

WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

70 QUINCY ROAD ♦ BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY 07920 ♦ (908) 204-2610 ♦ FAX (908) 204-0244

KAREN A. HUDOCK
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MARY KNELL
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KATHY POLES
SECRETARIES

September 2010

Dear Parent(s) of Sixth Graders:

I certainly hope that you are having an enjoyable and relaxing summer. I look forward to the opening of school with great anticipation and excitement.

Believing that an open line of communication between the school and parent(s) is key to creating a successful partnership, I will work diligently to convey information to you pertaining to your child's education. My main source of communication with families will be the school's Friday Folder Newsletter available to you via email. For those families who have not yet signed up to receive the Friday Folder Newsletter for WAMS, please go to the district's webpage and click "here" under Friday Folder Update and add the middle school to your list of requested Friday Folder blasts.

At WAMS, we use Home Access Center (HAC) as one of the ways in which we communicate daily and weekly occurrences that happen with your child at school. Families have the ability to sign up for email notifications about discipline incidents, attendance updates, and report card reminders. These email alerts will simply notify you that an incident has occurred, an attendance update was made and/or report cards are available online for you to review. In order to receive the email alerts, you will need to register for them via HAC. For those families that are interested in getting notifications about one/all of the above events, please log on to HAC and click on the "email alert" tab at the top of the page, and then click the appropriate boxes. Please check your Demographic Information for accuracy.

In addition, HAC provides middle school families with the opportunity to view an electronic grade book for your child in each of his/her classes. You are able to see graded assessments, homework assignments, and/or projects that have been assigned to your child once they have been posted by the teacher. Teachers are required to update their grade books every two weeks. Therefore, looking at the electronic grade book daily will not necessarily show an accurate summary of your child's performance in his/her class. Having healthy conversations with your child about his/her school academic responsibilities' is strongly encouraged.

The first several weeks in the lunchroom can be challenging as sixth graders learn the structure and procedures of this new environment. Although Aramark will be providing lunches, I strongly encourage that your child bring a brown bag lunch for the first several weeks of school. This will help keep the lines to a minimum and allow your child to focus on learning the procedures that will be taught to them. In elementary school, students used only part of their student id to access their lunch account. At WAMS, students will be required to memorize and use their entire student id to log into their lunch accounts as well as to gain computer access.

SCHEDULES:

In order to access your child's schedule, you will need to use the same user id and password that was given to you last year to view your child's report card online. If you are unable to log on to Home Access Center, please contact Jennifer Fiorini at jfiorini@bernardsboe.com.

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Reading your child's schedule for the first time on Home Access Center can be confusing. Please remember that we will be working with your child on learning how to read his/her schedule on the first day of school.

Each student should have nine periods in the day including lunch. If your child does not have nine periods listed on his/her schedule, please contact their guidance counselor. Each child will meet **everyday** with his/her classes, so please ignore the days of the week that are listed on the schedule and focus only on the number of periods.

Please print a copy of your child's schedule for them to bring with them on the first day of school. Also, go to the registration page on Home Access Center, and write down the homeroom number on the top of your child's printed schedule.

On the first day of school, all sixth grade students should report directly to the auditorium. Once they arrive, teachers and staff members will help them to locate their homeroom teacher in the auditorium and the entire grade level will listen to a brief welcome announcement. Students will then be dismissed with their homerooms to begin their day.

In closing, I look forward to working with you and your children in making their journey through middle school both a positive and memorable one. I hope to see everyone at Back to School Night, which is scheduled for Wednesday, September 22, 2010, at 7:00 PM.

Sincerely,

Karen A. Hudock
Principal