

Dear High School Faculty and Staff:

While plenty of summer remains, I want to at least lay some preliminary groundwork for you leading up to the start of another great year. First, I would like to introduce new staff joining us this fall. **Keith Nohava** rejoins our staff as head custodian, replacing Mark Harder, who took a similar position at Longfellow. **Kristi Kortuem** takes over for the Doug Bengtson in mathematics. Her classroom home is where the math computer lab used to be. **Theresa Wilson** joins our business department this year in a part-time role, taking over for Sarah Van Sickle. **Dr. Eric McDonald**, who has been at the ALC the last year and was there for a stint a number of years ago, joins us part-time in the science department. Although he did a part-time stint this past Spring, I wanted to re-introduce you to **Jon Whitney**, who steps in for Mary Robia, who is taking the year to tend to the new addition to the Robia family! **Craig Johnson** returns to the science department after two years teaching overseas. **Jamie Forbord & Aurora Kubach** will be new additions to our special education department, replacing Barb Drexler and Anne Balluff. New Promise Fellows **Emily Spoden** and **Alvin Abalos** will base out of the TORCH office. We also welcome Promise Fellow **Greg Gianopoulos**, who will assist with the MTSS program this year. **Kim McMillan** also joins our team as a structured study center supervisor and instructional support in MTSS, replacing Pam Hansen, who moves to a job coach position. Finally, **Samantha Olson** will be our new media center educational assistant, taking over for Angie Sletten. Welcome to you all!

There are a number of other returning staff in new or expanded roles with us as well. **Paul Ousley** is back, but this time will be our full-time orchestra music educator. **Tim Biegert** increases to full-time Health and Technology & Engineering (the new moniker for the IT Department). **Karen Nelson** increases to a .9 FTE in FACS this year.

A few specific items for your attention:

- First day of workshops this year is *entirely* time for you to work in your classrooms.
- Student Schedules go live on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, the same day that students report for pictures and incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders have a chance to tour the building with LINK leaders.
- First Day of school – Is some of the same and a little brand new: 9<sup>th</sup> graders arrive at regular time for LINK activities. All staff needs to be out of rooms from 9:30-11:00. All students run **10 minute class/5 minute passing time** schedule starting at 12:30 p.m. **We will end the day with a building-wide meeting in the gym** (lead by the RaiderNation Team). Students will be released to the gym at 2:10 p.m. 9<sup>th</sup> graders will have nothing w/ them when they come to your classes.
- We will do class meetings again this fall. Class meetings will occur on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. 12<sup>th</sup> graders: period 3; 11<sup>th</sup> graders period 2; 10<sup>th</sup> graders period 5; 9<sup>th</sup> graders period 7.
- This year, we will not be doing a Meet the Teacher Night as we have in the past. A straw poll of 10 teachers and counseling staff indicated a strong interest in looking at other options for parent connection, given the ever-shrinking turnout at parent night. We are looking at trading MTT night for a parent connection during registration in the Spring. More info to come.

Teachers new to the district will report to the middle school the morning of *Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>*, and will continue their orientation *Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>*. On *Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>*, NHS faculty will report to the high school for work time in classrooms. *Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>* begins with breakfast at the MS and an all-staff meeting in the MS auditorium. The remainder of the day is in our building with professional development lead by your site council. *Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>* and *Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>*, the district will offer a cafeteria-style menu of staff development offerings to all secondary staff in the H-wing of the high school. A more detailed schedule of SD activities will be available from MaryGrace Hanson somewhere online near where you found this letter!

I wish each of you a enjoyable remainder of the summer break, and we'll see you on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,  
Joel