



**PISCATAWAY**  
TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

**Teresa Rafferty, Superintendent of Schools**

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**PISCATAWAY HIGH SCHOOL**

**Jason Lester, Principal**

Joi R. Fisher, Assistant Principal

Dr. Matthew Ritchie, Assistant Principal

August 2016

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians of Piscataway High School:

Welcome Home! It is my hope that you all had fine vacations and a restful summer. As we get prepared for the 2016-17 school year, we are poised to continue our march to national prominence for academic excellence beginning the first day of school.

I am excited about the direction in which PHS is headed. We have an abundance of academics, clubs and activities as well as athletics to offer our students. Everyone should be a part of something. We shall honor our great traditions and take pride in Piscataway's rich, deep history.

Simply put, we demand your personal excellence in everything that you will do at PHS. My assistant principals, Dr. Ritchie, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades, and Ms. Fisher, 9<sup>th</sup> grade, along with many others, put in hard work to make this an extraordinary year for you all. Our success is measured one student at a time, and I look forward to working with each and every one of you.

*We are still in the process of securing an Assistant Principal for the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. We hope to have someone in place by the start of the school year.*

Beginning August 16<sup>th</sup>, you can view your schedule via the Genesis Parent Module for school year 2016-17. It reflects the continuation of the "7D2" rotating schedule, where you have seven courses listed on your schedule but only meet with five of them each day. We have constructed several resources to assist you in better understanding this concept prior to September 6<sup>th</sup>.

- We will be following an "X" day schedule, on the first day of school. You will matriculate through all courses listed on that day and each teacher will further explain the schedule in detail.
- We have posted the bell schedules for "A-G" days in the Virtual Backpack for you to review. Keep in mind that there is a difference between "periods" (on your schedule) and "blocks" (listed on the bell schedule).
- We have also developed a set of documents on the PHS Homepage that will provide further clarification including a calendar grid that lists every day of the year and which schedule we will be following.
- **Lunches, homerooms, and any gaps that exist with regard to room assignments will be adjusted on the final yellow schedule you receive on the first day of school.**

Should you have a problem understanding your 7D2 schedule, please do not hesitate to ask questions of your teachers, your counselor, and your grade-level Dean of Students.

**Please be reminded that schedule changes will only be made to existing schedules where:** courses that appear on your schedule were never selected (remember you might have been placed in your second or third choice), courses appear that have been previously completed with a passing grade; or incorrect course level placement.

Counselors will be available to meet with you regarding schedule changes beginning on Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. **Please call the counseling office at (732) 981-0700, ext. 2231 or 2222 between 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, to make an appointment during August 17 - 25, if schedule changes meet the aforementioned criteria.**

In the Virtual Backpack you will find important information, materials, and policies that should assist you in creating a "back-to-school" frame of mind. Interim Reports will be accessed through our on-line Parent Module. It is our goal to have you ready to participate fully in all aspects of school life. Both you, as well as your parents/guardians, should review and discuss each item in detail prior to the **opening of school on Tuesday, September 6, 2016, at 7:15 a.m.** Also, please note that **Back-To-School Night** will be held on **Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Enclosed in the Virtual Backpack are the following important documents:

<i>Back to School Night Flyer</i>	<i>Letter regarding BYOD</i>
<i>Bell Schedule</i>	<i>Military Exclusion (grades 11 &amp; 12 only)</i>
<i>Code of Student Conduct</i>	<i>7D2 Calendar</i>
<i>Dismissal Release Form</i>	<i>School Calendar</i>
<i>Driving Privileges (gr. 11 &amp; 12 only)</i>	<i>Science Opt-Out Statement</i>
<i>Grade Level Assistant Principal Letter</i>	<i>Student Absence Form</i>
<i>Important Event Dates</i>	<i>Yearbook Order Form</i>

As these are just a few of the documents you will find in the Virtual Backpack, you will see many other documents for your information and review. We will continually place documents in the Virtual Backpack throughout the school year, so please reference it often.

It is easy to access the Virtual Backpack. Simply go to the district website: [PiscatawaySchools.org](http://PiscatawaySchools.org). In the left hand corner, select "Piscataway High School" from the dropdown menu. Once there, go to the upper right hand corner and you will see a tab labeled "Virtual Backpack." Click and scroll down to "Important Documents for the Start of the 2016-17 School Year."

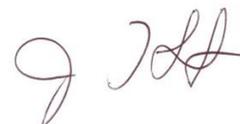
If you are unable to get your schedule on-line, contact your child's assistant principal at (732) 981-0700 as follows: Grade 9, Ms. Fisher, ext. 2818; Grades 10 and 11, Dr. Ritchie, ext. 2219; Grade 12, Main Office, ext. 2207, to schedule an appointment to pick up your child's schedule.

In addition, on the first day of school, you will also receive handouts of the following:

- Emergency Contact Information

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and I look forward to meeting you in September.

Strength and Honor,



Jason Lester  
Principal