



WATCHUNG HILLS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

With spring clearly in view, we would like to share good news about our students' accomplishments and provide important information about the upcoming PARCC administration and course scheduling. In addition to having a senior student recognized as one of the top 300 young scientists in the country this winter, we recently learned that each of our ten National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists advanced to Finalist standing. This is the highest number of Finalists we have enjoyed at Watchung Hills. And we were quite pleased that six students were selected as candidates for the United States Presidential Scholars Program, a prestigious federal program that recognizes up to 161 of our nation's most distinguished graduating seniors for academic, leadership, service, and artistic accomplishments.

As we informed you in January, we have made strategic changes to the scheduling of PARCC this year, and all students present in school will be expected to take the tests. We have specifically avoided any conflicts with AP exams and will test all juniors and sophomores in English language arts on March 28 and 29. Freshman ELA and all math tests will not take place until mid-May. Our intention is to minimize the disruption to teaching and learning and obtain specific, constructive feedback about our instructional programs. The PARCC tests yield significantly better feedback about student performance than the previous state-required exam, but in order for it to be an accurate assessment of our strengths, our students must take the tests seriously. Our teachers are delivering this message at school, and we appreciate your reinforcing it at home. Additionally, as our school's reputation continues to ascend, strong PARCC results only further affirm the quality of our students, faculty, and programs, and serve to broaden our students' post-secondary opportunities.

As you also know, the year is moving quickly, and our counselors are currently meeting with juniors to review course selection and level recommendations for next year. They will begin the process with sophomores next week before moving to the freshman class. Finding the most suitable academic placements for each student remains our priority, and we remind you to give serious consideration to our teachers' recommendations. As indicated in Mrs. Angelastro's recent letter, level changes will be made between **April 17 and May 15 only**. If you have questions, please consult your child's guidance counselor.

We look forward to seeing you on campus for this year's musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, and we wish our hockey team the best of luck this evening as they compete in the semifinal round of the state championship tournament. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Very truly yours,

George P. Alexis
Principal