

# SUFFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

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August 3, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

I hope this letter finds everyone healthy and enjoying the summer months. While we have had bouts of rain, we have also had some spectacular days and I hope everyone is rested and rejuvenated for another school year. It seems like just the other day we held graduation and said goodbye to the Class of 2017. Perhaps it is all the fun and excitement we pack into 8-weeks, but each summer seems to go faster than the previous.

This school year will see a new bell schedule at SHS and the addition of what we are calling Wildcat Time. Wildcat Time replaces the school's previous advisory model and is a flexible block of time within students' schedules when they will individually be assigned extra help, assistance, or specific enrichment opportunities offered by various teachers. Each student has been assigned a Wildcat Time Homeroom and will counsel at the beginning of each week with that teacher to schedule their time for the rest of the week. Teachers, school counselors, and support staff will also have the ability to schedule students for extra help, support, or various other meetings during that time. Please note that tutoring after school in the Library Media Center on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday will no longer be offered so students should take full advantage of signing up to see their teachers during the Wildcat Time.

Academics are always important, but the overall development and growth of each student is the school's highest priority. Please emphasize to all students to get involved, as well-rounded high school graduates are most prepared for life after high school. Students connected to their school gain a sense of belonging, invest in their education more fully, and better manage their time. While areas of SHS will have new faces, the goal at SHS remains the same – providing students with the best education possible through a concerted team effort that is student-centered and meets the needs of our variety of learners. We are excited for the opportunity Wildcat Time provides us in helping to make SHS even more student-centered.

I'll close this letter with a few reminders. As part of the 1:1 Digital Learning Environment, Chromebook Insurance letters were previously mailed home and should be returned by the first day of school. The form asked parents if they wished to provide a personal device meeting the district approved list in lieu of the Chromebook. The form also asked if parents wished to purchase insurance should they accept the Chromebook. If a form has not been returned, the student will assume full responsibility for their device including accidental damage, cracked screen, theft, etc... Second, students will report directly to their Wildcat Time Homeroom on the first day of school and will then proceed with their regularly scheduled classes. Please refer to PowerSchool for each individual student's Wildcat Homeroom number. They will report directly to their first period class the rest of the week. Students need to be aware that all 7 periods of the day will meet each day the first week of school and students will not begin reporting to the flexible Wildcat Time period until September 11<sup>th</sup>.

The entire administrative team is happy to be back, excited to start the school year, and anxiously awaiting the kids to return to the building. We are all extremely thankful for being part of an outstanding school with a tremendous staff, wonderful students, and supportive parents. We look forward to working alongside everyone in the future and will see all the students on the first day of school, August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SAM", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Steven Moccio  
Principal