



**HIGHLAND PARK
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HIGH SCHOOL**

102 N 5th Ave, Highland Park, NJ 08904

**PRINCIPAL MICHAEL LASSITER
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JASON RICHARDSON**

mlassiter@hpschools.net, jrichardson@hpschools.net

(732) 572-2400, EXT 3001 OR 3002

www.hs.hpschools.net

August 15, 2019

Dear Students, Parents, & Guardians:

Summer will be coming to an end in a few weeks, and I hope that you have enjoyed time with family and friends. I look forward to our students and teachers returning during the first week of September and filling our classrooms and hallways with renewed energy and focus. Remember that our mission is that each of our students will be instilled with Openness, Wisdom, Leadership, and Spirit. In order to fulfill this mission best, you may begin to review the code of conduct on-line by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/HPCode-of-Conduct>. We have made a concerted effort to include restorative practices in how we address each student. Every educator at Highland Park High School is committed to providing a safe environment for our students. The student support team including me, our high school assistant principal, a dean of restorative practices, three full-time school counselors, a youth safety specialist, and the Teen Center will work together with our entire staff to support our school community. One significant change in our expectations for students will be a more concerted effort to limit cell phone and electronic device usage during the school day. In light of our forthcoming one to one student Chrome book initiative and the constant distractions cell phones can create, **we will be requiring that students keep their cell phones off and away during the school day except during their lunch period.** If needed, parents and guardians will be asked to pick up devices that are confiscated when students are unable to comply with this expectation. Please discuss this prior to the school year in order to prevent situations from arising.

As our students prepare for the start of school, if they have not done so, please review the required Summer Reading Assignment for 2019-20 and other assignments for specific honors and AP classes. ***You can find the complete assignment files on the high school website <http://hs.hpschools.net/> under the "Summer Assignments 2019" and "Summer 2019 Reading Information" links.*** Click on these links to download what you need.

The first days of school are Thursday, September 5, 2019 and Friday, September 6, 2019. All students are to report to school no later than 7:48 AM on these days. On our first day of school, students will go straight to an extended homeroom, and then will attend special workshops devoted to our summer reading and community building. The day will end with early dismissal at 12:22pm. During homeroom on September 5th and 6th, students will receive lockers, updated schedules, and other relevant information. On September 6th, students will attend a full day of their scheduled classes. ***Beginning on September 9, 2019, students will no longer report to homeroom in the morning unless needed.*** Our schedule will maintain an "Academic period" in the morning starting at 7:48am for those students taking additional electives or who have study hall during this period. If a student is assigned a study hall during period "A", their attendance is expected. An extended breakfast is also available after our first bell and until the start of second block. Students who do not have a class scheduled during this period "A" ***must be in the second class of the day by 8:41am.*** A Rotating Calendar and Bell Schedule are included in this packet and provide a more detailed explanation.

On Monday, August 19, 2019, student schedules will be available at the parent-portal of Genesis - <https://parents.genesisedu.com/hpschools/parents>. Please use the username and password assigned to you for Genesis. If you need help viewing this schedule, please contact the main office for log-in information. Instructions on how to use the parent portal are located here: [Parent Portal Instructions](#). Our guidance counselors have made themselves available throughout the summer to address concerns and they will be available to meet with students regarding remaining schedule concerns in the ***High School Guidance Office from 1:00pm – 3:00pm on August 27th – 29th on a first come basis. Additionally, you will need to complete the required 2019-20 forms found on the parent portal prior to being able to access student schedules.*** We appreciate your cooperation with this process as these forms assist us in fulfilling state mandates. If you need any help with the forms, please contact our main office. Lastly, our ***Back to School Night is Thursday, September 26, 2019 from 5pm – 9pm.*** We will be hosting our Back to School night differently than in the past and will be distributing student Chrome books that evening, hosting a few workshops, and using an open house schedule to allow time to enjoy a meal as a community and meet our faculty as well.

I look forward to a wonderful school year! Please enjoy the remainder of your summer.