

STRATFORD HIGH SCHOOL CORE VALUES

Students will acquire knowledge, strengthen higher-order thinking, and develop character in order to address 21st century challenges.

August, 2016

Greetings to all Stratford High School Parents and Students:

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! The staff and I look forward to another exciting year as we work with your children to help them prepare for the amazing opportunities that lie ahead. We are hard at work making school wide changes that will only help create an environment where all students can succeed. We are anxiously awaiting the return of our students and the sense of excitement is already filling the halls. Please help us make the 2016-2017 school year the best ever.

Specific information regarding your son/daughter's schedule will be finalized and available on the Parent Portal in mid-August. All schedules will be reviewed and distributed to students on the first day of school by their homeroom teacher. Homeroom teachers will also have schedule change request forms available if there are any possible conflicts with a schedule. Once completed by the student these forms can be returned to their homeroom teacher or dropped off in the counseling office before period 1, during a study hall (with a teacher pass) or after school. Schedule change request forms will only be accepted from Thursday, 9/1 through Friday, 9/9.

All students will again receive a handbook in homeroom. In addition to each class meeting with their administrator to discuss this handbook, it is very important that you review these documents with your child and discuss the specific policies and procedures of our school. Doing so will provide you with a detailed understanding of school expectations. The handbook also contains an overview of the Stratford High School 21st Century Learning Expectations (7C's). The handbook is also available on the SHS website <http://stratfordhigh.stratfordk12.org>.

Success can be explained and defined in many ways. However, students who work hard, get involved and stay involved will have a more successful high school experience. Graduation will be here before you know it so please take advantage of your remaining time here at SHS. I can assure you that your experience now will help define you as an individual and provide lifelong benefits. SHS offers a wide range of athletic, co-curricular activities and community activities so all students can benefit from them. We strongly urge all students to participate.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Regular high school hours are 7:40-2:10 p.m. All students are required to report directly to homeroom. A personal schedule of classes will be given to each student during the scheduled homeroom period on Thursday, September 1, 2016. **The first day of school will be a full day.**

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of high school is to prepare students to succeed at work and in college. To graduate from Stratford High School students will need to satisfactorily complete all course requirements in effect at the time of graduation. Currently, completion of 21 credits is required including specific State and district course requirements. In addition, **the State of Connecticut requires that all students who graduate from public schools in the state must demonstrate proficiency in core skills by scoring “proficient” or above on the CAPT test in Science and all students in their junior class are now also required to take the PSAT at SHS.** (The Connecticut State Education Department may expand these testing requirements during your high school years to include additional tests.) The CAPT science test is taken sophomore year. Graduation requirements are further explained in the “Program of Studies” booklet received when courses were selected last year.

SCHOOL COUNSELING

Each student has been assigned a school counselor. Students will be introduced to their counselor during the first week of school. Students are urged to promptly bring any problem to the attention of their school counselor. Students are invited to confer with counselors after school or during study periods. Parents may schedule appointments with guidance personnel via email or by calling the guidance department at 385-4235 during the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

TRANSPORTATION

Students who live **two or more miles** from the high school are entitled to free bus transportation. Bus routes by address will be published in the Stratford Star the week before school starts. Parents who have any questions regarding bus transportation should call the Stratford High School office at 203-385-4230 after Monday, August 29, 2016.

CAFETERIA

Each student is scheduled for a cafeteria lunch shift during their period 5 class. Cafeteria schedules and procedures will be explained in homeroom on September 1, 2016. The cafeteria serves a complete hot lunch at \$2.90. Individual items such as salad, sandwiches, milk, and ice cream may be purchased to supplement a lunch brought from home. The cafeteria will begin serving lunches on Thursday, September 1, 2016.

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Lunch is served daily with the exception of previously scheduled early dismissal days that are listed on the 2015-2016 school calendar, just like middle school. Breakfast is available in our cafeteria from 7:15 A.M. – 7:35 A.M. daily.

Additional information regarding the school lunch program and free and reduced lunch criteria will be sent home the first week of school with students.

SCHOOL INSURANCE

Students are urged to purchase school insurance. This insurance is offered at very reasonable rates and covers all school-connected injuries (with the exception of those caused by varsity or junior varsity interscholastic athletics). A special policy, paid by the Board of Education, covers injuries in our interscholastic athletics program. **This policy covers excess cost beyond family insurance coverage.**

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is essential for an effective school experience and is necessary for annual promotion, as course credit will only be awarded if the minimum attendance is fulfilled for each course. In June, 1985, the Board of Education adopted an Attendance Policy which spells out the requirements regarding minimal attendance. Students who exceed the absence limitation will not receive credit for courses. It should also be noted that early dismissal from school and tardiness does count as missed class time which may affect the granting of credits. **If you are absent from school for any reason it is necessary that your parent or guardian call to inform the school. Parents may call the school attendance line at 203-385-4234 or may write a note which you should bring to the attendance office when you return to school. The call or note should state your name, grade, date(s) of absence, and the reason for the absence.** Be aware that excused absences still count toward the maximum number of absences permitted to receive credit in high school courses.

TARDY TO SCHOOL

Students will be considered tardy if they arrive after 7:40 A.M. Students who are tardy must sign in at the attendance office. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.

HOMEWORK, MAKE-UP, EXTRA HELP

Homework guidelines, adopted by the Stratford Board of Education, require homework to be assigned daily for up to two hours. Although most students have some study time during the regular school day, that time will be enough to prepare for one or two subjects at the most. More than two hours may be required for studying outside of school depending upon a student's ability, study habits, power of concentration, and difficulty of the program.

Work lost through an excused absence must be made up within a reasonable time if credit is to be obtained. Students will be informed by their teachers when and where a weekly scheduled make-up period is to be held. Students who need extra help may make special appointments with their teachers who will be willing to give assistance in explaining work which is not understood.

SUMMER MATH and READING ASSIGNMENTS

Summer Math Packet and Summer Reading Assignments are due the first day of school. These will be graded assignments that will influence your first marking period grades. If you have misplaced these assignments, copies are available at the Stratford Public Library, on-line at www.Stratfordk12.org.

BEHAVIOR

Effective learning cannot take place unless there is a good educational atmosphere within the school; therefore, proper behavior is expected of everyone at all times. If a student's behavior becomes self-defeating or threatens the learning of others, supportive action will be instituted. Every effort by teachers and administrators will be made to enable the student to correct poor behavior with assistance and support from the home.

In instances where a student's behavior has seriously disrupted the educational process or where such behavior is in disregard of established school policy and regulations, the student will be either temporarily or, if the problem persists, permanently removed from Stratford High School.

PHONE BLAST

Look for weekly calendar and activity updates sent via our attendance reporting system. If you miss the call, you may view the calendar update on our website.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION

This phone based alert service enables the Stratford Public Schools to call two phone numbers to notify students' families concerning important information. If you are interested in receiving emergency notification via phone you must register. Specific registration information will be forthcoming.

ENTRANCE AND EXIT PROCEDURES

Parents driving students to school are encouraged to use the drop off area at the rear of the building. Students picked-up by parents will also exit from the rear doors of the building. Students transported by buses will be dropped off at the side of the building. This procedure will be established the first week of school. Please check with your son/daughter regarding their drop-off place for your future reference.

EARLY DISMISSAL PROCEDURE

We understand that it is sometimes necessary for a student to leave school before the end of a school day. If you must have your child leave early for an appointment that cannot be scheduled after school hours, please send in a note **with the reason for request for early dismissal, time of dismissal, your child's full name and grade, your name and a number at which you can**

be reached for confirmation. Please ask your child to bring the note to the office between periods 1 and 2. Once verified, your child will receive a pass to exit the building. Calling the school to release your child early should be reserved for **emergencies** only. **The use of cell phones is prohibited during the school day.** Parents should not call or text their children on their cell phones between the hours of 7:40 a.m. and 2:10 p.m.

Also, please call school to leave a message for your child only in an emergency. Stratford High School serves over 1000 students. **It is not possible, nor in the best interest of education, to disrupt learning in order to give students personal messages.**

STUDENT INFORMATION

If you have changed your telephone number during the summer, please send the new listing to school. The same procedure should be followed if changes occur during the year. Student information forms will be sent home the first week of school. Please complete and return to the attendance office. If you have any questions, please contact the office and discuss your questions with us. Again, your cooperation is most important in this matter.

VISITORS

You are welcome to visit and volunteer your time in our school at any time. You are requested however, to first notify your son's/ daughter's teacher(s) of your available date and time. This will provide the teacher an opportunity to prepare the class for a "visitor" as well as discuss optimum times based upon daily schedules. All exterior doors are locked after 7:50 A.M. Our front doors are always accessible via a buzzer system. All visitors are asked to enter through the double doors located at the front of the building. This entrance provides easy access to the main office. Visitors are required to report to the office for a visitor's badge and sign-in and sign-out. This safety procedure continues to ensure a safe environment for all students at Stratford High School. If there are any questions, please feel free to call the school office at 203-385-4230.

IMPORTANT SCHOOL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Main Office	203-385-4230
Attendance Office (absence line 24 hours)	203-385-4234
Nurse's Office	203-385-4233
Guidance Office	203-385-4235
Athletic Office	203-385-4240

PTSA

Kimberly Rosenbaum and Sissy Kouvas are PTSA Co-Presidents! Joined by Kathy Bacon VP, Theresa Jacksis Bonazzo, Secretary, and Kris Hart Rooney as Treasurer.

The PTA gives out six \$200 scholarships to graduating seniors, contributes to Link Crew, Post Prom, Drama Society, Teacher Appreciation, SHS Spirit Apparel and communicates all info to members related to SHS events. PTSA Membership is still only \$7.00 per person. To be eligible

for a PTA senior scholarship, a student or parent must be a member. Look for the insert in this newsletter to join. The PTSA sells SHS spirit apparel; order forms available in the office or on the website. Look for our table at Open House! We will have a Holiday Gift Card Fundraiser in early November and a Craft Fair & Tag Sale in early spring. Watch for info!

STANDARDS OF DRESS

A great variety of dress and grooming are part of the high school scene today; however, at Stratford High School the students must avoid extremes in fashion and dress in good taste.

Parents generally insist that their children be well groomed, and we support them in this regard. Adequate preparation and training in the area of proper dress, public habits and manners are all part of good appearance vital to our young people during and after their formal education.

The Stratford Board of Education has a dress code policy. A copy of this policy can be found on the Stratford Board of Education's website. This policy will be enforced throughout the year.

Respectfully,

Jack Dellapiano
Principal
Stratford High School