

August 2023

Dear Grade 9 Students and Families:

Greetings from Dwight-Englewood!

I hope that you and your family are enjoying time together this summer and have been able to both rest and enjoy some adventure. I'm delighted and excited to welcome you to the 2023-2024 school year. I particularly want to welcome you to life as a ninth-grade family. The Upper School is going to be an expansive and fun experience, and we want to be sure that both our students and families get off on the right foot.

There is a lot of information in this letter but it's all important so please be sure to read through this carefully. This information is also available on our [Upper School Start of School 2023 website](#) along with other forms and resources that you may find valuable. Please plan to check that website regularly, because more information will be added in the coming days and weeks. And you are always welcome to contact our office at (201) 227-3240 if you have any questions.

The ninth grade will be led by Stephanie Tucker, who will serve as the Dean of the Class of 2027. She will be assisted by a team of 14 advisors, the Director of Student Activities, and the Director of Social and Emotional Learning. Much of your communication from school will come from Ms. Tucker as we move through the year.

#### ORIENTING YOUR CHILD TO THE UPPER SCHOOL

Because high school is a new experience for everyone, we will offer a significant amount of orientation for both students and their families. We are excited to begin working in earnest to make our ninth graders feel known and comfortable. This process will begin on our first day of school when the Class gathers to meet one another, meet their Advisors, and spend time in those groups. In addition to advisors, each advisory will be matched with specially trained juniors and seniors whose goal is to help our new ninth graders navigate the many ups and occasional downs of the school year.

A tradition that we are thrilled to engage in once more is the ninth grade retreat. We will tell you a lot more about this wonderful experience as we get closer, but please know that all ninth graders will participate in this retreat from September 21st and 22nd.

#### PARENT/GUARDIAN ORIENTATION SESSIONS

To assist parents and guardians in getting to know the high school, we have planned two (2) special orientations in addition to Back-to-School Night (which will be on September 28th). These orientations are your chance to meet each of your student's teachers and hear about their classes.

- The first orientation is a general introduction to the Upper School and the ninth grade program. You'll also have the chance to meet important people in the lives of ninth graders; including the Dean and your student's Advisor. That session will be held on the evening of Thursday, September 7th at 7:00 PM.
- The second orientation has been especially designed to introduce the mathematics program. It will be on Wednesday, September 20, at 7:00 PM.

More information will follow about both events, but please note the dates now as they are important programs to attend; both for families new to the school and those coming from our Middle School.

Besides the content of the meetings, these orientations are an important opportunity for you as parents and guardians to spend time talking with each other and forming the important family networks that will help you navigate the coming years. You will hear me say many times that knowing other parents is a wonderful resource, both about the high school in general but also about your student's social life. Especially during the first couple of years, having these relationships and connections will help you know more and feel more comfortable with the activities that start to occupy the social lives of the Class.

#### IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Moving to more specific information, I also want to provide some important calendar dates for the opening months of school this year.

Monday, Aug. 21- D-E Athletics Fall team sports begin\*  
 Monday, Sept. 04 - Labor Day (school closed)  
 Tuesday, Sept. 05 - School opens at 8:10, full day\*\*  
 Thursday, Sept. 07 - Grade 9 Parent Orientation 7:00 PM  
 Wednesday, Sept. 20- Grade 9 Mathematics Night, 7:00 PM  
 Thursday, Sept. 21 to Friday, Sept. 22 - 9th grade retreat  
 Monday, Sept. 25 - Yom Kippur (school closed)  
 Thursday, Sept. 28 - Back to School Night

\*See below; Fall 2023 "Start of Season" team sports practice information is available on both the [Upper School Start of School 2023 website](http://www.d-e.org/startofschool2023) and the D-E Athletics website ([www.d-e.org/athletics](http://www.d-e.org/athletics)).

\*\*Bus transportation begins on Tuesday, September 5.

#### HEALTH & MEDICAL FORMS REMINDER

All students should have returned their updated medical and health forms, including any that require a signature from both parents/guardians and/or your child's physician, to D-E Upper School Nurse, Christine Kim, by way of the Magnus Health Portal ("Magnus").

- Magnus issues periodic email updates to remind families that they need to complete their child's medical/health forms, and Magnus can be accessed from these emails. Parents/guardians can also access Magnus from the [MyD-E Parent Resource Board; click here](#). Please note that LogIn to MyD- E is required to access Magnus. For MyD-E LogIn help and/or help with accessing Magnus, please email [help@d-e.org](mailto:help@d-e.org)
- Students will not be allowed to attend classes without the proper Forms being completed.
- All students must complete the State of New Jersey Pre-participation Medical Form. Even if you live in New York State, the New Jersey form must be submitted.
- Forms uploaded to Magnus that require a physician's signature must also be signed personally by your child's doctor: stamped signatures cannot be accepted, according to New Jersey state law that we are obliged to follow.
- Other important pieces of information that must be updated to Magnus include permission for your child to participate in athletics, take school trips, medical/health insurance forms, etc. Your child will not be allowed to participate in athletics or take trips if we do not receive this information.

## STUDENT SCHEDULES & BOOKS ORDERING

Student schedules will be available to students in the opening weeks of August. We will alert you when they are ready to view so that you have plenty of time to order books. Our virtual bookstore, MBS Direct, will be open and ready in the near future. Go to [www.d-e.org/shop](http://www.d-e.org/shop) and click on the link to mbsdirect.net. You will receive further information about ordering books from MBS Direct from Joan Millien shortly.

Some books are also available from other online stores. Feel free to comparison shop but please buy the correct ISBN, if you decide to use an alternate source.

If some part of your student's schedule is incorrect, those changes can be made beginning Monday, August 21, when Ms. Tucker and the other Deans return to campus. If there are major issues with a schedule, we will contact you ahead of that date.

## SUMMER READING

I also want to remind all students about the course-related Summer Reading requirements. This information is posted on our [US Start of School 2023 Website](#).

## FALL TEAM SPORTS & START OF SCHOOL SCHEDULE

If your child is planning to return for US sports, please note the dates mentioned above, because their 'first day' of school is coming soon.

- D-E Athletics has provided the Start of School Schedule online both on [US Start of School 2023 website](#) and the D-E Athletics website [www.d-e.org/athletics](http://www.d-e.org/athletics)
- All health/medical forms must be uploaded to Magnus before student athletes attend any practices.
- Students may not bring hard copies of signed/completed medical or health forms to practices. These will not be accepted and students will not be able to join practices until their forms are complete and uploaded to Magnus.

That is about it for now, in terms of information we need to send. Our next communication will be about the availability of schedules. In the meantime, please be in touch with any questions or concerns.

I wish you the happiest times for the remainder of the summer, and I look forward to welcoming you all back in just a few weeks. I hope you find quality time to spend as a family before we turn to the challenges and excitement of the new school year.

Best wishes for an invigorating and happy 2023-2024 school year.

Sincerely,



Kim Lalli  
Upper School Principal