

September 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians:

This month we celebrate the 91<sup>st</sup> year of instruction in the Sewanhaka Central High School District. Students will begin classes on September 4, 2019. Our professional staff returned on August 29, 2019. Our Opening Day Program, on September 3, 2019, gave us an opportunity to welcome new and returning faculty and staff. We also honored our Teachers of the Year and employees who have been with the District for 25 years or more. Our goal continues to be to ensure that each child is provided with an education designed to meet his or her needs. We believe that our professional staff is instrumental in providing for this success.

As we begin another new school year, it is very important to review the policies and procedures that enable us to maintain an orderly environment in our District schools. As you know, our students rely on us to ensure that every day spent at school is a day well spent, a day in which learning is everyone's top priority.

In most, if not all school matters, parents/guardians and educators share a partnership. We expect excellence and will accept nothing less from our schools. We want children to be disciplined enough to be attentive in the classroom and appreciative of the educational value of their subjects. They need to be responsible members of society by adhering to its rules and regulations. The safety of your child is important to our entire faculty and staff. The District has adopted a Code of Conduct, as well as District-wide school safety plans, to provide for your child's well-being. A copy of the Code of Conduct is available on the District website. A summary of the Code is also available upon request, in the main office of your child's school.

Additionally, we need you to review the items listed below with your child:

1. All students have been issued identification cards. They must be carried at all times. This is essential for security and identifying visitors, who must register at the security desk.

When visitors arrive at the main entrance of each building, the visitor will ring a buzzer that will notify the security desk. Security will be able to see and communicate with the visitor via intercom and camera. Security will ask for identification and their destination in the building. Once qualified, via intercom, security will buzz in the visitor, who will then present a driver's license or some other form of identification. The identification will be scanned through the Raptor Visitor Management System, which will be placed in a visitor data base and a photo badge will be printed.

Faculty and staff will be required to carry a District issued identification card, which will enable them entry into the building through the new door scan devices. This will enable our school doors to be locked at all times.

2. Consistent with New York State law, the Board of Education has adopted a **no smoking and/or vaping policy; smoking and/or vaping will not be tolerated anywhere in the buildings or on the grounds of the schools of this District.** This policy will be strictly enforced. No one may smoke, either inside or outside

the buildings. Students who violate this policy will face suspension. Smoking/vaping is a dangerous habit; together we must ensure that our children know this.

3. We urge you to be alert to changes in your child's behavior, schedule, or dress, which may suggest involvement in illegal activities. If you suspect that your child may be considering involvement in any illegal activities, or is actually involved, you should contact your school's administration or guidance department for assistance.
4. Any student found to be in possession of or using a weapon, including box cutters or any other object that can be construed to be a weapon, on the property of the school District will not only receive a long-term suspension, but also **may face expulsion, and/or criminal prosecution. Weapons are forbidden!**
5. Any student found to be in possession of or using drugs, (including drug and/or smoking paraphernalia), or any illegal substance, on the property of the school District, or while participating in a school-sponsored activity, or while on a school bus, will be immediately suspended and **may face expulsion and/or criminal prosecution.**

Heroin/opioid use in Nassau County has risen in recent years; please be vigilant in monitoring changes in your child's behavior and seek assistance if necessary.

6. To ensure your child's safety, Board Policy requires that all luggage and personal property be searched prior to departure on school-sponsored, overnight activities.
7. We require young people to show respect for students, teachers and staff. This school District takes pride in its educational programs, and students are expected and required to follow District rules, policies and procedures. We will not tolerate student use of the Internet to engage in cyber-bullying of fellow students or the dissemination of information intended to disrupt the educational process in any of our schools. Similarly, personal electronic devices and social networking sites can be used to cause disruption via the transmission of inappropriate texting, emails and/or photos. Again, be vigilant in ensuring your child's safety and the safety of all our children by monitoring your children's usage of personal computers or other electronic devices. The Dignity for all Students Act (DASA) complaint form is available on the District's website. Bullying and other forms of harassment are not tolerated and will result in the strict enforcement of disciplinary consequences. Your help as a parent is necessary to reinforce this.
8. Any individual responsible for a bomb threat or other false or misleading information resulting in the evacuation of a school is committing a felony and is subject to arrest and expulsion.
9. Cell phones/cameras and other electronic devices may not be used during the school day without permission of your child's classroom teacher for specific educational purposes. They create disturbances and interfere with the learning process. Any child caught using any of the above during school hours will have the items confiscated. We hope you will be vigilant in ensuring your child's safety and the safety of all our children by monitoring your children's usage of these devices.

10. Federal legislation requires that the District provide, upon request by military recruiters or an institution of higher learning, access to the names, addresses and telephone listings of secondary school students. Please notify the Pupil Personnel Chairperson in your child's school in writing if you do not wish this information to be released.

We wish you an excellent school year and hope that your children benefit, each and every day, from the quality educational program that this District provides.

In addition, with the school year just beginning, once again I encourage you to join your PTSA. Please try to find the time to attend an event in your home school and enjoy watching our students compete on our athletic teams, participate in performing arts programs, or in any of the many other school activities that take place throughout the school year. School spirit and pride are bolstered by parent/guardian support of our performing arts groups, clubs and athletic programs.

Let us all continue to work collaboratively to see our children get off to a good start this school year, developing those study routines that are most likely to lead to academic success. We want our students to benefit from all that our schools have to offer. Please contact your child's counselor if you have any questions about what you can do to promote your child's academic success and personal well-being in school.

Sincerely yours,

James J. Grossane, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools