

August 9, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope you have had a restful and enjoyable summer, and now are ready to begin the school year. In preparation for the first day of school, Tuesday, August 31, I have listed some important information below.

Enclosed for your information are:

- Grading Portal Login Information for PowerSchool to obtaining student schedules
- Bell Schedule
- Canton Public Schools Calendar
- Mission Statement and 21st Century Learning Expectations
- Participation Fees for School Activities Request for Waiver/Reduction
- Open House/Curriculum Night Schedule for September 7
- AlertNow Contact Information
- Notice of Refusal to Disclose (opt out form not to release information to military recruiters)
- Student Parking Notice and Parking Application
- Technology User Agreement & Regulations for Acceptable Use of Technology
- School Bus Transportation
- Free/Reduced Lunch Application
- HUSKY Health Insurance Plan Application
- School Calendar for August - December

Student Regulations for Acceptable Use of Technology: Due no later than September 10, 2010

Enclosed are the school's regulations for acceptable use of technology. In order for students to use the school's computer network and to have Internet access, *both* student and parent/guardian must sign the enclosed 2010-2011 Technology User Agreement. If this form is not returned by September 10, 2010, the student's account will be closed and access to the computer network and the Internet will be denied.

Assistant Principal Update

A committee of 14 members of the school community including administrators, superintendent, BOE members, teachers, parents, and students read 32 application packets and selected 10 candidates to interview. After two full days of interviews, three finalists were selected. Upon checking references, select candidates will be interviewed later in August by a smaller committee composed of the superintendent, BOE chair, assistant superintendent, middle school principal, and me. A site visit or visits will also occur. Once approved by the BOE, it is hoped that our candidate can start sometime in October. Meanwhile, I will work closely with the staff so that the responsibilities of the assistant principal and principal are fulfilled.

Student Schedules - Schedules for students may be accessed by using your grading portal login information for PowerSchool - enclosed .

Bus Routes

Please check the district's website (www.cantonschools.org) for bus numbers and routes. Bus schedules are also posted on the bulletin board outside the nurses' office.

High School Schedule Changes

If a parent or student has a question regarding a student's schedule, please call the Guidance Department at 693-7711 to schedule an appointment. Counselors will be available on August 19 through the start of school to make any necessary schedule changes.

Lockers & Combinations

Students will be assigned lockers as well as combinations to their built-in locks. This information will appear on the student's schedule. Because we want to keep these lockers in pristine condition for years to come, NO WRITING and NO TAPE will be allowed inside or outside the lockers.

9th Grade Orientation Program: Tuesday, August 24; 9:00 – 11:00 am

On Tuesday, August 24 from 9:00 – 11:00 am, there will be an orientation program sponsored by the Student Council for incoming 9th grade students. Students will have an opportunity to hear from current Student Council members and other student leaders, about their freshman year experience, speak with teachers, view a CHS-TV video, locate their locker, and tour the school. Please note there will be a reception for parents in the library from 9:00 – 11:00 am to meet school counselors and administrators.

New Staff/Changes

- John Bement, Athletic Coordinator
- Bonnie Berry, Special Education Paraeducator, Grade 9
- Margaret Bristol, Physical Education
- Casey Conrod, School Counselor
- Karen Flinn-Girard, French Teacher
- Michelle Henry, Administrative Intern
- Keith McConnell, Special Education Paraeducator, Grade 10
- Kathaline Premont, French Teacher
- Sharon Seltzer, Special Education Paraeducator, Grade 11
- Tara Smith, Spanish Teacher
- Elizabeth Bartholomew, School Counselor, resigned in July
- Nancy Dasilva, Spanish Teacher, resigned in June
- Gabrielle Laux was married in July – her last name is Aitchison
- Lauren McCaw was married in June – her last name is Sheehan
- Cecile Mancini is on maternity leave until November 29

Fall Preseason Practices & Try-Outs

In order to try out, student athletes need a permission form and updated physical. On September 2nd at 6:00 pm in the auditorium there will be a MANDATORY meeting to discuss the athletic program.

Students interested in playing a fall sport should report to the following locations on the dates indicated:

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Football	August 18 – 20: 4:30 – 7:00 pm	CHS – deSimas Field
	Saturday, August 21: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon	
	August 23 - 27: 4:30 – 7:00 pm	
	Saturday, August 28: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon	
	Monday, August 30: 4:30 – 7:00 pm	
Boys' Soccer	Saturday, August 28: 9:00 – 11:30 am & 4:00 – 6:00 pm	CHS – Bowdoin Field
	Sunday, August 29: 4:00 – 6:00 pm	
	Monday, August 30: 6:30 – 8:00 am & 3:00 – 5:30 pm	
Girls' Soccer	Saturday, August 28: 8:00 – 11:00 am & 4:00 – 7:00 pm	CHS
	Sunday, August 29: 2:00 – 5:00 pm	
	Monday, August 30: 8:00 – 11:00 am & 4:00 – 6:00 pm	
Field Hockey	Saturday, August 28: 8:00 – 10:00 am & 4:00 – 6:00 pm	CHS
	Monday, August 30: 8:00 – 10:00 am & 4:00 – 6:00 pm	
Cross Country	Saturday, August 28: 9:00 – 11:30 am – Meet at Simsbury High School Parking Lot (near track)	
	Monday, August 30: 4:00 – 6:30 pm – Meet at Stratton Brook Park in Simsbury	

Pay to Participate Information (Board of Education Policy #5139)

All developmental, freshmen, JV and Varsity athletes will be required to pay a fee which will off set athletic trainer and transportation costs.

For all sports except football: \$100 per athlete per season with a \$175 individual cap and a \$300 family cap.

Football: \$225 with a family cap of \$300.

- The fees will be collected between the end of try-outs and the first regular season game.
- The fee will be collected by Mrs. Melanson in the main office between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm.
- ***Students will not be able to participate in games until the fee is paid.***
- Checks should be made out to **Canton Board of Education** with the memo stating the **student's name and sport**.
- Students receiving free or reduced price meals are exempt from payment of Pay to Participate fees. Those students with other financial hardships may complete a waiver form for a reduction of or exemption from the Pay to Participate fees. This form can be picked up in the main office or downloaded from the school website.

Guidance Counselor Distribution Chart

<u>Grade 9</u>	I. Urko C. Conrod J. Gacek	A - Checkas Chouinard - L M - Z
<u>Grade 10</u>	I. Urko C. Conrod J. Gacek	A - Ca Camilleri - L M - Z
<u>Grade 11</u>	I. Urko C. Conrod J. Gacek	A - Cahill Cardwell - Manna Marsh - Z
<u>Grade 12</u>	I. Urko C. Conrod J. Gacek	A - Camporeale Case - Kutz L - Z

School Goals: 2010 – 2011

Improve student performance for all students, and to intervene when students do not perform at appropriate levels.

Steps to meet the above goal:

1. Collect data to answer each of the NEASC accreditation indicators for each of the seven standards listed below, to implement changes when appropriate and to plan for future changes:

Core Values, Beliefs, and Learning Expectations; Curriculum; Instruction; Assessment of and for Student Learning; School Culture and Leadership; School Resources for Learning; and Community Resources for Learning
2. Implement the use of school-wide rubrics to measure student success in meeting the school's 21st century learning goals.
3. Implement intervention strategies for students who are not experiencing success using Scientifically Research-Based Interventions (SRBI).

Canton Academy – An Alternative School

Canton Academy, an alternative school, is a smaller learning environment for select students. The school operates Monday through Thursday, 3:00 pm – 6:30 pm on the campus of Canton High School.

- The program is available to regular and special education students in grades 11 and 12. During the first year, enrollment in the program may be limited up to 10 students.

- Students are eligible for the program if recommended by the PPT or the Student Intervention Team, and have demonstrated the need for a small instructional setting in a modified school day. Students would be required to complete an application prior to admittance, and would be required to participate in an interview process with a member of the Academy program, a parent/guardian and a counselor or case manager.
- For additional information, please contact Melissa Cook, coordinator of the Canton Academy, your teenager's counselor, or visit the school's website to read the Canton Academy Handbook.

Writing Lab

There is a Writing Lab located in Room 217 for students who want additional help with their writing. The lab will be open most periods during the school day.

Other additional avenues of support include the Math Lab (Rm. 117) and the Academic Support Center (Rm. 113); the Academic Support Center is by referral by counselor.

Graduation Requirements for Class of 2012 and Beyond

Graduation requirements for the Class of 2012 and for those classes that follow are different than those for the Class of 2011. The major changes are that students in the Class of 2012 and the Class of 2013 will need to earn 24 credits to graduate, 3 credits in science, and 8.5 credits in electives vs. the current criteria of 22 credits, 2 credits in science, and 7.5 credits in electives.

Health is incorporated *in the PE program* with a curriculum focused on lifestyle choices for good health and is aligned with the State Standards, keeping with the school's mission to provide a "rigorous and relevant curriculum."

Canton High Advisory Teams (CHAT)

CHAT, will be held for ALL students, grades 9 – 12, every Wednesday for 18 minutes. CHAT groups will be kept small with 10- 12 students assigned to one staff member. One of the first items to be discussed will be ?

The purpose of CHAT is to provide students with:

- an adult, other than their guidance counselor, who knows them well
- a venue to ask questions and to receive information about school and teen issues
- an opportunity to get to know their peers better in a relaxed and supportive environment

Grading Portal

Enclosed are passwords for parents and students to the PowerSchool Grading Portal. From this site, you can view your teenager's schedule and performance in classes at any time. For this reason, interim reports will not be sent home, however, an email during interim time will be sent reminding you to check the Grading Portal.

The privacy of your student's grades are legally protected. Therefore, as part of the Parent Portal sign up process, we will now be taking steps to protect your password security. First, you must have a registered email on file with us. If you do not, or your email has changed, please email your email address to: lhellgren@cantonschools.org. If you forget or need to reset your password, you can call the school's main office and speak with Lorene Chellgren who will then email the new password to your registered email address. If you do not have a registered email address with us, you must come to school in person and present an ID in order to reset your password.

Parent Volunteers Needed

Parents are needed to assist students with their reading and writing assignments for English and social studies. You do not need a degree in English or social studies, but you need strong writing skills, good interpersonal skills, a sense of humor, and flexibility. If you can spare an hour or more a week, please email my secretary, Lorene Chellgren, at lhellgren@cantonschools.org by August 27, 2010. An informational meeting as well as a training meeting will then be scheduled.

CHS Website: www.cantonschools.org

The school's website contains a lot of valuable information. The daily announcements for that day, the program of studies, athletic schedules and scores, and monthly newsletters are also on the site. Testing reports for advanced placement, CAPT, and SAT will also appear on the site. In addition, I post select memos that I write to the superintendent regarding school issues. Please visit the site; if you have any suggestions for improvement, please email me.

Important Dates

- Tuesday, August 24, 9:00 – 11:00 am 9th Grade Orientation
- Tuesday, August 31, 7:35 am First day of school
- Thursday, September 2; 6:00 pm Mandatory Fall Sports Meeting for Parents and Students
- Tuesday, September 7; 7:00 pm Open House/Curriculum Night – This is a time to meet teachers and to learn about the curriculum
- Wednesday, September 8 Class elections
- Friday, September 10 October 9 SAT registration deadline
- Friday, September 17 School Picture Day
- Saturday, October 9 SAT (registration deadline September 10)
- Saturday, November 6 SAT (registration deadline October 8)

Enclosed is a calendar of events for the first five months of school. In addition, students will receive a handbook/calendar on the first day of school.

Open House/Curriculum Night: Tuesday September 7; 7:00 pm

We will begin in the auditorium with some general remarks, followed by an opportunity to meet each of your teenager's teachers. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the curriculum and expectations for each course. Please be sure to bring a copy of your student's schedule, as we will be following a modified bell schedule for periods A – G.

High School Musical: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat – March 25 – 27, 2011

Under the direction of Brett Gottheimer, a musical experience will be offered to students this year. Mr. Gottheimer and Mrs. Diana Lawler will be the Co-Musical Directors. Information about tryouts will be announced later this year.

Canton High School Plan Book

Students can start the new school year off right and be organized from the first day of school. Freshmen may purchase a plan book at orientation on August 24 and all students can purchase a plan book in the main office during the first week of school for \$10.00. There is a limited number of plan books so please purchase while supplies last.

CIAC Policy on Performance Enhancing Substances

The governing organization for interscholastic sports, the CT Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC), has a chemical health policy so that athletics found using performance enhancing drugs by their school district will be immediately disqualified from any further participation in CIAC-sponsored sports for a period of 180 school days on each occurrence. A portion of the policy states:

A student-athlete who has been determined to have used, in or out-of-season, androgenic/anabolic steroids or other performance enhancing substances shall be declared ineligible for all CIAC-sponsored activities for one hundred eighty (180) school days on each occurrence. The one hundred eighty (180) school day period of ineligibility commences on the day the CIAC Board of Control makes such determination.

The student athletic handbook will have additional information about the policy. The complete policy can be found at the CIAC website: www.casciac.org If you have any questions, please contact John Bement, athletic coordinator.

Phone Numbers & Voice Mail

In an effort to better serve you; please use these numbers when calling the school.

	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Fax</u>
High School:	693-7707	693-7812
H.S. Guidance:	693-7711	693-5855
Nurse's Office:	693-7201	693-5837
Athletic Office:	693-7713	693-7812
Middle School	693-7712	693-5844

The main office is open from 6:30 am – 4:00 pm. After hours, you can leave a message on the school's voice mail.

Dropping Off Students in the Morning

For the safety of students and others, when driving students to school, please **do not** drop them off in front of school between 7:00 am and 7:35 am. In fact, if you would pull in the parking lot closest to the school and nearest the stop sign, morning traffic will flow much smoother. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please call. Meanwhile, enjoy the remaining weeks of summer.

Yours,

Gary Gula
Principal

GG/lc