

WAYLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Wayland, Massachusetts



FRESHMAN PARENT HANDBOOK

2011-2012

(February 8, 2011 Draft)

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WAYLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Patrick A. Tutwiler, Principal
Bayard Klimamith, Interim Assistant Principal
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264 Old Connecticut Path
Wayland, MA 01778

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s) of 9th Graders:

Every year we work very hard to welcome our new students and parents to the high school. This handbook was developed several years ago to anticipate your questions and respond to them in a systematic fashion. It has become a living document, one which is revised each year.

In addition to this handbook, you and your child will be able to get information from the following sources:

- **Weekly e-news:** this is probably our most efficient method of communicating with you. You can subscribe by following the [link](#) on the WHS home page.
- **Student Handbook:** your child will receive a copy on the first day of school. It contains information about our clubs, rules, attendance, and school procedures including our new anti-bullying procedures. A [digital copy](#) is also available on the WHS home page.
- **Student email accounts:** each WHS student is assigned an email account. We use these accounts to communicate about academics and disciplinary issues.
- **Daily Announcements:** are read in homeroom each day and [posted](#) on the WHS website.
- **iParent:** gives you access to information about your child's attendance, schedule, quarter grades, and disciplinary record. In the next year or so, your child will receive an **iStudent** account that provides similar information. We use iParent during the course registration process, so please [sign up](#) for your account from the WHS home page if you do not already have an account.
- **WSPN:** Our award-winning student-run [news site](#) is an excellent source of school news.
- **Teacher/Course Web Pages:** each year our faculty puts more and more of their [course information](#) on-line including homework assignments and project information.

If you cannot find the information you need in this handbook or from sources listed above, please feel free to contact the main office (508-358-7746).

We look forward to working with you and your incoming 9th grader next year.

Sincerely,

Patrick A. Tutwiler
Principal

Bayard Klimasmith
Interim Assistant Principal



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March, 2011

Dear Freshmen Parent(s):

As the Dean of Students at Wayland High School, I am the member of the administrative team who serves as the contact person for freshmen and their parents. Although my most visible role is often that of disciplinarian, I also act as the liaison to the Student Council, club and class advisors, and class officers regarding events, fundraisers, and so on.

During the school year, I will spend a significant amount of time helping students to make appropriate choices and become increasingly responsible for their own futures. Although discipline is an important aspect of my work, I am also the individual who can assist students in sorting out problems and making healthy choices. By working closely with the students and their families I hope to make the coming year a positive and beneficial experience for all.

It is always helpful for me to meet parents, particularly those who have not yet had a student in the high school. I hope you will take the opportunity to call or stop by with questions, concerns, or simply to say hello. I am located in the main office and can be reached at (508) 358-3703.

PLEASE REMEMBER: Adjust your schedule to meet the starting and ending times of the high school. Students will be expected to be in class at 7:30. The morning traffic into the school is quite congested; plan for a 15 minutes time buffer. The school day ends at 2:15 (1:05 on Wednesday) and athletics will start at 3:00. Please refer to the enclosed bell schedule to see the structure of the rest of the day.

I look forward to the coming school year. Have a safe and relaxing close to your summer.

Sincerely,

Scott Parseghian
Dean of Students



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March, 2011

Dear Parent(s):

Welcome to the Class of 2015! We are looking forward to the next four years as your child's class advisors and to getting to know the class through all of our varied activities.

We encourage each member to get involved and share new ideas. Please look for updates and coming events in the WHSPO newsletter.

We hope you enjoy the rest of the summer and we look forward to seeing you and your children in September.

Sincerely,

Freshman Class Advisers

ACADEMICS

1. How much help do students get organizing themselves for success?

At Wayland High School, we provide our students with a greater degree of freedom than many of our peer institutions. We do this because we want to provide our young adults with opportunities to practice making responsible decisions, working cooperatively, and affording one another the respect and consideration that is essential to good communication and productive human relationships.

Although students are provided with a counselor and can always access their teachers for help, we also expect students to play an increasingly larger role in organizing themselves for success.

Each student is given a **year-long planner** at the beginning of the year. We encourage students to use this planner on a daily basis to record homework assignments and up-coming test dates.

The **Student Handbook** is published in the front of this planner. It includes a detailed description of all the rules, policies, and procedures that govern student life at WHS. Please take the time to review this book with your son/daughter early in the school year. (A copy of these rules is also available on-line at www.wayland.k12.ma.us)

iStudent (PENDING): Students will be able to use their iStudent account to review their own attendance data, disciplinary record, schedule, and quarter and final grades. We also use iStudent for course registration (10-12 graders ONLY; 9th graders use a paper form provided by the middle school).

2. "How do I get a copy of my student's schedule?"

You can use [iParent](#) to see your child's schedule. iParent is also useful for seeing attendance data, disciplinary records, and quarter and final grades.

3. "Could you please comment on getting extra help and teacher availability?"

Teachers are available during the school day as well as after school to assist those students in need of help. Because of the departmental nature of the high school, students can often receive help with a problem from other members of the department, not just the student's own assigned teacher. As one of our past 9th grade parents wrote: "Maturity and independence are also important when your child needs help with school work. They must seek it out because the teachers will not come looking for them. The students are told this over and over but it takes a little longer for some to realize this. If parents knew this they might emphasize it from their side."

Academics come first! Your student's academics obligations come before athletic practice, before drama rehearsal, before other co-curricular events. Most students find that they can arrange to have their academic needs met during the school day by effective use of their own free periods and the planning periods of teachers. When this is not possible, students are expected to have their questions answered after school even if that conflicts with athletics or other co-curricular event.

Academic Center: In recent years one of the most exciting changes is the addition of the

Academic Center in the library, next to folding door area. The Academic Center is staffed fulltime by Ms. Barbara Wolfson and a team of student volunteers. The primary function of the Academic Center is to provide another venue for students to seek extra help during their free time.

4. "When do Progress Reports come out?"

"Progress Reports," as you have come to know them, are not issued at the high school. We issue "Academic Warnings." This means that unless your student is experiencing academic difficulty you will not be apprised of his/her performance until the end of the first quarter. Report cards are issued within two weeks after grades close.

Academic Warnings - In the middle of each marking period students who are in academic trouble are notified by means of academic warnings. Every student receiving an "F" or "D" or who has shown a sharp reduction in grade in any subject may be notified of this condition. Students who begin to fail after this point may be notified up to and including the week before report cards are sent out. In other words, warnings may be sent out at any time that a student is showing signs of being in trouble academically. Warnings may also be sent to those students who are not working up to their capabilities.

If you have questions about your student's performance and would like an update, you should contact teachers directly – by calling the department office or emailing him/her. Email addresses can be found by navigating from the WHS home page (see "[Academics](#)").

5. "What are the academic policies relative to dropping & adding courses?"

We have fairly strict policies relative to the dropping and adding of courses. They appear in your Program of Studies and are as follows:

1. Students may not enter a quarter course after one week of the course has elapsed.
2. Students may not enter a semester course after 2 weeks of the course have elapsed.
3. Students may not enter a year course in a different subject after 4 weeks of the course have elapsed.
4. Students may not enter a different level of the same subject in which they are enrolled after the third week of the 3rd quarter has elapsed.
5. Students may not drop any course during the last 2 weeks of any quarter.
6. A "W" (for withdrawn) will appear on a student's report card if he/she drops class after 50% of it has elapsed.

6. "How are placement decisions made at the high school?"

Honors and advanced placement levels are provided for the students who demonstrate high achievement, achieve honor grades and display strong motivation in their subjects.

Criteria for enrollment in honors courses for students entering grade 9 are as follows:

- Students who in the first two terms of 8th grade earn an average of A- (or better); or
- *Students* who have earned lower than an A- average but who have the recommendation of the middle school principal and classroom teacher in the subject or discipline.

Refer to the Grade 9 Program of Studies for specific override procedures.

7. *Why can't my student bring home his or her tests?*

Some teachers at WHS have a policy of not allowing certain graded assessments (usually tests) to leave the school with students. The teachers who choose to handle their assessments in this manner are doing so for several reasons:

- 1) Test security for "tried and true" assessment items: the questions on some assessments have been carefully crafted and tested for validity and reliability over the course of many years.
- 2) Course and grade consistency: holding onto assessments allows teachers who teach different sections of the same course to provide their students with consistent levels of rigor and expectations as students in other classes with different teachers.
- 3) Longitudinal data. By using some of the same questions from year to year, teams of teachers can monitor the efficacy of teaching techniques.

In these classes, the assessments are always returned to the students. With teacher guidance, students are encouraged to identify their strengths and weaknesses. If the in-class time is insufficient for a thorough review of the assessment, students are encouraged to look at the assessment with their teacher at anytime during the year. Students are best served in their studying for future tests by using their notes, labs, handouts, textbook, book work, and quizzes rather than a close examination of one particular multiple choice question.

8. *"I understand that the high school has mid-term and final exams. How does this work?"*

All academic courses at the high school have mid-term and final exams. Parents should not make any plans that would require students to miss exams. Remember under no circumstances can exams be taken early. Keep in mind that any snow day extends the school year and the final exam schedule.

No classes will meet on exam days. The first exam block runs from 7:30-9:00, the second exam from 10:00-11:30. Students will be given an additional 30 minutes after the scheduled ending time of each exam block. Transportation is provided to and from school with buses leaving at 10:00 and 12:10. Exams are not given early; you should plan NO summer activities that start before the official last day of school.

One of the greatest surprises for 9th grade parents associated with the mid-term and final exam schedule is the fact that the school day ends for students at 12:00. The afternoons of each day should be devoted to studying for the next upcoming exam; this should be considered in your planning.

The mid-term grade and the final exam grade each count for 10% of the student's final grade at the end of the year. Quarter grades 1, 2, 3 and 4 each count for 20% of the student grade; the mid-term and the final exam grade, combined, count for the remaining 20%. Teachers may deviate from this formula if the student's performance changes dramatically in the second half of the school year.

9. *"How is honor roll determined at the high school?"*

Determination for honor roll is made according to the steps outlined in the program of studies and

the student handbook. These procedures are outlined here:

An honor roll list is published at the end of each marking period and includes those students who have earned an unweighted 3.0 grade point average on an A = 4.0 scale in all graded subjects. Students who receive an incomplete or less than a C in any subject may not qualify. A supplementary honor roll will be issued for those students who qualify after making up incomplete grades.

High Honors - Students who earn a 3.6 grade point average in all major graded courses and meet the requirements for the honor roll are named to the high honors list.

10. "When do underclass students sign up for courses for the following year?"

Teacher course recommendations and student course selection are made online through iTeacher, iParent, and iStudent. Teachers initiate the process by conferring with their students and then posting their course recommendations through iTeacher. Students and their parents can view and confirm these recommendations through their iStudent and iParent accounts. Parents should sign up for an iParent account by following the link on the WHS home page.

Students who disagree with teacher recommendations can follow the "override" process detailed in the Program of Studies. The [Program of Studies](#) for the following year is ready for all students to peruse online at the end of February on www.wayland.k12.ma.us.

It is the student's responsibility to make an appointment with the counselor to discuss his/her academic program. Students should see the guidance counselor to make discretionary schedule changes. Any changes in course level must have teacher/departmental approval.

11. "How is academic excellence recognized at the high school?"

The high school publishes an honor roll and high honor roll at the end of each quarter. A Senior Awards Assembly and an Undergraduate Awards Assembly are held each year. Numerous awards are given at these assemblies to students who have excelled in courses throughout the year. At the Undergraduate Awards Assembly "book prizes" are also given to selected students who meet the standards set by the respective colleges.

BELL SCHEDULE

12. The Rotating bell schedule is very confusing. Please explain it.

Schedule Rotation: Wayland High School uses an eight period schedule that rotates through six blocks a day over eight letter days. Full credit classes meet six days out of every eight-day cycle. Because it is an eight day cycle, the days do not fall predictably on conventional days of the week. For example, an A day that falls on a Monday will next fall on a Thursday. The ["Calendar" link](#) on the WHS home page will show all the letter days for the year.

LETTER DAY (with periods scheduled for that day)								
BLOCK	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
I	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
II	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1
III	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2
IV	5	6	7	8	5	6	7	8
V	6	7	8	5	6	7	8	5
VI	7	8	5	6	7	8	5	6
Missing	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3
	8	5	6	7	8	5	6	7

The bell schedule was designed to create flexibility in scheduling, increase our ability to schedule “double labs,” provide in-school time for teachers to meet with students, and to provide students with the potential benefit of having some days when they could sleep in, study in school, or seek extra help.

Because most of our students are only scheduled for six or seven periods (or “classes”), they usually have at least one free block each day (see table above). For example, a student who does not have a class scheduled fifth period will have a free block on A and E days (4th block), C and G days (6th block), and D and H days (5th block). Conversely, that same student’s scheduled 2nd period class does not meet on C days and G days.

Although this system looks complicated, students quickly learn their schedules.

The Bell Schedule: On most Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays we use the “Bell 1” schedule below. On Wednesdays we use “Bell 3.” We use “Bell 2” for special “long homeroom,” “club days,” or other special events. Notice that homeroom is always scheduled after 2nd block.

<u>Bell 1 with Homerooms</u>		
	First Lunch	Second Lunch
I	7:30-8:25	I 7:30-8:25
II	8:30-9:25	II 8:30-9:25
HR	9:30-9:40	HR 9:30-9:40
III	9:45-10:40	III 9:45-10:40
1 st Lunch	10:45-11:15	IVA 10:45-11:11
IV	11:20-12:15	2 nd Lunch 11:14-11:44
V	12:20-1:15	IVB 11:46-12:15
VI	1:20-2:15	V 12:20-1:15
		VI 1:20-2:15

<u>Bell 2 with Homerooms</u>		
	First Lunch	Second Lunch
I	7:30-8:20	I 7:30-8:20
II	8:25-9:15	II 8:25-9:15
HR	9:20-9:25	HR 9:20-9:25
Meeting	9:30-10:00	meeting 9:30-10:00
III	10:05-10:55	III 10:05-10:55
1 st Lunch	11:00-11:30	IVA 11:00-11:26
IV	11:35-12:25	2 nd Lunch 11:29-11:59
V	12:30-1:20	IVB 12:01-12:25
VI	1:25-2:15	V 12:30-1:20
		VI 1:25-2:15

	Third Lunch
I	7:30-8:25
II	8:30-9:25
HR	9:30-9:40
III	9:45-10:40
IV	10:45-11:40
3 rd Lunch	11:45-12:15
V	12:20-1:15
VI	1:20-2:15

	First Lunch	<u>Bell 3 with Homerooms</u>	Second Lunch	Third Lunch
I	7:30-8:14		I 7:30-8:14	I 7:30-8:14
II	8:19-9:03		II 8:19-9:03	II 8:19-9:03
HR	9:08-9:14		HR 9:08-9:14	HR 9:08-9:14
III	9:19-10:03		III 9:19-10:03	III 9:19-10:03
1 st Lunch	10:08-10:38		IVA 10:08-10:30	IV 10:08-10:52
IV	10:43-11:27		2 nd Lunch 10:32-11:02	3 rd Lunch 10:57-11:27
V	11:32-12:16		IVB 11:05-11:27	V 11:32-12:16
VI	12:21-1:05		V 11:32-12:16	VI 12:21-1:05
			VI 12:21-1:05	

SCHOOL CULTURE

13. "I heard that there are no substitutes at the high school. What happens when teachers are absent for meetings or because of an illness?"

Excepting cases of long-term absence, there are no substitutes provided at the high school. When a teacher is absent because of a conference or short-term illness, students are free to go to the commons or the library. Most students handle this very well by taking advantage of this additional study and preparation time. Teachers often leave assignments or have long-term projects on which students are expected to work. We find that there is rarely a time when students truly have "no work" to do! You should encourage your child to develop good work habits and good use of this additional study/preparation time. Long-term absences are covered either by department staff members or an interim teacher.

14. "Does the high school have study halls?"

Mandatory study halls are held for freshman during first semester. Attendance will be taken. This time is designed for students to work on assignments, prepare for upcoming quizzes and tests, and develop good study habits.

We also have "restricted study" for those students who fail to follow our code of conduct.

15. "What do you mean by 'open campus'?"

Usually when people refer to the "openness" of the Wayland High School campus they are referring to the fact that there are **no structured study halls** (except for first semester for freshmen students) during students' free blocks. Students must learn to use their free time wisely. They may go to the commons where there is a snack bar, and where they have the opportunity to socialize or work in groups. They may choose to go to the library or the Academic Center to study or do research. This may be the time when they seek out teachers for help in a given subject area; many students routinely spend their free periods in one of the several reference areas.

Freshmen and sophomores are expected to be in school if they have a first block class and they may not leave campus until 2:15 (Wednesday at 1:05). Juniors and seniors may leave campus after their last class of the day.

After the first quarter, 9th grade students have the same late arrival privilege as sophomores. They may sign in at the main office **with a parent note** for their first class of the day (i.e., not

necessarily at 7:30 due to our rotating schedule). Ninth and tenth grade students do not have early dismissal privileges. Late and early dismissal privileges are just that - privileges. They are revoked at any time that the school feels the student is not showing sufficient responsibility and maturity.

Seniors who have successfully completed 30 hours of community service are eligible for "open campus" privileges. They are expected in their first block class. Otherwise, they must sign in at the main office 10 minutes before their first scheduled class and/or upon arrival at school. They may, with parental approval, leave campus during their free blocks.

The "open campus" arrangement is excellent preparation for handling the time-management issues on a college campus. Ninety-five percent or more of our students are college-bound. We have had strong, positive feedback from our graduates that the "open campus" helped them in the transition to college.

Once again, open campus is clearly a privilege and one which requires parental permission. It can be revoked at any time.

Remember – everyone (9th-12th) must attend homeroom at the end of second block.

16. "What does community service mean for an incoming student at the high school?"

Wayland High School has a long-standing commitment of encouraging community service as a powerful learning experience. In order for a student to be eligible for open campus privileges he/she needs to have completed thirty (30) hours of community service by his/her senior year. A list of approved service ideas may be obtained from the guidance office. Please encourage your son/daughter to start community service as early as possible. This will not only permit them to fulfill their school obligation, but also fosters a lifelong habit of service.

17. "How does my son or daughter learn or find out about what's going in the school?"

Morning announcements are posted online daily and read during homeroom. Students should become accustomed to listening carefully to these morning announcements on a daily basis as this is where all school-related activities are announced.

Each student has an **individual mailbox** with his/her name on it. These mailboxes are used by teachers, counselors and fellow students to leave homework or messages for specific students. We encourage parents to leave notes for students in their mailboxes. Students are expected to check their mailboxes at least once a day.

Student email accounts: each WHS student has been assigned an email account. We use those accounts to communicate directly with students about academic and disciplinary issues. Students are expected to check their email at least once a day

Freshmen Seminar: This seminar meets once during each class cycle for the first quarter. It is designed to allow students an opportunity to meet with their guidance counselor and other school personnel to discuss how best to prepare for high school life.

18. "I understand that there are class officers and class activities. What does this mean for my 9th grader?"

Each class has a class advisor or co-advisors who oversee all class activities for the four years at Wayland High School. These class activities become increasingly more complicated and complex as the students progress through the four years. The class officers and executive board meet with the class advisor throughout the year to plan class activities and events. Class officers are elected in the first month of school.

Each year there is a major fundraiser to raise the funds necessary to pay for class night and graduation. Traditionally, in the 9th grade there is a magazine drive which takes place early in the fall. In addition, the 9th grade class usually participates in one class activity. This could be a class barbecue or a trip to an amusement park.

19. "What is Winter Week?"

"Winter Week" happens the week following mid-term exams. The programs vary dramatically from year to year. The school takes this opportunity to bring in a variety of speakers whose topics we believe to be of high interest or importance to students. Student council members work closely with members of the faculty to plan these events. In some cases whole classes attend these presentations. In other cases attendance is based on individual student interest.

One of the major attractions of Winter Week is the "Winter Week Plays." Each class puts on a play which is student directed and faculty supervised. For 9th graders and their parents this is often a confusing time. Students who are to be involved in a Winter Week production are often working on their plays two to three weeks prior to the production itself. This can mean that a student is preparing for a Winter Week play while reviewing for midterms as well. We caution all students to plan their time wisely. We often find that students will participate in Winter Week plays even if they have no formal preparation and/or limited experience on the stage.

20. "How do students and parents learn about clubs and other activities?"

Our morning announcements are read in homeroom classes and posted online for students to read at their leisure. Club and class activities are announced via this format and also in the WHSPO newsletter. The Student Handbook includes a listing of our formal school sponsored clubs.

Students will be introduced to all of the clubs at a Club Fair in September in the Fieldhouse.

DISCIPLINE

21. "What is the disciplinary code at Wayland High School and how do I see a copy of the rules?"

We have developed a progressive disciplinary code at WHS that encourages students to embrace the responsibilities that come with the increased freedoms of being in high school. Our students generally take their responsibilities very seriously. The Student Handbook contains all the rules and consequences. Your child will have a copy, but you can also see it [online](#).

Demerits and Restricted Study: Students who violate our code of conduct will earn demerits. Each demerit is equal to one block of restricted study in the Commons Annex room. Students are expected to serve their restricted study assignments starting the day following notification and continue attending restricted study until all assigned restricted study blocks have been served. Failure to serve restricted study will result in a doubling of assigned restricted blocks, and when necessary, out-of-school suspension. **We no longer have Saturday School.**

Probation and the Accumulation of Excessive Demerits: Students who accumulate excessive demerits will be put on probationary status. Students on probation lose all privileges starting on the date of notification, including but not limited to the following:

- late arrival, early dismissal
- drama rehearsals and performances
- club activities
- class activities such as trips, dances (including, but not limited to, the cotillion, semi-formals, the junior prom), class night, senior cruise, and graduation.
- the right to free blocks (in extreme cases)
- some school field trips (in extreme cases)
- sports practices (and games, in extreme cases)

Reducing Demerits: Students can reduce their demerits and avoid probationary consequences by 1) Negotiating a written behavior contract with an administrator, 2) Ceasing to accumulate demerits for an extended period of time (e.g., month), and 3) Performing in-school community service hours.

ATTENDANCE

22. "What is the attendance policy for the high school?"

It is very important to us that we develop in our students a sense of the importance of good attendance and promptness in their daily activities, especially because students will fail any class for which they have 2 or more unexcused absences (please see the Student Handbook for details including state law and school committee policies).

Excused Absences: The Wayland School Committee Policy dictates that students may be excused temporarily from school attendance for the following school committee-approved reasons:

1. Illness or quarantine and medical appointments,
2. Bereavement or serious illness in family
3. Weather so inclement as to endanger the health of the child
4. Observance of major religious holidays
5. Approved school-related activity
6. College visits (not mentioned in School Board Policy, but allowed at WHS)

Parents must notify the main office in writing or by phone (508-358-5861 and 358-7746). Notes to excuse absences are required if verbal contact is not made and are due the day the student returns. The note must state the reason for absence (school committee approved) or will not be accepted.

Excessive Excused Absences: In instances of chronic or irregular absence reportedly due to illness, the school administration may request the following:

1. A physician's statement certifying such absences to be warranted
2. Proof that the student is undergoing appropriate treatments (e.g., therapy, counseling, etc.)

Family Trips and Planned Extended Absences: Family trips and other non-school committee approved absences must be approved by the administration two weeks prior to the absence.

Tardiness has been a problem for us at the school and is one which we will again address with full vigor this fall. Students are considered to be tardy if they arrive at school after 7:30 AM. First-block classes start promptly at 7:30 AM. Tardiness is considered a partial absence and all policies relating to absence apply to tardiness. In other words, in order for a parent to excuse a student for being late, that lateness has to have been caused by those criteria approved by the school committee for an unexcused absence (above).

- Students who arrive **prior** to 8:00 AM should go directly to class and present their tardy note to the teacher. If they don't have a note, they will be considered tardy and appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken.
- Students who arrive **after** 8:00 AM must report to the main office in order to receive permission to attend class. Remember that this note must contain the reason for tardiness as well as the expected time of arrival.

Homeroom: homeroom is scheduled immediately after second block. All students must be in homeroom to be officially counted as attending school for that day. If a student is not in school by homeroom period he/she is ineligible for any extracurricular activities scheduled for that day (e.g., athletics, drama, club activities, etc.). The homeroom period is designed as a way to take attendance and to communicate with students about everything that goes on at Wayland High School

PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

23. "I want to stay involved in the high school. How can I do so?"

In recent years the school is using more parent volunteers, but you may want to become involved with one of the parent support organizations - [WHSPPO](#), [CAPA](#), [Boosters](#), or [WaylandCares](#). These groups meet monthly and provide excellent opportunities for you to be involved with the high school. There is also a monthly Parent Information Exchange (PIE) meeting with the principal focused on the latest issues at the high school. These meetings are announced in the WHSPPO newsletter.

WHSPPO: The Wayland High School Parent Organization (WHSPPO, pronounced "Wiss-po"), sponsors Teacher Appreciation Day, Parents Day and Underclass Awards Night as well as other school events during the year.

In addition, WHSPO sponsors numerous informative meetings to share with you important topics or issues facing you and your child. They also publish a monthly newsletter which serves as the major written communication between the high school and parents. This newsletter will keep you up-to-date and informed about the latest happenings at the high school. WHSPO meets regularly and meeting times vary between early morning or evening. There is a business meeting followed by discussions about various aspects of the school.

We hope you will attend meetings and become an active member of WHSPO - we look forward to seeing you. The first meeting is in September at 7:00 P.M. in the Little Theater. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the first Parent Information Exchange (PIE). For more information, follow the "Parent Organizations" link on the WHS homepage.

CAPA: The Creative Arts Parents Association (CAPA) encourages and supports the creative arts program at Wayland High School. In many cases it raises money to pay for cultural enrichment events and to support auditions and performance expenses so that the many talented Wayland artists, actors, and musicians may compete and perform locally and nationally. CAPA awards performing arts jackets, trophies, and pins to outstanding students in the arts. None of this could be done without the help and support of Wayland parents. For more information, follow the "Parent Organizations" link on the WHS homepage.

BOOSTERS: The purpose of Boosters is to foster and encourage the athletic teams of Wayland High School in all phases of inter-scholastic competition. It exists to recognize and reward excellence in sports, not only with an emphasis on winning but in the belief that the development of leadership and sportsmanship coupled with healthy bodies and alert minds is the primary purpose of athletic activities. It also promotes the belief that the teams of the school, whether winning or losing, may be known for their character, team spirit and sense of fair play; and to do such other things as the members attending a meeting may decide on by a vote. For more information, follow the "Parent Organizations" link on the WHS homepage.

WaylandCares: The mission of WaylandCares is to reduce youth substance use and abuse and associated risky behaviors. An intergenerational initiative, the WaylandCares promotes teen healthy decision making through effective prevention strategies that include policy setting, education, communication, programming, mentoring and role modeling. The WaylandCares operates on the premise that it is the responsibility of parents and the Wayland Community to make the environment safe for its young people, and that young people need the community's support to make healthy decisions. For more information, follow the "Parent Organizations" link on the WHS homepage.

ATHLETICS

24. "What should I expect if my son or daughter chooses to play a sport next year?"

This varies greatly from sport to sport and from student to student. Occasionally, a 9th grade student makes a varsity team. This is unusual but not unprecedented. Most 9th graders will play either on 9th grade teams or on JV. Students who choose to participate in athletics generally report that it is one of the most meaningful and important aspects of their high school career. For parents, the changes necessitated by a student's involvement in athletics are among the most significant challenges you may face. A 9th grade parent wrote once with this assessment of her experience:

“... independence comes up again in a different way with after school sports. No matter how many plans a parent makes for afternoons, weekends or holidays, they all take a back seat to sports. New 9th grade parents don't realize that sports may begin a week before school does, practices may not be missed in some sports without a penalty, and many coaches have practices on weekends and vacations. The other thing about sports that parents might not realize is that they end at different times on different afternoons...so parents must be available to pick their child up when he or she calls. This can take place anywhere between 3:30 PM and 5:30 PM.”

Athletics is another example of a "you get what you put into it" process. The rewards and gains are tremendous; so is the commitment and discipline required.

25. *"Is there a user fee for sports at the high school?"*

Yes - each student athlete pays a \$200.00 per sport, per season fee (family cap of \$1,000). This is regrettable but necessary because of budgetary limitations. The user fees are used to pay for basic expenses incurred in athletics: officials, busses, equipment, etc.

26. *"Is there pre-season for 9th grade athletes?"*

Yes. All freshmen should expect to report the first day of athletics, along with all the upperclassmen. Remember that students may only participate if all proper clearance procedures have been adhered to. If you are unable to report for the first day of practice please contact Mr. Justice Smith, the Athletic Director at 508-358-7488.

27. *"What is the Boosters Banquet?"*

At the end of each fall season the Booster's organization plans and coordinates three banquets. These take place in the evening. The captains and the captains' parents help organize these events to which each athlete is invited along with his or her parents. Parents are asked to participate in this "pot-luck" event; requests for specific items are made via the team captains.

Typically three or four teams join together in each banquet's festivities. After some general remarks and dinner, individual teams congregate in different locations to celebrate their respective seasons. Great efforts are made to conclude the banquets by no later than 9:00 PM as they take place on school nights.

28. *"Are there athletic events when school is not in session?"*

Indeed there are. Wayland is a member of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association and participates in the Dual County League. The principals and athletic directors from these various schools coordinate a schedule for competitions and tournaments. Practices take place routinely over vacation; it is common for scheduled competitions to take place over vacation periods as well. Parents of 9th graders should discuss with their student athletes and the coach or athletic director what impact participation in a given sport will have on vacation periods.

FINE ARTS

29. "What fine arts opportunities are available to Wayland High School students?"

Like athletics, the fine arts program at Wayland High School is demanding and frequently a very memorable part of the students experience in this school. Performance groups include: choral, instrumental and dramatic. The high school band and the high school chorus rehearse during school time. Special groups rehearse at other times as scheduled by the directors. Select instrumental and choral groups practice after school on Wednesdays as well as Wednesday evenings. Students selected for these special performance groups work closely with their directors to work special practice sessions into their school responsibilities.

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2011-2012

August 31	Wednesday	All staff reports for preparation
September 1	Thursday	Staff preparation and 6 th and 9 th grade orientation
September 2	Friday	NO SCHOOL
September 5	Monday	Labor Day – NO SCHOOL
September 6	Tuesday	First Day of Classes
September 29	Thursday	Rosh Hashanah – NO SCHOOL
October 10	Monday	Columbus Day – NO SCHOOL
November 11	Friday	Veterans’ Day – NO SCHOOL
November 23	Wednesday	Thanksgiving recess (early release/no lunch)
		High School @ 11:10 a.m.
		Middle School @ 11:15 a.m.
		Elementary Schools @ 12:00 p.m.
November 28	Monday	Classes resume
December 21	Wednesday	Holiday season recess (begins at close of normal Wednesday release)
January 3	Tuesday	Classes resume
January 16	Monday	Martin Luther King Day - NO SCHOOL
February 17		Winter recess (begins at close of normal school day)
February 27	Monday	Classes resume
April 6	Friday	Good Friday – NO SCHOOL
April 13	Friday	Spring recess (begins at close of normal school day)
April 23	Monday	Classes resume
May 28	Monday	Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL
June 3	Sunday	W.H.S. Graduation (3:00 p.m.)
June 19*	Tuesday	Last day for students (if no earlier school cancellations (Wednesday release schedule))
June 20*	Wednesday	Last day for teachers (if no cancellations)
June 22*	Friday	Last day for students if 3 earlier school cancellations occur*

*Tentative date-actual last day for students and teachers would depend upon completion of 180 scheduled class days. June 19, 20, and 21 appear in brackets on the second page and will be removed from the calendar if not needed for school cancellations. Parents are asked to avoid planning prior to the 180th school day. Given that this is New England, school closings are possible, though Wayland's past practice is to avoid unscheduled closings.

KEY DATES and REMINDERS for 2011-2012

* ~August 31	Tuesday, 7:00 pm	Building Project Update @WMS
* ~Sept 1	Wednesday, 7:00 pm	METCO parent orientation
September 1	Thursday, 9:00 am-12:00	Freshman Orientation
September 6	Tuesday, 7:30 am	First Day of Classes
* ~Sept 16	Thursday, during school	Club Fair--students sign up for school clubs (during school)
* ~Sept 24	Friday, 7:30 pm	First Parent Information Exchange (PIE) meeting
* ~October 7	Thursday, 7:00 pm	Back to School night
* ~Feb 1-2	Tues.-Wed.	MCAS Science tests (only standardized tests for Freshman)

***Dates to be updated at a later date**

REMINDERS

- Sign up for [iParent](#) UNLESS you already have an account (follow the link on the WHS Home Page)
- Update your email address in your profile on iParent
- Subscribe to [eNews](#) (follow the link on the WHS Home Page)

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Main Office	358-7746
Attendance	358-5861
FAX	358-8082
Academic Center	358-4823
ALRT	358-3713
Arts	358-3724
Athletics	358-7488
English	358-3720
Guidance	358-3706
Languages	358-3721
LRT	358-3722
Math	358-3723
Media Center	358-3715
METCO	358-3716
Nurse's Office	358-3712
Science	358-3725
Social Studies/Business	358-3726