



Taconic High School

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Pittsfield Public Schools
Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Superintendent, Jason P. McCandless, Ed.D.

August 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope that you had a restful summer and are ready to begin the 2015 -16 school year. Over the past month and a half, we have been working very hard to prepare for the start of the school year in September. With the upcoming school year only a few weeks away, we are thrilled about creating an exciting, safe, and nurturing environment in which your Taconic student can learn and be successful.

I encourage all parents to access PowerSchool on-line, which is an excellent way to monitor your student's progress and stay informed of his/her academic status. While some of you are already familiar with this opportunity from middle or high school, any parents who wish to utilize this program should contact our district technology department to gain access to this valuable tool.

Students' schedules are currently being revised and finalized in order to accommodate changes in enrollment and staffing. All students will receive their schedules on the first day of school. Questions or concerns regarding your student's schedule should be directed to our School Counseling office; all students have been assigned to one of four school counselors alphabetically by their last name.

On **Tuesday, September 1st**, we will be holding our annual "First Day" experience for ninth grade students and their parents. On **Wednesday, September 2nd** all students grades 9-12 will attend a full-day of school.

September 1st – Grade 9 only (half-day)

7:25 8:30 First Day presentation in the auditorium for students and parents.
8:30 10:40 Homeroom teachers will escort their students to homeroom and proceed through an abbreviated schedule. Parents may accompany their student to homeroom and follow their schedule. Students will be dismissed at 10:40 a.m.

8:38	8:52	Period 1	9:50	10:04	Period 5
8:56	9:10	Period 2	10:08	10:22	Period 6
9:14	9:28	Period 3	10:26	10:36	Period 7
9:32	9:46	Period 4	10:36	10:40	Homeroom

On **Monday, September 14th**, all students will have student ID photos taken. Forms to purchase photo packages will be distributed in homerooms.

Taconic is a Test Center for the ACT college entrance exam, an alternative to the SAT test. The deadline to register for the **October 24th ACT test is September 18th**. Students should register online at www.actstudent.org for Test Center #243700 (Taconic High School). The deadline for the **October 3rd SAT I and SAT Subject Tests is September 3rd**; students register online at www.collegeboard.com. Fee waivers for both tests are available through the School Counseling office to students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch.

College Night for Seniors will be held on **Tuesday, September 22nd at 6:00 p.m.** in the auditorium. All seniors and their parents/guardians are invited to attend to receive valuable information regarding the college search and application process. Students and families in other grades are also welcome to attend so that they can begin planning in advance for the process.

Sincerely,

John Vosburgh, Principal

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"The mission of Taconic High School is to provide a safe learning community where students demonstrate a strong work ethic and utilize 21st Century Skills as they strive for success."