

January 6, 2020

Dear Future Viking and Parents,

My name is Steve Loe, and it's my privilege to serve as principal of Shawnee Mission West High School. The purpose of this letter is to welcome you to SMW as a member of the Class of 2024 and invite you to a very special evening being held in your honor.

On Monday, January 27th, we will be hosting our annual **Viking View** program. The purpose of the program is to help you learn about the many exciting academic and extra-curricular activities provided at our high school. Our hope is that any questions you might have about enrollment will be answered. **Viking View** is a family event. We expect parents to accompany students to the program, so you can help make decisions related to your student's education for the next four years. There will be teachers, counselors, and sponsors of extra-curricular activities present to answer your questions about SMW, course work expectations, and activities.

Over the next four years, you will hear our school emphasize the importance of planning for the future, parents, students and teachers working together as a team, and our commitment to excellence in all we do at SMW. I believe **Viking View** gives you an opportunity to understand and appreciate what makes SMW one of the best high school experiences in the area.

Your student will be receiving materials from our Counseling Department regarding information on course selection during English classes at Westridge on Tuesday, January 21st. Placement in honors classes is an important consideration. Please understand that as educators and parents we look at a number of measurements of achievement including test scores and class grades. But I also realize no one knows your child better than you. If you feel your child is able to meet the rigor of an honors course or higher level math course, please talk to us and we will be happy to work with you and your child. **My expectation is that if a student chooses to enroll in an honors course, he or she needs to stay in that class.** We want our students to push themselves to achieve at the highest level. Some of the honors classes at the 9th grade level have summer assignments that need to be completed before school begins in August.

Again, welcome to SMW. The staff and I look forward to having you on the team. If you have any questions regarding enrollment, please don't hesitate to call the Counseling Office at 993-7830. I look forward to meeting you on **Monday, January 27th, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.**

Go Vikings!

Steve Loe, Principal
Shawnee Mission West High School