

# WARDLAW + HARTRIDGE

## Pioneering. Thinkers.

August 2022

Dear Upper School Families,

I hope you all have enjoyed the summer. Another school year is nearly upon us, as we all anxiously try and get in the last bit of summer vacation before the hustle and bustle of high school begins anew. I hope that you were able to do all that you wanted to do this summer and had a genuine respite from school. I would like to thank all students, parents and staff for their support this past year.

As we approach the opening of the 2022-2023 school year, we acknowledge there are concerns about COVID-19 variants and rising transmission rates in our area. We are closely following developments and will be updating our COVID protocols and reopening plan accordingly. That plan will be shared with families in August. Please do note that we are anticipating asking parents to wear masks for parent partnership conferences during opening week. As with everything since the start of the pandemic, we will all need to remain flexible as circumstances can change quickly. We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 status in NJ and share updates throughout the year if we need to change our approach.

This letter contains important information to begin the year successfully. As a former upper school parent, I understand that what you really need to know are the important dates for the school year. You now will have access and control of the school calendar. It is available on our home page: <http://www.whschool.org> under *I'm Looking For...* Once you have accessed this page, you can customize your calendar by clicking on the icons on the right which allow you to filter and set alerts. At this point you can select the calendars that are important to you. This calendar is a really wonderful way to keep track of what is happening throughout the school year; it will be populated with more events very soon. I hope you find it as helpful as I have and refer to it often throughout the school year.

For students, the approach of the school year means finishing the summer assignments, participating in practices for fall sports (if participating), and, for some, going on the senior peer leadership retreat. For parents, if you have not already, it means making sure you have completed all the necessary online forms or paperwork to ensure that your child can start the year smoothly. Documents describing all of this are available as part of the electronic mailing.



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September 6 - 8 will be a busy opening week for all of us in Upper School:

### Tuesday, September 6:

New Family and Student Orientation programs begin at 9:00 am at the PAC with refreshments and both will end at 11:00 am. Student and parent programs are run separately. New parents will join me for a conversation concentrating on transitioning into our Upper School. New students will need to bring their laptop to school. If you have bought a computer through the school, you will receive it at this time. In conjunction with the Technology Department and our Dean of Students, training on our computer systems will take place. Student dress is casual.

Upper School Parent Partnership Conferences for all new parents and advisors are scheduled throughout the day on Tuesday. Information with specific time and place for all ninth-grade parents will be sent in a separate communication. If you are a returning 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade parent and would like to schedule a meeting with your child's advisor, you may email their advisor directly to arrange a time for you to do so. If you are a new family and did not receive information on Parent Partnership Conferences, please contact Alissa Folkes, our Upper School Administrative Assistant, at [afolkes@whschool.org](mailto:afolkes@whschool.org) or ext. 103.

### Wednesday, September 7:

12<sup>th</sup> Graders will have a Senior Class Kick Off from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm. *Please note seniors will be meeting to play Laser Tag at Branchburg Sports Complex, 47 Readington Road, Branchburg, NJ 08876.* Student dress is casual.

New Student (9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>) Orientation will begin at 3:00 pm in the PAC. It will run through 5:00 pm. Student dress is casual.

Our All-School Welcome Back Barbeque begins at 5:30 pm. The entire Wardlaw+Hartridge community gathers behind the school to celebrate the start of a new school year. This is a wonderful opportunity to see old acquaintances, make new friends and eat some fantastic food. I truly hope your whole family can join us for this fun tradition.

### Thursday, September 8:

First Day of School: We begin at 8:00 am; students will go to their advisor's room. Note: We strongly suggest you arrive by 7:45 am at the latest. The opening day schedule will be distributed to the students that morning. Students, advisors, and the class deans will have an opportunity to meet with each other for a variety of activities. Class syllabi, goals, rules, and procedures will be discussed in class.



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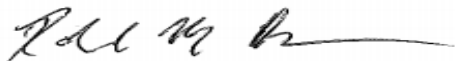
Convocation will take place at 9:00 am. All W+H students, faculty, and staff will be present as the Upper School students, carry their class flags and march into Convocation. There will be a short program featuring greetings from Mr. Webster, a representative from the Board of Trustees, and Student Council President Annie Gu.

Other important calendar dates for September and the beginning of October:

- o September 11: Auditions for our fall play in the PAC from 2:00 – 6:00 pm. More information is available in our electronic summer mailing.
- o September 20: Paying for College (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade families) at 7:00 pm presented by our College Counseling Office - Location TBD
- o September 26: School closed in observance of Rosh Hashanah
- o September 30: Upper School Portraits
- o October 3: US Back to School Night. You will receive more information regarding this evening event once the school year begins
- o October 3 – 7: Spirit Week
- o October 5: School closed in observance of Yom Kippur
- o October 8: Fall Fair & Homecoming 8:30 am – 3:30 pm
- o October 11: College Admission Case Studies (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade families) at 7:00 pm - Location TBD
- o October 20: Grade 9 Jump Start to College at 7:00 – Location TBD
- o October 24: No classes for observance of Diwali – Faculty In-Service day

We look forward to a fantastic start to the 2022 – 23 school year. I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer!

With warm regards,



Bob Bowman  
Upper School Head

