



CLARKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL

22500 Wims Road • Clarksburg, Maryland 20871
Telephone 301.444.3000 • Fax 301.444.3595

August 1, 2017

Dear Clarksburg High School Families:

I hope this letter finds you doing well and in good health and spirit while you are enjoying the final weeks of summer. It is not optimistic of me to assume that you have had a wonderful time with family and friends and that you have managed to stay cool during the hot weather we have had this summer. On behalf of the entire Clarksburg High School staff, I would like to welcome you to the beginning of what is going to be a wonderful 2017-2018 school year! We have been diligently working hard this summer to plan for the school year and prepare a second home for your wonderful children.

To accomplish our goal of EXCELLENCE, the Instructional Leadership Team has used school data, student, parent and staff feedback to develop a blueprint that provides students additional opportunities to be successful in all levels of instruction using a differentiated instructional approach. Our school improvement work will be framed around the notion that, "All students need daily access to differentiated instruction through frequent opportunities and a variety of methods to demonstrate and comprehend content knowledge in order to successfully access rigorous curriculum." Whole child education will be the norm as we delve into this instructional focus using the lens of cultural relevancy, engaging in our shared belief that every individual contributes to our school community. We want our students to strive toward college and career readiness. We must prepare them for the demands of the 21st Century global environment, emphasizing the mastery of critical thinking skills.

Speaking of college and career readiness, I have great news to report to you regarding our students' participation and performance on Advanced Placement (AP) exams. We have received results from the College Board. This past May, 685 students took one or more of the 1,271 AP exams we administered. While our participation rate increased by 134 exams, our performance on the exams remained exemplary. **Over 500 students earned scores of 3 or higher, or 73.6% of the Total AP students had scores of 3 or higher.** Scores at this level often yield opportunities for credit at colleges and universities throughout our region and our nation.

This increase is directly related to our collaborative efforts as a school community. Our staff, students, and parents came together to formulate a comprehensive AP instructional plan. We met monthly with a committee of teachers, counselors, and administrators to review and adjust the plan. We will continue this work as part of the Equal Opportunity Schools cohort which you can learn more about here: <http://eoschools.org/>. In addition, please take note of the following events taking place through our College and Career Center:

- Tuesday, August 8, 2017 - 10 am - 12 pm ~ What to Expect Your Senior Year - Be Prepared and 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm FAFSA Preparing for the Financial Aid Process
- Wednesday, August 16, 2017 - 10 am - 12 pm ~ Are You Prepared for the ACCUPLACER and 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm Open Forum
- Thursday, September 7, 2017, Senior/Financial Aid Night 6 pm - 8 pm (6 pm - 7 pm College Application Process) (7 pm - 8 pm Financial Aid Process) – School Auditorium

The remainder of this letter includes information to help you prepare for the 2017-2018 school year. Please read the information under each category heading carefully. The information provided in this summer packet is our one consistent communication vehicle that reaches every home. We have made every effort to answer all the questions we are anticipating from you; however, if additional questions arise, please feel free to contact me via e-mail at Edward_K_Owusu@mcpsmd.org.

In closing, I am energized as I begin my 24th year as an educator and it is with pride that I begin my first year as Principal at Clarksburg High School. A Meet & Greet has been planned for August 15 at 5:30 PM in the school Media Center. I look forward to speaking with many of you! Please know that I will continue to work diligently to maintain and build upon the positive gains this school has made, as well as assist in creating new opportunities for student success. I am thrilled to be a part of this community and will strive to make every child's experience a positive one. My vision for a kid friendly, academically challenging environment will be communicated in all my actions and words. It's my hope and expectation to work in partnership with students, parents, and staff to make this one of the best years yet!

WELCOME NEW STAFF TO CLARKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL

Please join me to welcome staff new to Clarksburg High School. Each individual brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his/her position and a commitment to our students and school community.

Jamie Fraunhoffer, Alternative 1 Teacher
Andrew Kirk, Art Teacher
Malina Danowski, Art Teacher
Rigel Wolf-Hubbard, American Sign Language Teacher
Lindsay Cao, Resource Counselor
Lauren Termini, English Teacher
Tara-Dee Whitely, English Teacher
Ingrid Bell, French Teacher
Rebecca Beadling, ESOL Teacher
Denise Miller, Health Teacher
Daniel Miller, Math Teacher
Julie Scherer, Math Teacher
Kimberly Csulak, Math Teacher
Ben Tylka, Science Teacher
Lori Martioski-Taylor, Science Teacher
Kimberly Moore, Social Studies Teacher
Amber Parks, Social Studies Teacher
Brigitte Crossen, Resource Teacher Special Education (RTSE)
Holly Friedman, LAD SpEd Teacher
Sharele Spear, LAD SpEd Teacher
John Swiatocha, Tech Ed Teacher

NINTH GRADE and NEW STUDENT & PARENT ORIENTATION SESSIONS

We will be hosting an orientation session for all 9th grade students and students at other grade levels new to CHS on **Thursday, August 31, 2017 from 7:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** This will be the first opportunity for students to visit with us, learn their daily schedule, and meet their classroom teachers. We expect all 9th grade students to attend. We will also conduct an Activities Club Fair to promote student organizations and encourage participation. **MCPS Bus transportation will be provided on August 31, 2017.** A letter from our MCPS transportation supervisor and a listing of the bus stops and routes for Clarksburg High School have been included for your review. Students should arrive at the bus stop five minutes prior to the start time listed on the bus route document and ride the bus to and from Clarksburg High School on the day of the orientation. CHS Boosters will be selling "Class of 2019" t-shirts to freshman students at the Freshman Orientation from 8:00-12:00. The shirts are Coyote Blue which can be used in PE classes. Shirts are \$10 each. We accept cash, credit cards or checks made payable to CHS Boosters. CHS Boosters will also be selling Clarksburg Spirit wear at the Freshman Parent Orientation that evening from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Bring your checkbook!!)

We will also conduct an orientation session for all parents of 9th grade students and those new to CHS during the evening of **August 31, 2017 from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.** Please make plans to join us that evening to learn more about your child's experience at Clarksburg High School.

MEET THE COACHES NIGHT

On Wednesday, August 23, 2017 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the auditorium, we will be conducting our annual "Fall Meet the Coaches" Night. This required meeting is an opportunity for the parents of our student-athletes to talk with the coaches of our fall sports teams and learn about the policies and procedures associated with athletics at Clarksburg High School. Tryouts and practices for Fall Sports begins on Wednesday, August 9th. Please visit the athletics website at www.CHScoyotes.org for details.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The first day of school for students is **Tuesday, September 5, 2017 beginning at 7:45 am.** Students will report to their Homerooms, organized alphabetically by grade level. We will have members of our Student Government Association (SGA), our Coyote Ambassadors, and other student leaders available that morning to assist students as they navigate the hallways to find their Homeroom assignment. We will also have the Homeroom listings posted throughout the school.

Students will also be asked to sign the Technology Code of Ethics. This document outlines expectations students must follow while accessing computer software and internet programs at Clarksburg High School. A copy of the Technology Code of Ethics is on our website for your review.

Please take the time to emphasize to your child the importance of safe and sound decision making while using the computer and partner with us to ensure a safe and positive cyber learning environment for all of our students. **Once a student has signed and returned the Technology Code of Ethics, he/she will receive a user id and password.**

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, September 19th!** This is one of the most important nights in the school year. Our entire staff will be available to meet with you and discuss our instructional and extracurricular programs. Our administrative team will be on hand for a *Meet and Greet* in the auditorium at 6:30 p.m. and classroom visits will commence at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Academic success begins with excellent attendance. Therefore, special attention will be paid to the issue of attendance and punctuality. We expect every student to be in school every day except for the legitimate reasons defined by Maryland State law and listed below:

- Death in the immediate family
- Certified illness of the student
- Court summons
- Work or activity accepted by school authorities
- Observance of religious holiday
- Quarantine
- Physical and mental incapacity
- Violent storms
- State emergency

When a student is absent, a signed note by a parent or guardian must be turned in to Ms. Koval in the Attendance Office within 3 days of returning to school for the absence to be excused. Notes for early dismissal must be presented to the Attendance Office prior to the start of the school day. We respectfully request that, when possible, doctor appointments are made for the after school hours and on days when there is not school. Likewise, please pay careful attention to the enclosed school calendar and schedule vacations and college visits for the times that school is not in session. **Students who miss class assignments due to an unexcused tardy or absence will not receive grades or credit for those missed assignments. Students will remain responsible for the content of those assignments, as they prepare for summative assessments.**

LUNCH POLICY

All students will eat lunch during one 34-minute session following 4th period. Students may eat in the cafeteria or in classrooms that are supervised by a teacher or member of the Clarksburg High School staff. Students may also eat in one of our three outdoor courtyards if weather permits. The courtyards represent a privilege, and students are expected to maintain the grounds impeccably during lunch or they will simply lose the opportunity to eat within them. **Students may not eat nor assemble in any stairwells during the lunch period. Students may not leave school grounds during lunch without parent consent and administrator approval.**

The 34-minute lunch session is also designed to promote opportunities for academic support and for club participation. Teachers will be available for students to visit for small group tutoring, re-teaching, and reassessment. All students are expected to seek assistance from their teachers on a regular basis and strive to achieve at least a 3.0 grade-point average.

PORTABLE COMMUNICATION DEVICES (PCDs)

Students will be permitted to use their PCDs before school, during lunch, and after school throughout the facility. Students will be expected to practice proper etiquette, keeping cell phone ring tones silent or on vibrate. Students will use ear buds when listening to music devices during the time listed above. At other times ear buds should be away.

After careful deliberation by the Instructional Council, we have decided to provide our teachers with more flexibility regarding the instructional use of PCDs within the classroom. This year, as has been customary, **teachers** will be able to decide if and when it is appropriate for students to use the PCDs to support their learning in the classroom. Teachers will reserve the right to restrict use of PCDs as well. Students who consistently fail to adhere to the PCD policy will have their phones confiscated by an administrator or security team member. **Confiscated phones will be available for pick up by a parent or guardian once a week on Thursday afternoons from 2:30 to 4:00 pm.**

ID BADGES

New students will be issued ID badges at no cost and **these badges should be carried at all times.** Students will need to show their ID to receive or use school services. Students who lose, break, or deface their ID's will have to pay a replacement cost of \$5.00 per new card.

STUDENT AGENDA BOOK

During the first week of school, each 9th grade student will receive a student agenda book that contains a school calendar, policies and procedures, and other important information. **Parents and guardians should read it and review it with their children.** This agenda book will answer most questions about the school and its workings. Students should carry this agenda book with them throughout the school year. Students who lose their agenda book will have to pay a replacement cost of \$5.00 per new book.

NO FEE FOR PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Division of Controller is pleased to announce the Board of Education approval of the elimination of ECA fee for the 2017 – 2018 school year. Parents of middle or high school students will no longer have to pay a fee for their child to participate in sports, after school clubs or other activities.

PARKING PERMITS APPLICATIONS – SENIORS ONLY

Applications are available in the Business office or on-line at our website, www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/clarksburghs. Applications are due by August 18, 2017. MCPS has a fee of \$37.50 per semester for parking. Please do not submit the fee with the application.

LOCKERS

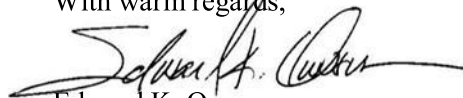
Lockers will be distributed to 9th, and 10th students during Homeroom. Due to enrollment beyond our facility's capacity, lockers will be optional for 11th and 12th grade students. Lockers will be issued to 11th and 12th grade students on a first come, first served basis through the Business Office.

JOIN YAHOO GROUPS! CLARKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL'S E-MAIL LIST SERVE

Our Yahoo Groups e-mail list serve is a powerful way to stay connected with news and happenings at Clarksburg High School. It is also an important and effective communication tool in times of emergency. We encourage all families to sign up for the Yahoo Groups e-mail list serve by following the instructions below:

1. **Sign in to Yahoo Groups.** In order to access Yahoo Groups, you will need a Yahoo account. Create an account by going to www.Yahoo.com and clicking "Mail." Follow the prompts to create a new account.
2. **Search for Clarksburg High School** at the top of the page, enter and click **Search Groups.**
3. On the search results page, click a group's name to see its description.
4. To join, click **Join Group.** A page opens, asking for your membership info (your display name, alias, email address, message delivery, etc.).
5. Set your membership info.
6. Click **Send Request.**

With warm regards,



Edward K. Owusu
Principal