Freshman Orientation Welcome

From Counselor Aubry Cauley

Good morning, Class of 2030!

Today marks the beginning of something exciting. Welcome to Hitchcock High School and Freshman Orientation!

First, take a look around. The people sitting beside you today could become your teammates, lab partners, classmates, best friends, or even the people standing next to you at graduation four years from now. While you may not realize it yet, today is the first page of a brand-new chapter in your story.

Starting high school can bring a mix of emotions. Some of you are excited. Some of you are nervous. Some of you are wondering how you're ever going to find your classes before the bell rings. And trust me—that's completely normal.

Here's the good news: you don't have to have everything figured out today.

High school isn't about being perfect. It's about growing. It's about discovering who you are, what you're passionate about, and what kind of person you want to become. Over the next four years, you'll face challenges, celebrate victories, learn from mistakes, and accomplish things you never thought were possible.

These next four years matter.

The habits you build, the choices you make, and the effort you put into your education will open doors for your future. Whether your plans include college, a technical program, the military, or jumping straight into a career, what you do today helps prepare you for whatever comes next.

That doesn't mean you need to have your entire future planned out. It simply means that every day is an opportunity to move forward.

One of the most important things you can do is build connections.

Get to know your teachers. Introduce yourself to classmates. Join a club. Play a sport. Audition for the school play. Participate in student organizations. Volunteer. Attend school events. Find your people.

You don't have to do everything—but do something.

The students who make the most of high school are often the ones who get involved. When you become part of your school community, you're not just making memories—you're building confidence, developing leadership skills, and creating relationships that can last long after graduation.

As you make those connections, remember that kindness matters.

You never know what someone else may be going through. Include others. Encourage one another. Celebrate each other's successes. Choose respect over drama and empathy over judgment. The culture of this school isn't created by adults alone—it's created by each one of you through the choices you make every single day.

Your grades - they matter.

Come to class prepared. Complete your assignments. Ask questions. Stay organized. Challenge yourself. Don't settle for "good enough" when you're capable of so much more.

Success isn't about being the smartest person in the room. It's about showing up consistently, working hard, and refusing to give up when something feels difficult.

There will be moments when a class doesn't come as easily as you would have hoped. You may earn a grade you're disappointed in. You might struggle with time management or balancing everything on your schedule.

That's okay. What matters most is what you do next.

Ask for help.

One of the greatest strengths you can have is knowing when you need support.

Your teachers, counselors, administrators, coaches, and staff are here because we want to see you succeed. We believe in you, even on the days when you may not believe in yourself.

If you're struggling academically, emotionally, socially, or personally, don't carry it alone. Reach out to a trusted adult. Asking for help isn't a sign of weakness—it's a sign of wisdom, maturity, and courage.

As you begin this journey, remember that balance is important.

Work hard in the classroom, but also make time to enjoy the experience. Get involved. Spend time with friends who encourage you to be your best. Take care of your physical and mental health. Rest, laugh, and celebrate along the way.

High school isn't just about preparing for life after graduation. It's also about living these four years with purpose, curiosity, and joy.

There will be days that challenge you.

There will be moments when you surprise yourself.

There will be memories you'll carry with you for the rest of your life.

And one day—sooner than you think—you'll walk across the graduation stage wondering where the time went.

When that day comes, my hope is that you'll look back knowing you gave your best effort. That you took chances. That you made meaningful friendships. That you learned from your setbacks. That you grew into someone who is confident, compassionate, resilient, and ready for whatever comes next.

So, Class of 2030 this is your moment.

When the doors open for the first day, walk these halls with confidence.

Be curious.

Be respectful.

Be courageous enough to try something new.

Be responsible for your choices.

Support one another.

And never underestimate what you are capable of accomplishing.

We are excited to watch you grow over the next four years, and we can't wait to celebrate all that you'll achieve.

Welcome to Hitchcock High School.