



MAHWAH HIGH SCHOOL
50 Ridge Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430

Danielle L. Wood
Principal

Craig V. Jandoli
Assistant Principal

Michael G. McCabe
Assistant Principal

James G. O'Hara
Director of School Counseling (K-12)

Roger L. Pelletier
Director of Athletics (6-12)

August 2026

Dear Thunderbird:

Welcome to the Mahwah High School Thunderbird Family! We hope you're enjoying a wonderful summer and are as excited as we are for the forthcoming school year. To support a smooth transition and ensure a successful high school experience, you're invited to our Orientation for new students on **Thursday, August 20, 2026**. This event offers a fantastic opportunity to meet your peers, connect with school and class leaders, receive your school issued laptop, and get familiar with our campus and program offerings. Our Freshman Advisory Coordinators, Mr. Randy Fuchs & Mr. Matthew Miller, look forward to welcoming you to the Thunderbird community!

The orientation will begin at 8:40 a.m., **Thursday, August 20, 2026**, in the high school auditorium. Enter using Door 3. School transportation **will not** be available for the orientation. While the orientation features a rotation of activities, below is a sample agenda for the program:

AGENDA - 9 th GRADE		AGENDA - TRANSFER STUDENTS 10 th -12 th	
8:40 a.m.	Arrival	8:40 a.m.	Arrival
9:00 a.m.	Welcome	9:00 a.m.	Welcome
9:30 a.m.	Team Building Activities	9:15 a.m.	Meet Student Assistance Counselor, receive schedule
10:00 a.m.	Meet Freshman Advisory Leaders, get student ID cards, review rotating schedule	9:30 a.m.	Walk the building with SGA Officers, locate classrooms and locker
10:30 a.m.	Walk the building with schedule, locate locker	10:00 a.m.	Student Laptop Distribution
10:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.	Student Laptop Distribution	10:30 a.m.	Dismissal
11:45 a.m.	Dismissal from Thunderbird Door 1		



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Laptop Distribution Procedures - Requirements that must be completed for laptop pick-up:

- All outstanding fines must be paid in full. You will not have portal access if you owe a fine. Fines are cleared through the guidance department. Outstanding lunch fines should be paid via PaySchools Central and a copy of the payment receipt brought to the guidance department.
- Electronically answer all the required questions and read documents in the Realtime Portal. Portal opens on August 18th.
- Both the parent/guardian and student must answer the questions on their respective student and parent portals.
- Bring a copy of proof of \$60.00 laptop insurance payment. PaySchoolsCentral.com opens on August 18th. Insurance payments should be made via www.payschoolscentral.com Link is also available on the high school website under "Popular links".
- Grade 9/newly enrolled transfer students will be given ID/FOB cards at orientation. You do not need to pay for your ID/FOB card, the district provides you with your first high school ID/FOB card free of charge. **Do not** click on the lost fee listed in PaySchools Central.
- ID/FOB replacement fee. The fee is listed on every account in PaySchools Central should you need to use it during the year to replace a LOST or damaged ID/FOB.
- Students must pick-up their own laptops. Laptops will not be given to a parent without a student present.

Laptop Distribution schedule will be as follows for those not able to attend orientation:

Students may pick up laptop computers after school on September 1st and 2nd if they are unavailable to pick up during August distribution.

Freshmen will be taking their school photographs in their physical education classes on September 1st and 2nd , 2026. Order information is located on the high school website in the Opening Packet 2026-2027.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the orientation and working with you during the 2026-2027 school year.

Sincerely,

James G. O'Hara
Director of School Counseling, K-12