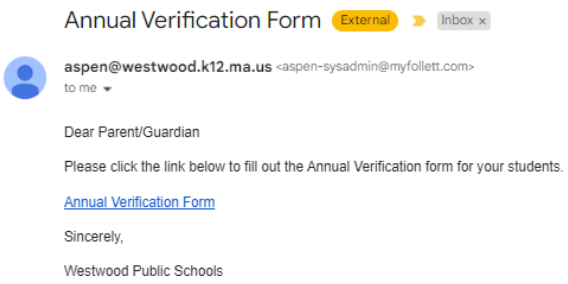
Welcome back to Westwood High School, students and families of the Class of 2027!

I hope you're having an amazing summer. Here at WHS, we are busy and excited preparing for the 2026-2027 school year. The following information should be helpful as you think about the year ahead:

- **Student Schedules**

Student schedules will be available by the end of the day Friday, August 21. You may access the portal using the following link: https://ma-westwood.myfollett.com.

Families will receive an email from the Westwood Schools (aspen@westwood.k12.ma.us) soon asking you to click on an Annual Verification Form to complete for each WPS student in your household:


Annual Verification Form External Inbox ×

aspen@westwood.k12.ma.us <aspen-sysadmin@myfollett.com>
to me

Dear Parent/Guardian

Please click the link below to fill out the Annual Verification form for your students.

Annual Verification Form

Sincerely,

Westwood Public Schools

A completed Annual Verification Form is required before you or your student can access Aspen for this school year. In other words, *students will not be able to access their new schedules until their family has completed their Annual Verification Form*. Families with more than one child in WPS must complete the form for each respective child. Please ensure your family completes the form prior to 8/21/26. You will always be able to revise your responses later, as needed.

You can then download a PDF copy of your child's schedule in the section titled "Published Reports," or click on the "Family" (parents) or "My Info" (students) top tab, then the "Schedule" side tab.

If you cannot remember your Aspen login credentials, please use the Aspen "I forgot my password feature," or email the Aspen Support Desk at aspen@westwood.k12.ma.us. For any questions about Aspen or problems with your account, please access WPS Aspen Support.

If you notice errors—a missing core academic class or a double-booked block, for example—please contact your guidance counselor as soon as possible so that we can resolve the issue.

Please note: we cannot otherwise approve schedule change requests until the school year and Add/Drop period (September 2nd- September 16th) are underway. Furthermore, course level change requests will be processed on a case-by-case basis from September 16th through October 9th, approximately halfway through Term . After this time, students with a Term 1 grade of C- or higher in a course are ineligible to drop levels for the remainder of that course.

On **Friday, August 21st**, returning students are welcome to drop by WHS anytime between 12:00 PM-2:00 PM to walk through their schedules. If you are unable to attend, don't worry. Our WHS faculty and staff will support you in navigating the building during the first few days of school.

➢ **Supplies**

In most cases, each student will need a 3-ring binder to stay organized. Beyond that, student schedules and teacher preferences will vary widely, so it's impossible to create a list that covers all students' needs in all classes. Teachers do not expect students to have specific supplies during the first days of school. Instead, your teachers will include this information on their course expectations sheets on the first days of school.

➢ **Summer Reading**

We are excited for this year's Summer Reading Initiative. This summer's theme is *Reading in Action!* Each student picks an action-packed book of their choosing. In the fall, our One School, Many Stories program will culminate in an all-school assembly featuring the No Hate Tour on September 17. A variety of books are available in the WHS library, on Sora, at the Westwood Public Library, throughout the Minuteman Library Network, and at your local bookstore. Please contact high school librarian Ms. Theresa Fisher with any questions.

➢ **Key People to Contact with Questions**

If you have a question or concern requiring the support of an administrator, your primary contacts for the year will be:

- Assistant Principal Aishleen Marcus: amarcus@westwood.k12.ma.us (Building Administrator for the Class of 2029)
- Administrative Assistant to the Principal Jacqueline Kinsman: jkinsman@westwood.k12.ma.us
- High School Attendance: hsattendance@westwood.k12.ma.us
- Dean of Students Katherine Clifford: kclifford@westwood.k12.ma.us
- Associate Dean Dan Sorrell: dsorrell@westwood.k12.ma.us

➢ **Save These Dates:**

A few key dates you might want to make a note of now are below:

- **August 25 & 26**: New Student Orientation, 12:00 - 3:00 PM, WHS
- **September 2**: Students' first day. Follows the traditional Day 1 schedule for all students. The school day begins at 8:15 AM and ends at 2:55 PM.
- **September 8:** New Parent/Caretaker Orientation, 6:00 PM, WHS Little Theatre
- **October 2:** Term 1 Progress Reports posted, 3:30 PM
- **October 1:** Curriculum Night, 6:00 PM

➢ **Senior Events:**

Many events for the Class of 2026 are funded by senior class dues, which are $120/student. The deadline to submit class dues is Monday, October 5, 2026. Look for more information about how to submit class dues from your senior class advisor soon. ***We will never turn any senior away due to financial concerns***. If you or your family is experiencing financial hardship, please contact your guidance counselor to receive confidential support.

- Class Day: Friday, June 4, 2027
- Graduation: Sunday, June 6, 2027

- **Stay Updated**

We try to keep WHS families as informed as possible about the many things we have going on at any given time. I encourage you to stay informed this year by following along on these platforms:

- **Principal's Newsletter**: I send this out at the midpoint of each month. It includes highlights from the previous month and anything you need to know about the upcoming

month. You don't need to opt in to receive the newsletter; it will be sent to you via the school listserv based on the email addresses you provide in Aspen.
- **Instagram**, and **Facebook:** The school and district rely on social media to communicate information quickly and easily. Sometimes it's simply a photo of students doing something wonderful; sometimes it's a follow-up to a school event, like the opening of registration for J-term courses. Following these platforms will provide you with a good understanding of what's going on in our school and throughout the district.

➢ **A few other things to consider:**
- ***ON-CAMPUS PARKING:*** Mr. Sorrell, our Associate Dean, will notify seniors about how to apply for a parking spot later this month.
- ***LOCKERS:*** Lockers are available this year to all students on request via GoogleForm. Assistant Principal, Aishleen Marcus, will notify students about how to opt into an assigned locker later this month.
- ***CAFE WEST FOOD SERVICES:*** The high school is excited to partner with Food Services to reshape the student dining experience this year.
    - Please note: if you are experiencing financial difficulties and/or would like to apply for waivers for school-related costs, please access the WPS Food Services website for more information. Even though lunch is free for all, families are strongly encouraged to apply for free/reduced lunch; this application will connect you with additional resources and fee waivers.
    - MySchoolBucks: you may also want to establish and/or replenish your child's MySchoolBucks account to purchase snacks from our snack window and à la carte items from the cafeteria. Prices vary. Cash is only accepted at vending machines.
- ***WHS PTO***: Our wonderful Parent-Teacher Organization works hard to support innovative and broad-reaching programs and initiatives that enrich our students' experience. All WHS families are members of the PTO. Please take a moment to contribute to the WHS PTO; the suggested donation is $50 per family per year. (If you are experiencing financial difficulties and would like to request a waiver for these and other school-related costs, please contact your guidance counselor.) Follow @westwoodhs.pto on Instagram for updates and events, and to learn more about how the PTO supports our community!
- ***ON-CAMPUS PARKING:*** On-campus parking privileges are available to juniors and seniors only.

I know this is a lot of information to keep straight, but I hope this note will serve as a resource for you in the coming weeks. If you need support before the start of school, our website (live August 17) has everything you need: www.westwood.k12.ma.us/westwood-high-school.

I look forward to meeting you in person soon. Please let me know if you have any questions, and enjoy the rest of the summer!

Sincerely,

John J. Murray

John J. Murray, Ed.D.
Principal, Westwood High School