



PROMOTING P.R.I.D.E.
WINNISQUAM REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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August 12, 2011

Dear Families,

As I reflect on the past two years and plan for the next, I am continually focused on the value of parental engagement and community involvement as vital to the academic and social success of our students. Larry Ferlazzo, in *Educational Leadership*, May 2011, reminds us that, "The goal of family engagement is not to serve clients but to gain partners." This distinction is a focus for me as I welcome you to our school, listen to your concerns and insights, and embrace your perspective for decision-making as leaders in our education improvement efforts. The environment has been created in our pursuit of excellence as we continually refine our practices to reflect the school's mission statement, align curriculum from K-12, and implement the strategic plan. This year we will focus on continuing to build partnerships with families in a variety of ways: 1) continued communication with daily emails and monthly newsletters, 2) opportunities to meet with you, 3) overviews of student learning expectations within syllabi, and 4) competency progress reports through on-line gradebook. I encourage you to attend at least one PTSO meeting this year, and to access our on-line gradebook to review your child's progress routinely to strengthen our partnerships and demonstrate your involvement to your student.

The first day of school is Monday, August 29th. Students will report to classes at **7:37AM** and will be dismissed at 2:30PM. This is earlier than last year. We continue to coordinate with First Student to limit the amount of time students spend traveling to and from school on the buses. The outcome has been most successful so that buses should arrive at school by 7:25AM again this year and students proceed to first period by 7:37AM. Adult supervision is provided at 7:25AM, so please plan accordingly. Thank you for your support to ensure the safety and oversight of all students.

Student schedules will be distributed on the first day of school, and breakfast and hot lunch will be available. The price of a hot lunch is now **\$2.30** and breakfast is \$1.00. Forms for free and reduced hot lunch will be sent home on the first day of school and are available on-line. If your student received free or reduced lunch at the end of the last school year, he or she will automatically receive the same benefit for a limited time, however, you must reapply for this program again as soon as possible.

Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, September 28th from 5-7PM. It is very important to establish a connection with your student's teachers, and I encourage you to plan to attend. Also, please mark your calendars for school pictures on September 14th, starting at 7:45AM. The Freshman Orientation (as applicable) and First Day of School schedules are enclosed. You are encouraged to use our website www.wrsdsau59.org (click on WRHS) as a source of information throughout the year. Please contact the main office to be added to our daily announcement email list for the most up-to-date information. Your suggestions and productive comments are always welcome. If you wish to speak with a staff member, we welcome you to call the office to schedule an appointment at the earliest convenience.

The pursuit of excellence for every student is never-ending as the faculty and staff strives to extend our best efforts for the community of the Winnisquam Regional School District. There are opportunities for all of our students to be involved and take ownership for their academic success. We continually promote a sense of *PRIDE* in everything we do. We hope to gain you as a new *partner* this year and nurture our existing *partnerships* for continued growth and excellence. I look forward to seeing you again and meeting new families as we cheer for the Winnisquam Bears!

Welcome back,

Dr. Ronna Cadarette
Principal

Attachments