

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

I hope the summer has been pleasant for you and your family. We have had a busy summer and look forward to the return of students and the start to another new school year. In preparation for the upcoming school year, we ask that you review the information below. We have also included a letter from Steve McGuiness, Guidance Director, which highlights important Guidance Department information.

**School begins on Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010 at 7:41 a.m.**

Upon arrival to school, students should report to *Home Base*. *Home Base* assignments will be posted at all entries and throughout the building. While in *Home Base*, students will receive vital pieces of information and documents for the school year. Students are to bring these documents home for you to review and fill out as needed. We ask that you have your child return these documents to the school by Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010.

**Student Schedules:**

All students will receive their class schedules the first day in *Home Base*. The guidance department has worked diligently to resolve schedule conflicts. Some adjustments may still be necessary in your child's schedule. Should a problem arise or if a change needs to be made, students must make an appointment with his/her guidance counselor. We will resolve these as quickly as possible. The drop/add deadline for course changes is September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

**Student handbooks/daily planners :**

All students will receive a copy of The Student Handbook containing school policies. Students are required to bring the handbooks home for parental review. Students will then be required to return a sign-off sheet with a parent/guardian and student signature so that we may be sure that everyone has had an opportunity to review the policies and procedures at the high school. The Student Handbook will also be available online. While students will be given the opportunity to purchase a daily planner in the school store, supplies are limited. This year we are encouraging families to purchase one ahead of time.

**Communication & The Tantasqua High School Website:**

We will continue to keep you informed of upcoming events through mailings, website updates, and automated phone calls. The high school website may be accessed by going to [www.tantasqua.org/thhs/](http://www.tantasqua.org/thhs/). Current information and important dates will be available through the website. To access important school year dates, on the left column click on "Calendars", you will be shown three options; School Calendar of Events, District School Year Calendar and Guidance Calendar at a Glance. All calendars will have dates you will need to reference throughout the school year. Additional information is also accessible including: bus routes, the school lunch calendar, The Daily Bulletin (which provides daily information to students/parents), etc. For the most current athletic team schedules and for directions to athletic events, please visit [www.highschoolsports.net](http://www.highschoolsports.net).

**Student Attendance:**

Attendance is a critical aspect to learning and will be an integral factor in the grade of all classes. Attendance is mandatory. In accordance with school policy, any student absent to school must be called in by a parent/guardian on the day of the absence or on or before the date of return to school or be sent to school with a note by a parent/guardian excusing said absence on the date of return. Non-compliance with this policy will result in the issuance of three (2) office detentions. Students must also be called in or sent with a note when arriving tardy to school. In accordance with school policy, students are permitted five (5) unexcused tardies to school. Thereafter, students will receive one (1) office detention for each unexcused tardy beyond five (5). Finally, any student being dismissed must do so with permission by a parent/guardian. You may call the school, write a note informing us of said dismissal, or personally dismiss your student at the Main Office. We need and appreciate your cooperation on these matters.

**“Back to School Night” will be Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

Parents are invited to follow their child’s schedule. Each teacher will explain course content, grading policies, and other expectations. Please take advantage of this opportunity to meet teachers and learn about classes in which your child is enrolled. “Parent/Teacher Conferences” will be held on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010, from 6:30 – 8:30pm; this date will allow you to discuss your child’s individual academic progress with teachers.

**Parking Lot Assignments for 2010-2011:**

Student parking is available in the field house parking area or near the football field off Route 148. However, the first row of field house parking, along the softball field curb, is reserved for staff members this year. For the beginning of the school year, the remainder of the field house parking lot is reserved for seniors only as a "senior privilege." All other students must park in the parking lot by the football field along Route 148. Students must obtain a parking permit at the assistant principals’ office and display that permit whenever parking on campus. Any students who wish to receive their parking pass early, should register their vehicle at the assistant principals’ office on Tuesday, August 24th from 9:a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

I hope that parents will encourage their students to strive for academic excellence and to become involved in a variety of athletic and co-curricular activities that we offer at Tantasqua. To help families toward this end, the school library will again be open daily until 5:00 p.m. during the school year. This will give students an additional opportunity to complete academic assignments and research papers, as well as prepare for exams.

If you have specific questions or need information about any school services, please visit the Staff Directory on the high school website, and then feel free to contact us if we can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

Mike Lucas  
Principal