

August 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

I hope you are enjoying the summer and have even found opportunities on rainy days for enjoyment and new adventures as well! Here at the high school, it seems like only a short time has passed since we were intently watching the weather and hoping Mother Nature would cooperate with us so that we could have our graduation ceremony outside! Luckily, we were able to be outside to honor our graduates and celebrate their accomplishments. Mr. Farley and I wish our Class of 2017 all the best and we look forward to seeing all of their accomplishments in the future.

During the summer days we have made great use of our time and are excited to begin a fresh, fun, and successful new school year in just a few short weeks. We are looking forward to welcoming our new class of seniors, juniors, sophomores and our new freshmen (Class of 2021).

As you prepare for the new school year, I want to send along information about new changes, updates and reminders:

Staffing:

This school year, we will be having a few changes in staffing. We are excited to be welcoming Mrs. Muth back to our Science Department from her leave. With her return, Mr. Farley will be returning to his assistant principal role in the main office. It is nice to have the team back together! We are also excited to welcome Cara Manfredi to the high school as the newest member of our math department. She is enthusiastic, has great energy, and we are thrilled to have her at Ichabod Crane High School. Students will also see a new face in the Nurse's Office. Mrs. Faso retired at the end of the year and although she will be missed, we are happy for her new adventures and wish her well. We are thrilled to welcome Michelle Warner as our new school nurse. Mrs. Warner is a familiar face for many and is eager to begin her position with us! We are also pleased to welcome Ms. Angelique Hebert who is coming to us from the middle school as a teaching assistant. Ms. Dick will be returning to the middle school this year; we wish her all the best and will miss her!

At the end of June, we said goodbye to Superintendent Zini and wish him well in retirement. He will be missed. We also welcomed our new Superintendent, Mr. Vanyo. He has already begun working closely with administration and he is quickly learning about our great school district. I have found Mr. Vanyo to be student-centered, energetic, positive, and excited to be a part of Ichabod Crane. We are eager to work with him to help continue to drive our district in a positive direction.

New Course for Ninth Grade Students:

This school year we are excited to begin a new program requirement at the high school for all incoming freshmen. All ninth grade students will be enrolled in a new course titled "Freshman Computers." This credit-bearing course will be a semester long, half-block (one period) course that covers fundamental computer skills needed by students for success in high school, college, the workplace and beyond. In this course, students will review and learn important computer skills such as: proper keyboarding technique, word processing, spreadsheet development, presentation creation and an introduction to computer science concepts.

Social Service Dog:

At the beginning of the school year, we are looking forward to welcoming a puppy to the school who will be working as a social service dog for our students and staff. The puppy is an Australian Labradoodle and was born on July 10th. As of now, the plan is for the puppy to be making its debut in the high school on Monday, September 11th. This breed of dog is known for its intelligent, affectionate, and soulful personality as well as being non-shedding and allergy friendly.

The puppy will be working in the same capacity as the social service dogs at the Primary and Elementary/Middle Schools. The goal is to share this program with the entire student body. The students will be able to interact with the dog in many ways; for example, as a reading partner, a tool for stress relief, in various classroom activities, and for therapeutic purposes. We are very excited about this program, and feel confident that the companionship of a well-trained dog will benefit many students and staff in our building.

Over the course of this school year, fundraising efforts will be made to raise money for the cost of the dog and for other expenses that may accrue. These expenses would be for the health and well-being of the dog and to ensure the success of the program. A Facebook page titled: "Ichabod Crane HS - Social Service Puppy" has been created for anyone interested in staying informed about the arrival of the puppy and fundraising efforts.

schooltool Parent Portal:

We encourage all parents/guardians to sign up for the schooltool Parent Portal which can be accessed online from computers and Internet capable devices. The portal is a web-based program which allows parents/guardians access to their child's schedule, attendance and grades. More information can be found on our website at: <http://ichabodcrane.org/district/parent-portal.php>

To sign up, please contact the main office and speak with either Mrs. Maticchiero (x4002) or Ms. Hill (x4003).

Start of the Year Information:

- **Freshman Welcome** - Enclosed please find a copy of a flier describing the Freshman/New Student Welcome to be held on **Thursday, August 31, from 12:30 – 3:00 p.m.** Our newest students will receive their schedules, visit each class briefly and get a chance to find their locker and learn their way around the building. We look forward to meeting all of our incoming freshman and new students.
- Opening day of school for our students is **Tuesday, September 5, 2017**

Start of the Year Information (continued):

- We will be holding our **High School Open House on Thursday, September 7th at 6:30 p.m.** The evening will begin with a brief welcoming program after which you will be able to tour the building and meet teachers. We hope that you all attend!!
- **Morning Drop-Off:** School buses will continue dropping students off at the high school beginning at 7:20 prior to driving over to the Elementary/Middle School for their morning drop-off.
 - As we did last year, we will use the cones to create one lane of traffic for student drop-off in the mornings and pick-up/drop-off in the afternoon. When dropping off, please pull your car up near the gym entrance doors in order to allow 4 to 5 vehicles to form a line at the curb for drop-off. Please do not drive between the cones.

Additional Information:

CODE OF CONDUCT:

Please review and be familiar with our district and building code of conduct. The code of conduct can be found on the high school website. For paper copies, please contact the main office.

STUDENTS SIGNING OUT / CLOSED CAMPUS:

Ichabod Crane High School is a closed campus. Accordingly, students may not be excused on a regular basis during lunch and study hall periods. We will not honor notes that allow students to leave for lunch. If a parent/guardian wishes to sign his/her child out for lunch they may do so in person at the greeter station.

In order to leave school grounds for appointments, students must present an original note signed and dated by a parent upon arrival at school.

Note: In the case of an emergency please call the school and ask for an administrator.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE:

Regular attendance in class is necessary for academic success. According to policy, students who miss more than 24 class days in a full year class, or 12 days in a semester class may lose credit.

Our attendance policy can be found on the district website. If you have any questions or need clarification, please contact the main office.

COURSE CREDIT:

In order to graduate, all students are required to complete 22 units of credit during their high school career. In order to progress to the next grade level, students must earn a minimum number of credits.

- Students must earn a minimum of 5 credits in order to progress to Grade 10
- Students must earn a minimum of 10 credits in order to progress to Grade 11
- Students must earn a minimum of 15 credits in order to progress to Grade 12

All seniors are required to be enrolled in a minimum of five classes each semester.

BACKPACK/BAGS:

High school students are not permitted to carry backpacks/bags from class to class throughout the school day. Each student is assigned his/her own school locker and lock which can be accessed before and after school, between periods/blocks, and during class or study hall with a pass from a high school staff member.

If parents or students have any questions or if there are any accommodations that need to be made regarding backpack/bag use, please contact either Mr. Shull or Mr. Farley in the main office.

COMMUNICATION:

In order to maintain up-to-date communication with our parents, students, and community, the Ichabod Crane School District uses multiple forms of communication.

- Blackboard Connect phone system – Please contact the main office with updated phone numbers and email addresses.
- District website: <http://www.ichabodcrane.org/>
- District facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/IchabodCraneCentralSchoolDistrict>
- District Twitter page (@IchabodCraneCSD): <https://twitter.com/IchabodCraneCSD>

STUDENT PARKING:

Parking privileges are available only to juniors and seniors who have agreed to adhere to the stipulations of our student parking agreement, and who attend the district's mandatory driving seminar. The seminar is given a few times each year. ***It is highly recommended that ALL juniors and seniors attend a seminar in the fall, even if they do not have a permit or a driver's license at the time of the seminar.*** The dates and times of the seminars will be posted on the high school website and will also be provided during morning announcements. Students can pick up parking permit applications from the main office from September 5 – September 15. After the first parking seminar is held, parking permits will be required in order for students to park on school grounds.

As always, I am proud to be working in our school and greater community. Each year I welcome the challenges and excitement that come with working with our students, teachers and parents/guardians in order to continue to develop a high school program that promotes the success of all of our students. I am eager to begin the 2017-18 school year.

If you would like to meet with me in person, or speak to me on the phone, please feel free to contact the main office.

Sincerely,

Craig T. Shull
Principal

CTS:dmat