August 23, 2019

Dear Students and Parents,

Seven years ago, I wrote my first letter as principal, welcoming students and parents to a new school year. I was inspired by my memories of the late-August anticipation I experienced as a student myself at Watchung Hills. I remember my excitement on the first day of school as principal and the pride I felt as I looked out at the graduating class and delivered my first commencement address. With each incoming class, I had opportunities to meet new students and witness the remarkable work of students and teachers in the classroom, on stage, and on the fields and courts. With each graduating class, my pride in serving the Watchung Hills community grew. With each interaction with students and families, my life was enriched.

As I write this letter, I am inspired by my memories of the last seven years and my pride in the accomplishments of our students and our school community. And as excited as I am about my new role in Watchung Borough, I want you to know how deeply grateful I am for your support and how much I will miss being on campus every day. But I will be just down the street, and I remain a loyal Watchung Hills Warrior!

Now, on behalf of the entire faculty, staff, and administration, I am very pleased to welcome you back for a new school year. Over the next ten days, as you anticipate the first day, you have a wonderful opportunity to adjust your mindset and prepare for the rich set of challenges that lie ahead. Consider what you hope to accomplish and the path you plan to take. No matter how you travel, my hope is that you take advantage of the opportunities to broaden your perspective and deepen your understanding of yourself and the world. So be curious and pay attention to your experiences, approach your responsibilities with a belief that you will continue to grow, and embrace the setbacks and learn from them.

The journey may seem long, but it goes fast. This year’s first step is to follow the instructions on the school-opening information webpage. Please read all sections carefully. Student schedules will be available through Parent Access today at 1 pm.

You have my best wishes for continued success. Enjoy the remaining days of summer break.

Very truly yours,

George P. Alexis ’84
Principal