



WATCHUNG HILLS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Elizabeth C. Jewett
Superintendent

Timothy M. Stys, CPA
Business Administrator

George P. Alexis
Principal

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Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe that the spring semester is less than a week away. While seniors await college admissions decisions, our underclass students are beginning to think seriously about course selection for next year. Additionally, we are laying the foundation for scheduling and PARCC testing this spring.

We continue to emphasize the importance of finding the most suitable academic placements for our students. We want them to make informed decisions, and though multiple indicators are considered, our teachers are our students' best resource in this process. They have the expertise and personal experience with their students during the first half of the year. So we encourage students to speak with their teachers about their interests and the challenges they have encountered. We also suggest that you talk with your child and consult with your child's guidance counselor, if you have questions. Please look for a letter from Mrs. Angelastro, our director of guidance, about the scheduling process in February.

Also in clear view is the PARCC test administration this spring. We are fortunate that we have the technology resources and the facilities to keep classes running and our regular school schedule intact. The tests are well aligned with the Common Core Standards and provide students with standardized-test practice and important feedback about their performance. And as a school, we receive assessment data that helps us improve teaching and learning. To reap these benefits, however, we need all freshmen, sophomores, and juniors to take this standardized test seriously. Their strong performance will only further affirm the quality of our school.

To maximize participation and better prepare students for this assessment, we have made strategic adjustments to our PARCC schedule that will integrate the tests smoothly into our school day and calendar. The juniors and sophomores will take their English language arts tests on two days during the last week of March, well in advance of the AP exams in early May. Math tests will not be administered until mid-May, which will provide our students with two additional months of teaching. Our freshmen likewise will enjoy two more months of close reading and critical thinking before taking their English language arts tests in May. Please also understand that all students present in school will be expected to take the appropriate state tests. We thank you in advance for helping our students learn from this opportunity to contribute to an important school effort. Your support will make a difference.

We look forward to the college admissions news and to a smooth scheduling process and test administration. We are confident that with our help, our students will learn from their experiences.

Very truly yours,

George P. Alexis
Principal