

JERICHO HIGH SCHOOL

Incoming Freshman Parent Orientation **School Year 2008-2009**

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. When may I expect to receive my child's class schedule?**
 - Freshmen will receive their schedules at the Ninth Grade Orientation in August. Beginning in tenth grade, tentative schedules (without the names of their teachers) are e-mailed home in June. Completed schedules, including teacher names and room numbers, are e-mailed home in mid-August.

- 2. What do I do if I feel there is an error with my child's schedule?**
 - An appointment should be made with your child's guidance counselor, preferably before the start of classes, in order to correct any errors or make a change. Please note that it may not be possible to satisfy a non-educational programming request such as dissatisfaction with a particular lunch period. Change of programs is made more difficult due to space limitations, and class linkages — for example, lab classes linked to specific science classes.

- 3. Who will be my child's guidance counselor? What is the role of the counselor?**
 - You will find the name of your child's counselor at the top of his/her schedule. Guidance counselors serve an essential and multifaceted role within our school. Counselors create your child's program and ensure that all requirements for graduation are met. Your child's counselor should be the first person you contact when you have a question or concern regarding your child's program, classes, or any educational concern. Additionally, the counselor is there for you and your child should there ever be any social or emotional concerns. Even if your counselor is unable to directly provide assistance, he/she will be able to point you in the right direction. Additionally, the counselor serves as your primary school advocate. In cases of severe concern, the counselor may make a reference to our Social Worker or Psychologist. In every case, problems are handled with sensitivity. Guidance counselors also provide college counseling by providing vital assistance throughout the entire planning, application and acceptance process.

- 4. Do parents attend Freshman Orientation?**
 - No. The orientation is intended for students only.

- 5. When do Freshmen students get their locker assignments?**
 - Freshmen students will receive their locker number and combination lock (\$5.00) at Freshman Orientation. Each student is encouraged to locate his/her locker (on the first floor) and practice opening the lock following the orientation. For safety and security reasons, students must use the locker assigned to them.

- 6. Are Freshmen segregated into their own classes?**
 - It depends. Many classes in the high school, especially electives, lunch and gym, are composed of students from different grade levels. Others, such as ninth and tenth grade English and Social Studies, are exclusively for those specific grades. Physical Education classes are grouped by Freshman/Sophomore and Junior/Senior classes.

7. When is lunch?

- There are four lunch periods beginning with the fifth period (starts 10:27 A.M.) and ending with the eighth period (starts 12:39 P.M.). Your child may be assigned to lunch during any of these periods. Upon parental request, a lunch period may be waived.

8. May Freshmen students leave school grounds during the school day?

- No students are permitted to leave school grounds as it is a closed campus.

9. Is the cafeteria open for snacks after school?

- There are snack machines and soda/juice machines open in the high school cafeteria after the lunch periods.

10. Are the sports seasons the same in the high school as in the middle school?

- No. While the middle school has four seasons, the high school has three seasons - Fall, Winter and Spring. Importantly, the Fall season starts BEFORE school opens in September. Some sport schedules include practices or games on weekends or during school vacations. Please have your child check with his/her coach to avoid conflicts.

11. Is there a forum for my child to participate in sports if they do not have the skills for a varsity or junior varsity team?

- Yes. In some sports there are JV9 teams for both boys and girls. These teams have been established for ninth graders to stress skill building and participation. We offer strength and conditioning intramurals at 7:30 A.M. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday throughout the school year, evening recreation on Monday and Wednesday nights during the fall and spring seasons, and sport specific intramurals at various times during the school year.

12. Is there a no-cut policy for high school teams?

- While coaches try not to remove students from teams, it does become necessary at times. This is particularly true for varsity teams and popular junior varsity teams. Questions about our athletic program may be addressed to the team coach, or if there is a question or concern, to the Athletic Director, Ms. Nancy Sammis.

13. What time do students typically get home after sports?

- Depending on the sport, there will be practice daily until about 5:30 P.M. Games may go later. Please check with your child's coach to verify anticipated dismissal times.

14. Are there buses after sports?

- Yes. There are late buses at 4:30, 5:45 and 6:30 P.M. Additionally, if the team arrives back at school after the last late bus, the team bus will bring students home.

15. How can my child become involved with clubs if they participate in sports?

- Clubs are scheduled in the morning, before school (period two), so as not to conflict with sport activities that are held after school. Students are encouraged to participate in both clubs and sports to enhance their high school experience. Additionally, teacher "extra-help" is scheduled before school to minimize interference with athletic activities.

16. How can students learn about, choose, and join clubs?

- A listing of clubs/service activities is provided at Freshman Orientation. Additionally, the list is located within the Parent Handbook (available in September/October) and

the Student Handbook (given to Freshmen at Freshman Orientation, and to the other grades on the first day of class). Additionally, there is an A week/B week schedule for clubs posted on line. Daily announcements of club schedules are made over the public announcement system, and signs are posted throughout the school highlighting club meeting times.

17. When is “extra help”?

- Extra help is scheduled individually by each teacher. Usually, it is scheduled before school during period two. Additionally, as a courtesy, many teachers provide additional informal extra help during hall duties or free periods. There is an extra help schedule provided to parents in September, and it is also available on the district web-site.

18. Are absence and late notes required?

- Yes. A parent or guardian should telephone the Attendance Office (ext. 3237) the morning of an absence or lateness. Additionally, when the child returns to school, the parent should provide an absence note. If the parent did not telephone the school when the absence occurred, the Attendance Office may also call the parent to verify the legitimacy of the note.

19. How do I sign out my child from school early?

- New York State law requires that a parent personally sign his/her child out of school if early dismissal is required. If you need to sign your child out of school before the end of the regular school day, please go to the Attendance Office.

20. Is the library open before school?

- Yes. The high school library opens at 8:15 A.M.

21. How will I know how my child is doing in school?

- Progress reports and report cards are electronically mailed to parents at approximately the mid-point of each quarter. These anticipated mailing dates are noted on the District Calendar. Additionally, parents are encouraged to contact the teacher or guidance counselor to check on progress.

22. Whom do I contact if my child has a problem?

- If your child has a class related problem, the child should first speak with that teacher. If the problem is not resolved, the parent should contact the teacher. In almost all cases issues are resolved at this fundamental level. If you are unhappy with the outcome, please contact the Curriculum Associate responsible for that department.
- The Curriculum Associates are:
 - Fine Arts/Home & Careers/Business - Ernest Savaglio
 - Health/Physical Education & Athletics – Nancy Sammis
 - English/Language Arts – Daniel Salzman
 - World Languages - Elaine Margarita
 - Guidance - Lois Smith
 - Science – Frank DiMartino
 - Social Studies – Eric Sundberg
 - Learning Center – John Castronova
 - Music - Kenneth Pollitt
 - Mathematics – Helene Kriegstein

- Additionally, your child’s guidance counselor would serve as an excellent resource in addressing problems or concerns. If the problem is not resolved at this level, you should feel free to contact an assistant principal—Ms. Joan Rosenberg (students with last names A thru K) or Ms. Maureen Appiarius (students with last names L thru Z), or the building principal, Mr. Joseph Prisinzano. We make the strong commitment to respond quickly to your inquiries or expressions of concern.

23. Are courses in the high school “weighted”?

- Yes. Regents and advanced courses are “weighted” in the grade calculation. Advanced Placement and other advanced courses are not weighted more than regular Regents courses. Further information on “weighting” may be found in the Parent Handbook.

24. Is the grade reporting system the same as in the Middle School?

- No. High school grades range from A+ to F, with pluses and minuses. For more explicit information, please refer to the Parent Handbook.

25. Are students ranked in Jericho High School?

- No. We do **NOT** believe that we should rank our students.

26. What do students do during their “free periods”?

- During free periods, students may go to the library, cafeteria, get extra help, or provide in-school community service.

