



Dear Harrison High School Families:

Welcome once again to the 2019-2020 school year. Every member of our learning community at Harrison High School is committed to creating an environment where your children are nurtured and encouraged to explore and find their passions. I welcome you to be a part of your child's high school experience and look forward to working together in a partnership to support your children in having a meaningful and rigorous school year. Throughout the year, I will keep you informed about what is happening at Harrison High school through this newsletter, "Community Connections." While I can't completely capture in words all of the amazing things I have the privilege of experiencing each day in our classrooms and in the acts of our students, my hope is to give you a sense of your child's school life.

Harrison High School is a place where students are uniquely valued and, therefore, are the heart and pulse in shaping our school culture. Students are challenged to think about what type of high school they want to attend, then to ask themselves what they are doing on a daily basis to contribute to making Harrison High School that type of school. Our students have ownership in making each day a positive experience for themselves and for one another. We challenge our students to be open-minded, empathic, aware, and curious as they take responsibility for themselves, for others, and the world. Thank you for sharing your children with us and allowing us to have a role in their development.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Beukema, Principal

"Happening @ HHS" features a glimpse inside Harrison High School to share the learning that takes place in classrooms, hallways and around our school.

School Year Starts with Grade Level Meetings: We held grade level meetings in the HPAC, which gave us an opportunity to share with students all the resources and supports available for them at Harrison High School. We also reviewed their rights and responsibilities in the District Code of Conduct. The grade level meetings concluded with a discussion about students'

ownership/role in making Harrison High School a school that reflects our core values and is the type of high school they want to attend.

A Look into Classrooms: In visits to classrooms, I observed lessons about “academic collaboration.” Academic collaboration teaches the structures for classroom discourse, and provides the foundation from which students and teachers will engage in learning that is respectful, engaging, and rigorous.

A Special Moment: I had the fortune of observing a special moment at the conclusion of a school day. A 9th grade student nervously tried to navigate the late bus schedule and was clearly unsure of what to do. An upper class student saw the look of panic on the 9th grader’s face and swiftly came to the rescue, helping the new student navigate the late bus schedule and get onto the correct bus. It was a heartwarming example of the respectful, caring culture at HHS!

COUNSELOR CONNECTION *“Counselor Connection” provides ongoing information about how the Guidance Department and our school counselors support students in constructing a high school experience both inside and out of the classroom that meets students’ unique talents, passions and goals.*

HHS Welcomes New Students: At the end of August, school counselors and high school administrators welcomed 9th grade students at the 9th Grade Orientation and BBQ, and new students and families at the New Student Orientation. Students met with their school counselors, received class schedules, and took tours of Harrison High School conducted by Peer Leaders. These events provided opportunities for students to get to know Harrison High School and learn more about the high school culture and rich opportunities available in course work, clubs and athletics. We are excited to see our 9th graders and new students getting involved as members of the high school community!

College Planning Underway: 12th grade students met with their school counselors to continue the college admissions process. Students are at different points in the process, but we are ready to meet each student where they are! Our goal is to guide students and families in a personalized application process where students apply to schools that are a good fit for their unique post-secondary goals and individual needs.

Partnering with Parents: Senior Parent Night was held in early September to review the 12th grade college admissions process with families. School counselors shared their expert advice around all aspects of the college process including: college visits and interviews, college entrance exams, letters of recommendation and college applications. Information on Financial Aid and the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) was shared at Financial Aid Night the following week.

Colleges Visits at HHS: More than 100 colleges are already scheduled to visit Harrison High School. College Visits take place in the Guidance Office. Daily visit schedules are available on Naviance. Encourage your upper class student to sign up in advance for the opportunity to meet with college representatives.