

Greenwich Junior -Senior High School

"Scholarship, Character, Community - Cultivating the Future"

George C. Niesz, Principal
Benjamin M. Cronin, Assistant Principal

September 11, 2009

Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s);

Today concludes the first week of the new school year. Our students and staff have reacquainted themselves with each other and we are ready for an exciting and productive school year.

Over the last couple of days, Mr. Cronin and I have met with our students and reviewed our student handbook. Our handbook outlines the behavioral expectations we have for our students and the likely consequences we will choose from when our behavioral expectations are not met. During these meetings we have answered the questions posed by the students and have communicated that our primary purpose is to provide them with a world class education, not turn our school into a detention center.

There were a couple of important items that we reviewed with your daughter/son that we want to mention to you. First, we are requiring that all students leave their cell phones in their lockers during instructional time (from 8:08am-2:30pm) this year. Students using their cell phones create a huge distraction to teachers and students during learning/teaching time. Cell phones have also been used by a few students to harass and bully other students and have even been used to organize fights between students. We have told our students that if they require the use of a phone (for appropriate purposes), every classroom in our building has an outside line. Furthermore, students can request to use the phone in the main office (these requests to use the phone should not interrupt instructional time). A second point of emphasis is our zero tolerance for bullying or harassing type behaviors. We instructed our students to notify an adult they trust (a teacher, the nurse, their parent, a principal, etc...) when they are the victim of bullying **OR** when they are a witness to bullying. We impressed upon our students that it is their obligation to help us eliminate harassment or bullying type behavior in our school.

There are a couple of other informational items that we want to share with you. First, we have changed the date of our **Open House** to **Thursday, September 24th at 7:00pm** so that we are not in conflict with the Elementary School. We cordially invite you to come to school and meet with your son/daughter's teachers and strengthen the lines of communication between our homes and our school. We also want to request your help in communicating the importance of hand washing and good personal hygiene to our young people as we move into the flu season. We have included with this letter a more detailed letter from Mr. Donnelly and our school nurses regarding the steps that our district is taking to prepare for the upcoming flu season. Please contact our school nurse Mrs. Julie Mosher if you have any questions.

We are very appreciative of the tremendous support our parents and community continue to provide our students. We are dedicated to the proposition that your son/daughter can and should maximize the outstanding academic program we offer at GCS.

We look forward to working with you this year and seeing you at Open House on September 24th. As always, please feel free to call me if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

George C. Niesz
7-12 Principal

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