

Unofficial Staples High School Parent "Top 10 List"

Brought to you by parent representatives on the Staples School Climate Committee

#10 [Inklings](#) – This is a great source of information for things going on and around school. Not only is there a paper version to which you can subscribe, but you can also subscribe online.

#9 [WWPT 90.3 FM](#) – Did you know that Staples has a radio station? It does, and although there is fantastic and talented staff to support them, the best part is that it's student-run. WWPT covers sports, plays a variety of music, has its own programming, and even helps with *Staples Players* productions and other live school events. It is a great opportunity for your budding journalist, DJs, and sports reporters to get real-time, hands-on experience.

#8 Scheduling and Lunch Waves – You may find the schedule confusing at first, but your students will learn and get used to it quickly. Eventually it will become second nature to them. Don't be afraid to have your student reach out to older siblings or friends who have older siblings who have been there and done that. ☺ Staples operates on a four-day rotating schedule with days designated by the letters A-D. Six out of the eight class periods meet each day for either 50 minutes or extended 80 minutes. Most classes meet three days out of the four-day rotation. The fourth period of the school day is divided into three lunch waves. Depending on the class you are in for the lunch period, you are in lunch for one third of the lunch period and class for the other two-thirds of the lunch period. Now do not ask what happens when your child has a science lab during the lunch period!

#7 Lockers – In our day, these were a place to store things so that we didn't have to lug a 20 to 30 pound backpack around all day. At Staples, these are basically for decoration only! LOL! Your student will get assigned a locker and a combination before the first day of school, but we assure you they are hardly ever used. Make sure to buy your student a good backpack, and try to cut down on binders and notebooks and get more folders. If they have extra clothes or sports gear, these could be stored in the shelves in the cafeteria in the designated areas. This will help your student so they are not carrying around those bags as well. So do not be surprised when your child goes coatless through the entire winter, as there is no place to leave a coat. Just a warning, though, the cafeteria areas are cleaned out regularly, so if your student is missing something, it most likely has found its place in the "lost and found" because it was left in the cafeteria for too long. Another tip - you do not need to wait until September to hit Staples for school supplies. Get two three-ring binders and that should cover all of the classes. It's not like middle school where you get a list of supplies, so beat the crowds and stock up early.

#6 [Athletics](#) – Each season, on the Staples athletics website, all teams post tryout information and there is a main link to register, no matter what the sport. The school also sends an email reminder to parents that the date is coming up to register. If your student would like to try out, they need to register online by the date specified as well as submit their physical form to the health office. Make sure they do this with you, as there are questions to be answered and videos to be watched about conduct. This becomes a binding agreement between the participant and the coaches. Did you know that Staples also has sports teams for which there are no tryouts? They will still need to register and submit all of their documentation even if it is a team that doesn't require tryouts.

#5 [Extracurricular Activities & Clubs](#) – Each fall, there is an Involvement Fair at Staples. Prior to this event, your student can research the clubs on the Staples website and learn more about them before registering. If your student doesn't find something that they like, they might even be able to start their own club. ☺

#4 [Music](#) and [Staples Players](#) – Staples Players and the Music Department are incredible and an opportunity for your students to become involved in the arts. Whether it is acting, tech, singing, or an instrument, there are several options here that don't require an audition and some that do.

#3 Student IDs – Everyone gets a school picture taken at the beginning of the year. Even if you don't buy them, your student will receive a picture student ID. Word to the wise, if you do buy them, then the student ID does come in the packet. Not realizing this, I just found my current junior's ID in his freshman photos - LOL.

#2 Parking – The summer going into their senior year, your student can apply for parking. There is no parking on campus for underclassmen. If your student is driving and has a car and is an underclassman, they can park their car at Wakeman. Every senior who gets assigned a parking spot also gets a number so only they can park there.

#1 Support, Support, Support! – We can't stress this enough. Support your student. Staples has a demanding curriculum no matter what level your child takes, whether it's "B," "A," "Honors," or "AP". Please listen to your child and don't pressure her/him to extend themselves more than she/he can. If your child's teacher does not have the same free period or your child needs help outside of a teacher's office hours, there are teachers ready to help in learning centers. Listen to the recommendations of the teachers. They know your students in a classroom setting. If they are recommended for all honors courses, we encourage you to really think this through. The teachers consider only their subject area and do not consider the overall schedule, so only you and the counselor are looking at the overall picture. It is a big jump from middle school and no matter the level, Staples will fully prepare, if not over-prepare, them for college. These are the last four years you have with them in your house, so please enjoy them because it goes by so fast!!! Take it from us!