reach the state-required 95% participation rate. More importantly, students took the tests much more seriously than we have witnessed in the past. We are pleased with the changes we made to our test procedures and anticipate a smooth conclusion to annual testing in May. Thank you for your support in making sure your children were in school and on time.

We also are focused on the master scheduling process for next year, and we remain committed to finding the most suitable placements for our students, whether that is in the form of a course level, an elective, or a pathway toward an academic concentration. Over the last six weeks, students have received recommendations from their teachers and have made course selections. They can make changes to their elective requests until April 21, and they can request a change in course level between April 17 and May 15. Students requesting a level change, however, should consult their teachers and counselors to discuss their academic performance since February. As you know, we discontinued the September performance-based period last year, and we were very pleased with the improved continuity of instruction for students and teachers in the fall. Mrs. Angelastro's letter in April will contain a number of reminders and a timeline for scheduling.

Looking ahead, we have our junior semi-formal, eighth-grade orientation, two honor society induction ceremonies, and a jazz concert, all during the last two weeks of April.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. Have a restful spring break with your families.

Very truly yours,

George P. Alexis  
Principal