

Weekly Update to Families
April 9, 2012

Dear TRJHS Families,

The year will officially be 75% complete after Wednesday's school day comes to a close. The remaining 25% is packed with loads of work - smart, hard work.

As I look back on the first 130 days or so, it with honesty that I note that the year has moved quickly and the details of those days are certainly a bit blurred. What is crystal clear, however, is my understanding of the commitment and dedication of this school's faculty and staff. Each day, just over 600 students arrive via bus or parent vehicles and met with a challenging experience. The planning, communication and collaboration amongst the educators at TRJHS is outstanding and the production that they put on each day would without a doubt receive a standing ovation were we on Broadway. To me, great teaching is about dedication - dedication towards excellence and dedication towards improvement. When something goes well, the dedicated teacher steps back, relishes in the moment and then takes note of something that can be "kicked up a notch"; that teacher asks for feedback from the students and acts on that feedback; that teacher strives to take the experience to the next level by sharing with colleagues and asks for feedback. We have "that teacher" in many classrooms - for that I am grateful to have joined this team.

With April vacation comes a renewed sense of dedication and commitment - the push towards the end must be strong. After all, we are battling the prospect of a sunny, beach-filled Summer; blossoming flowers and tantalizing fields of green. As we move towards May, consider some simple ways of sharing your and your child's appreciation for the dedication and commitment of our school's faculty and staff - Teacher Appreciation Week is just around the corner (May 7 through May 11). Teacher Appreciation Day is May 8th.

Respectfully,

Chris Starczewski

Upcoming Events and Information:

April 12 at 6:00pm - Boy's and Girl's Basketball Teams square off against the TRJHS faculty and staff teams in an all-school evening fundraiser. Beyond the competition on the court, there will be games and activities for all attendees. Students, parents, siblings and community members are invited to attend. Tickets will be available at the door on the night of the event (\$1 for students,

\$2 for adults). Proceeds will go to support our general student activities fund. Visit this link for a brief promotional video:

April Vacation:

April 14 - 22 is April vacation. The office will be open during regular school business hours Tuesday through Friday.

For Your Information (from College of the Holy Cross):

STUDENTS INTERESTED IN SCIENCE: Consider attending this event at Holy Cross in Worcester - FREE OF CHARGE - SATURDAY, APRIL 14 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Every year the Holy Cross Science Ambassadors present "Hogwarts on the Hill." This year the theme of our show is "Mystery! Hogwarts." The first half of the program consists of a number of hands-on experiments for students to actively participate in. The second half will be an interactive show with many of the Science Ambassadors dressed as Hogwarts characters. The show will be geared towards children in Kindergarten - 8th grade. The Science Ambassadors are a group of students who wish to share their enthusiasm for science with the younger generation. Hogwarts on the Hill will take place on April 14th, from 6-8pm on the Holy Cross Campus in the Hogan Ballroom. Directions can be found here: <http://www.holycross.edu/directions/sites.html>

Grade 7 Parents:

Course selection sheet and the program of studies booklet are being brought home by students on Monday, April 9. Please review this information carefully and have your child return the signed selection sheet as soon as possible (due on Friday, April 13).

3rd Quarter Closes / 4th Quarter Begins:

The 3rd Quarter closes on April 11. Report cards will be sent home with students on April 26.

Yearbook Orders (FINAL CALL):

This is the final call for yearbook orders: April 9 through April 30. The price is \$35 and is done a first-come-first-call basis. Students are to see Ms. Plants-Prouty or Ms. Lamothe for details.