

Dear Parents and Eighth Graders,

Orientation activities designed to develop new friendships, build class unity, and make the first days of the academic year run as smoothly as possible will be held on Wednesday, September 5, and Thursday, September 6. Please make sure you have returned the School's **GENERAL PERMISSION SLIP (online via Magnus) by Friday, August 10**. This is **IMPORTANT**, for without it, your son will be unable to join his classmates on the outing on Thursday, September 6.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 – Orientation for NEW Eighth Graders Only**

All NEW students should arrive at the academic building by **8:15 a.m.** for a meeting in the McCulloch Room. Everyone should bring his class schedule and a pencil. Dress on Wednesday should be casual but neat. The boys will meet several school administrators and student leaders as well as their advisors, and they will become familiar with the academic day and with the locations of key areas on campus. **Students who were with us last year in Grade 7 should NOT come to school this day.**

Parents are invited to join us at 12:00 p.m. in Ward Hall for a casual lunch ending our orientation for the day. Parents wishing to learn how to use the School's intranet site are invited to join us one half hour before lunch (at 11:30 a.m.). Christine Robertson will offer a demonstration on how to best utilize the features of the School's website.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 – Orientation Trip Day for ALL Seventh and Eighth Graders**

All eighth graders will be traveling by bus to Long Wharf and from there by ferry to Georges Island for a day of fun activities that will help new and returning students get to know each other. Since this will be an outdoor experience, the boys should wear sneakers, comfortable clothes, and sunscreen. They will need to bring a **bagged lunch** as well as raingear if the forecast warrants it. They should not bring gum, candy, iPods, or other valuables. We will assemble in Ward Hall at **7:30 a.m.** Our day's activities should end by 2:30 p.m. Parents, please pick up your sons at that time.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 – First Day of Classes**

Classes begin this day after an all-school assembly and a meeting with advisors.

Boys, come in dress code with your books, pens, pencils, assignment books, and paper. Be sure you have completed your summer reading books and are prepared to discuss and report on them. Each of your teachers will let you know the specific requirements for his or her course.

I encourage you to come to school ready to participate enthusiastically in the orientation activities and in all your school endeavors – academic, extracurricular, and athletic. I expect that if you do, you will get off to a great start and go on to enjoy a stimulating and fulfilling year at school.

Wishing you a pleasant last few weeks of summer, I look forward to welcoming all of you, both the new and the "old" members of the Class of 2023 in September.

Sincerely,

**David Cornish**

*Director, Grades 7 and 8*