

TURNERS FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

222 Turnpike Road
Montague, MA 01351
Phone 413-863-7200 Fax 413 863-0298
www.gmrtd.org

August 20, 2018

Dear TFHS Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of the staff of Turners Falls High School, welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! We look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure that our students can reach their highest potential.

A few important dates to begin the year:

- Wednesday August 29, 10:00-11:30 am: Drop-in building tours and schedule distribution for incoming 9th graders and other new students
- Thursday August 30: First day of school for all grades (7:45 am-2:25 pm)
- Tuesday September 11: Student photo day
- Thursday September 20: TFHS Open House Night, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

You can support your children's education by making sure they arrive at school on time and ready to learn, **every day**. Although high school students are progressing toward independence, they still need our guidance and modeling. We will be utilizing our automated telephone system to call the primary number listed for a student who is marked absent unexcused or tardy unexcused each day before 10:00 am. Calls will begin in the second full week of school, after the Add/Drop period ends on September 7 and students' schedules are settled. If you need to report an excused absence, please call 863-7200.

Bus Transportation: If your child rides the bus, you can find a link to the Kuzmeskus Bus Company website under the Parents tab on gmrtd.org. If you need more information about routes, please call Kuzmeskus at 863-2595. Late bus service will begin the second full week of school, Mondays-Thursdays, and more information will be posted about routes at that time.

Meals at School: As of today, we are waiting on a decision from the state about whether we can become a "free school meals for all students" school. We will broadcast an announcement as soon as we hear from the state. If we do not qualify for free meals for all, cafeteria prices will remain \$1.75 for breakfast and \$2.75 for hot lunch. There are a variety of food options available each day and students may purchase alternatives to the hot lunch. Families continue to have the option to put money on your child's account online through PaySchoolsCentral.com; details are under the Parents tab on the district website. If we do become "free meals for all," [PaySchools](http://PaySchoolsCentral.com) can still be used for the purchase of a la carte items.

Family Communication: We use a system called **PlusPortals** to support home-school communication. You can access PlusPortals by using the link under the Parents tab on the district website or by going directly to www.plusportals.com/GMRSD. Login credentials will be sent to new families closer to the opening of school. If you need assistance in accessing your PlusPortal account, call our main office at 863-7200. If you do not have internet access, please notify the main office so that we can provide you with paper copies of the reports. We will publish a weekly email newsletter from the Guidance office each Monday, and post photos and updates on the school Facebook page and website, and to use our automated phone and email system to share important information. Please make sure we have your current email address and other contact information.

Staffing Updates: Please join me in welcoming two new teachers to the TFHS staff:

- Ms. Leslie Charles, HS Graphic Arts Teacher
- Ms. Emmalyn Hicks, MS & HS Art Teacher

In addition, we are welcoming Officer Dan Miner (already well-known to us as a supportive parent and community member) as the new GMRSD School Resource Officer. You'll see him around the secondary building, especially when he's out keeping things safe in our parking areas during arrival and dismissal times.

Please contact the school with any questions. We are here to help! We look forward to welcoming students on the 30th and to seeing you at Open House.

Sincerely,

Ms. Annie Leonard
Principal of Secondary Education
Annie.Leonard@gmrsl.org

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