Dear Student and Parent/Guardian,

I hope this communication finds you re-energized and excited for the 2014-2015 school year to begin! I, as well as the entire MOHS staff, am anxiously awaiting the start of another remarkable journey filled with incredible student growth and development.

Each year we enjoy astonishing gains in the curricular and extra-curricular realms of our complete high school experience. We will continue to advance our initiatives, attain our desired outcomes, commit ourselves to excellence and strive to achieve our objectives.

We have established clearly defined goals for our entire learning community; raising levels of student achievement, improved standardized test scores, challenging students to challenge themselves to the most rigorous course load they can handle, infusing technology into the delivery of instruction, demanding that students become active participants in their own learning experience, continued strengthening of literacy across the curriculum, promoting the ideals of character development, improving daily student attendance, and creating a school climate and culture that emanates monumental levels of spirit and pride! We will not compromise our expectations, our ideals, our values, or the policies and practices that have shaped our success in all of our endeavors.

One thing will remain constant; everyone must adhere to all school rules and regulations. Every student has the right to learn in an environment free from disruptions and inappropriate behaviors. Safety and security are always the highest priorities. Every student must be punctual and present each day throughout the year! We are expecting every stakeholder to support our mission, our initiatives, and the means we have chosen to pursue.

The 2014-2015 school year will be marked with new levels of advancement and progress as together we extend the legacy of excellence that has become a defining characteristic of Mount Olive High School! I will again challenge every member of our learning community to perform to your fullest potential, take advantage of the opportunities afforded to you and strive for excellence in every aspect of your school year!!

Yours In Excellence,

Kevin R. Stansberry
MOHS Principal

“First We Will Be Best, Then We Will Be First!”

“High School Counts!”

Please Remember to Bring Your Summer Assignments to School on the First Day!

HAVE A FANTASTIC SCHOOL YEAR!!
**Make Every Day Count! Attendance Matters!**

As a reminder last year we made significant changes to our student attendance practices. New Jersey Administrative Law and the Mount Olive Board of Education requires regular attendance for all students.

Again for this school year, a student will not be granted credit in a scheduled course after his/her cumulative absences exceed a total of Eighteen (18) absences for a full year, Nine (9) for a half year course, Four (4) for a marking period course. There will not be a distinction between excused and unexcused absences in the cumulative total. All absences, unless part of a school function or trip, will have to be verified by a parent/legal guardian. Please note that repeated truancy will become a disciplinary matter with appropriate consequences and/or administrative follow-through.

Lates to class will continue to require administrative intervention.

We believe that being present appreciably impacts student academic performance! Studies consistently indicate positive and statistically significant relationships between student attendance and academic achievement. Daily attendance is necessary in order for students to succeed with the acquisition of demanding skills and complex content. Chronic absenteeism is often responsible for the widening of achievement gaps at all levels. The recent standards and accountability movement make every day of school matter. Please make every effort to attend school with regularity.

We will be recognizing students for outstanding attendance and the results that accompany this career and college readiness habit and expectation.

**School Information and Parent Signature Forms:**
The following forms must be downloaded and the parent signature form must be returned on the first day of school: (Commons)
- FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) Form
- Emergency and Medical Information Forms
- Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Policy – Please review
- Sudden Cardiac Death in Young Athletes – Please review

**A Few Reminders:**
- Please update your Honeywell Profile and PowerSchool Demographics
- Guidance Website – Information regarding student schedules
- Please check our MOHS Website regularly for updates
- Lunch Price - $4.00

**For Your Information...**

You will be in receipt of numerous pieces of information and forms that will be of vital importance to you and your family as we start the 2014-2015 school year. There will be several communications in this mailing and a significant amount available on-line to download. It will be necessary for you to read, fill out and/or sign the appropriate forms and return them on the first day of school. We will provide collection sites in the Commons.

Included in this mailing:
- Free and Reduced Lunch Form
- Emergency Form - must be returned by all students.
- Parent Club Letter and Membership Form
- Bus Pass

**Renaissance Scholars**

The mission of Renaissance is to promote and achieve academic excellence throughout your high school matriculation. The Renaissance program has been a part of the Mount Olive High School learning culture for over a decade and has recognized hundreds of students dedicated to academic performance, exemplary school attendance, and being an active and contributing member of our school community. Each year, students who have demonstrated consistent academic achievement throughout the year are recognized at the Annual Renaissance Awards Ceremony. To be eligible for recognition, a student’s unweighted GPA is calculated based on the grades issued for each course for each marking period. The student who attains an unweighted GPA of a 3.5 or higher, with no individual grade lower than a B– and no grades of Incomplete, are eligible.

The Renaissance program also acknowledges special student achievement. Students who qualify for Renaissance all for years earn Super Senior recognition. A senior “Student of the Year” is also honored and recognized during our end of year ceremony.

“Excellence can be achieved if you . . . risk more than others think is safe, love more than others think is wise, dream more than others think is practical, and expect more than others think is possible.”
- Unknown
21st-Century Learners

We have quickly realized that our new 21st-century learners must master more than the core curriculum to succeed in secondary and postsecondary institutions, as well as in the workplace. Mount Olive School District’s recent investments in technology infrastructure, hardware and educational software have changed the classroom climate and culture for our students to assist them with their preparation for college and career readiness. Every member of our learning community has unprecedented access to streaming data and instantaneous connections to the World Wide Web.

As our students will no doubt use technology both in their post-secondary scholastic endeavors and career pursuits, it is sensible that we provide a forum, protocols and tools that will enhance their academic growth and development. A paradigm shift will require us to not only continue to emphasize the “three R’s” but to also infuse the “four C’s”: critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration, utilizing the incredible potential of technology. As students develop the four C’s, we have discovered that effective application of these vital skills in a technology-infused life and workplace requires acquiring them in a technology-infused learning environment. This environment calls for two elements: we must increasingly put technology into the hands of students and must trust them with more progressive technology use. In order for student performance to approximate student potential, students need access to a constantly evolving array of technological tools and activities that demand problem-solving, decision-making, teamwork, and innovation. Creating student-driven pedagogical approaches will allow us to act as a learning catalyst, orchestrating and facilitating activities that spark defining moments for students. The most effective activities take two forms—discovery and creation—though they often symbiotically work together. The students then become the focal point of the classroom, acting as explorer (e.g., mathematicians, scientists, sociologists) and designer (e.g., authors, artists, composers).

Mount Olive High School will be providing classroom sets of Chromebooks for 9th and 10th grade sections this school year with an anticipated expansion to 11th and 12th graders shortly thereafter. Storage/charging carts will be stationed in each of the designated classrooms. Staff and students will again be able to harness the broad scope of technological applications with the use of electronic devices to enhance their classroom discovery experience.

Our newly renovated Science, Technology, Engineering and Math laboratory will be completed this month and will house our NAO Humanoid courses as well as a host of other Science and Controlled Technologies electives.

Staff and students will also be introduced to Google Docs and Google Drive educational productivity formats to explore creative and collaborative interactions with peers and instructors.

Student Agendas:

Students will be required to have their agendas in their possession if they need to leave class. In the back of the Agenda is a section labeled “Hallway Passport”. Teacher signatures in this section must be presented by any student monitored in the hallway during instructional time.

Dressing for Success... and then some!

Research and evidence clearly shows that a conscientious emphasis on student dress code can and does increase the safety of school, reduce the number of disruptions based on behavioral problems, positively benefit the school climate, and promotes a professional setting in which the focus of school is on education and academic success.

Students at Mount Olive High School are expected to dress in a manner consistent in showing responsibility, pride, and awareness that school is a place of business, as well as a positive regard for discipline and authority.

Students are expected to be neat and clean in appearance. If, in the opinion of the administration, a student’s attire is such that it disrupts the educational process, detracts from the orderly running of school activities or constitutes a threat to the health and/or safety of students, the administration will request the student’s parents bring appropriate attire to school or may send the student home. Repeated violations of the dress code will result in disciplinary action. Please take the time to read and review the “Dress Code” section of your son’s or daughter’s student agenda. Revealing clothing like mid drifts, sheer blouses, shoulderless and backless tops are prohibited. Other tops that expose necklines are not acceptable. All undergarments must be covered. Shorts, skirts and dresses must be an appropriate length. All pants must be worn at the waist. Wear a belt or proper sizes. We strongly feel attention to apparel befitting the educational setting is imperative to creating a positive school climate and culture and sets the tone for high expectations in terms of student performance.

We appreciate your support and cooperation.

“The principle goal of education is to create men and women who are capable of doing new things, not simply repeating what other generations have done.” – Jean Piaget
HSPA Results and Comparisons!!! Another Great Year!

Class of 2015 HSPA Math Percentage Proficiency Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Students</th>
<th>Partial Proficient</th>
<th>Proficient</th>
<th>Advanced Proficient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>337</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentages</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>53.7%</td>
<td><strong>39.2%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Class of 2015 HSPA LAL Percentage Proficiency Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Students</th>
<th>Partial Proficient</th>
<th>Proficient</th>
<th>Advanced Proficient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>337</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentages</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>51.3%</td>
<td><strong>46.6%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YEAR | Math P/AP % | LAL P/AP % | Total |
---|-------------|-------------|-------|
2013 | 93.1%       | 98.2%       | 191.3%|
2014 | 92.9%       | 97.9%       | 190.8%|

YEAR | Math AP % | LAL AP % | Total |
---|-----------|-----------|-------|
2013 | 46.4%     | 38%       | 84.4% |
2014 | 39.2%     | 46.6%     | **85.8%** |

Mount Olive High School students are performing at the highest levels ever, according to data recently received and compiled by the school district. Results on three sets of statewide and national standardized tests all show record student achievement.

Here are a few things you need to know:

- HSPA Advanced Proficient 85.8% - highest in district history.
- HSPA Special Education – reduced percentage of Partially Proficient students in both Math and Language Arts for a fifth straight year.
- In 2014, there were more passing Advanced Placement exams (a score of 3 or more) at MOHS – 313 in all. A total of 87.9% of all exams administered received a passing score (356 total exams)
- In 2013, the average score on the SAT reached an all-time high – 1575. This is well ahead of the New Jersey (1521) and U.S. (1498) averages.