



HIGH SCHOOL OF AMERICAN STUDIES
AT LEHMAN COLLEGE
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Principal

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Dear New Students and Parents:

I hope you have had a wonderful summer vacation! I look forward to getting to know each of you better this year.

I am writing to provide you with important information regarding the start of school.

Please note that students will report to school at 8:00 AM on Wednesday, September 8, 2010. We will have a full day of classes, ending at 2:48 PM. Once you enter the building, you will be directed to your official class (i.e. homeroom). Students should bring a pen, a pencil, and a notebook. Classroom teachers will inform students of any additional requirements. Students should also bring money if they wish to purchase lunch. (You are welcome to bring your own lunch, too!) During the first few days of school, each student will receive the following:

- A program
- A locker assignment along with a school combination lock
- An academic planner in order to record important assignments and dates
- An identification card
- A school t-shirt for physical education classes
- A transportation pass and lunch tickets (if eligible)
- Textbooks for each course

Please find enclosed the results of the placement tests you took last June. Based on the results of the mathematics test, students have been programmed either for Honors Algebra or Honors Accelerated Algebra and Geometry. All of our mathematics courses are taught at the honors-level, using a curriculum that far exceeds state standards. All students, depending on performance, will have the opportunity to take AP Calculus in Grade 12. Additionally, based on the foreign language placement test, students have been programmed for Spanish I, III, or V. Finally, as we discussed at our spring open house, some ninth-grade students will be assigned to attend, periodically, an after-school writing workshop. Ms. Sebastian-Ridge, our ninth-grade English teacher, will provide students with additional details. Entering tenth-grade students are individually programmed based on the courses they successfully completed at their previous high school.

I am enclosing a tentative calendar for the fall semester. Please note that this year's Regents Examinations are scheduled for January 25 to January 31, and June 15 to June 24. During the Regents testing weeks, students attend school only if they are scheduled to take an examination. Most ninth-grade students do not take any exams in January. (Students in Honors Accelerated Algebra and Geometry who have passed the Integrated Algebra Exam with less than a 90 will likely re-take the test; students who have already earned

scores of 90 or higher need not re-take the test.) In June, nearly all ninth-grade students will take the Regents Examination in Living Environment. (Students who have passed this exam with less than a 90 will re-take the test; students who have already earned scores of 90 or higher need not re-take the test.) All ninth-grade students programmed for Honors Algebra will also take the Integrated Algebra Regents in June. Most tenth-grade students will take the Chemistry, Geometry, and Global History Regents in June.

I urge you to familiarize yourself with our academic policies and regulations (though they hardly make for scintillating summer reading). These were written and approved by our School Leadership Team, which is comprised of parents, teachers, students, and administrators. You can read this document by going to our school website (<http://www.hsas-lehman.org>) and clicking on the “academics” link. Then, follow the link to our course catalogue.

Although the regular school day ends at 2:48 PM, I hope all new students will participate in the life of our school by joining a club or athletic team. Each day, during Period 3, teachers read the daily announcements. Students should listen carefully, especially in the first few weeks of school, for announcements regarding club and team meetings.

The first meeting of our Parent-Teacher Association will occur on Monday, September 20, at 7:00 PM, in Room 106. I very much encourage parents to attend PTA meetings. Now that you are a part of our school community, it is important that we gain the benefit of your insight!

Finally, at our June orientation, students were given a brief self-evaluation form to complete. An additional copy of the form is posted on our website. Students’ answers on these forms will help our teachers and counselors to get to know them both academically and personally. Completed forms will be collected on the first day of school.

Please feel free to call us with any additional questions you might have. The enclosed sheet, entitled “Contacting the School,” was designed in order to make it easier for you to obtain information from us. Our parent coordinator, Ms. Fiore, is always happy to speak with you. Once school has started, if you wish to speak with one of our teachers, she can facilitate the request. Our guidance counselors, Ms. Harris and Ms. Wise, are also available to meet with you, by appointment, once school has opened. If you would like to share any information regarding your child, please let them know. The counselors are particularly interested in learning more about your child’s interests, academic strengths, and study habits. If there are any areas of concern to which you would like to draw our attention, please let the counselors know that as well. In addition, our assistant principal, Mr. Olivieri, and I are pleased to speak with you whenever you wish.

I wish once again to welcome you to the High School of American Studies!

With kindest regards,

Alessandro Weiss
Principal