August 28, 2019

Dear Sachem Students & Families,

We are very excited to welcome our students back on Wednesday September 4, 2019. The longer days, the warmer weather, and all of the fun activities associated with summer are a great way for all of us to recharge for the upcoming year, and we hope that you are ready to go. We are very excited for the return of all of our students, and we especially welcome our new students including the incoming kindergartners, the Class of 2032!

I invite you to logon to the eSchool Parent Portal if you have not done so already to view your child’s schedule and teacher assignments. As of 3pm on August 28, 2019 all student schedules and teacher assignments should be visible to students and families through eSchool.

This is also a great time to learn more about the programs and offerings here in Sachem. To do so, please visit our website (www.sachem.edu), district Facebook page, Twitter feeds, and Instagram feed. We will also continue our district E-Newsletter throughout the year. Information on how to subscribe to this resource can be found on the district homepage. Additionally, please check out the full 19-20 district calendar on our website. On the calendar you will find dates and times for the many opportunities to join us including back-to-school nights, academic activities, musical performances, art shows, athletic contests, and so much more.

Throughout the summer our administrators, faculty, and staff have been hard at work preparing our schools for the return of our students. This includes the preparation of our schools and facilities, the hiring of incredibly talented new staff and administrators, and focused work on curriculum and instructional practices that are of the highest quality to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of our students.

A great deal of this summer work focused on enhancements to our school security, including the nearly completed project of constructing security vestibules at each school in the district. The security vestibules will be fully completed right around the opening of school. With the construction of the vestibules, we have also revised some of our protocols for all visitors to our schools as well as to district office.
Upon entering a district building, visitors will be asked to present a valid state-issued ID (driver's license or non-driver identification), which will be scanned into our visitor management system. More information on the visitor management system will be posted to the district website in the upcoming days. The system will run the identification through a scanner that accesses the sex offender registry and searches for other identifying information that the district has necessarily input. Additional visitor data from the driver's license is not gathered nor is the system connected to any other system such as the Department of Motor Vehicles. Therefore, any other information on the ID is not scanned by the system and is not accessible to any of the users. Once entry is approved, the visitor will be issued a badge that identifies the visitor, the date, and the purpose of his/her visit.

In addition to the ID check, we will have new procedures for parents and guardians dropping off items that students forgot to bring to school. Starting in the fall, it will no longer be necessary to bring items to the main office. These items will be left in the security vestibule for the students. If you have any questions, please contact your child's building administrator directly.

On our district website you can access a “Who to Call” directory which provides you with a listing of who to call with questions concerning a variety of topics. This directory can be found at http://www.sachem.edu/district/have_a_question.

I am excited to enter my fourth year here in Sachem, and I look forward to another great school year for our district. On behalf of the entire school district, we are looking forward to greeting our students on their first day, and we wish you and your family a wonderful 2019-2020 school year!

Warmly,

Kenneth E. Graham, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools