December, 2019

Dear Rising 9th Grade Families,

As we are heading into a new calendar year we are making plans for your student’s arrival next year and we are looking forward to meeting him/her! We would like for entering ninth graders to have a smooth transition to Western Albemarle High School. To help with that transition, the administrators and counselors from Henley Middle School and Western Albemarle High School work together on a series of programs for current eighth graders. A summary of these activities appears below this letter.

Dr. Costa and I invite you to the first activity in the series, an orientation program for parents/guardians on **Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the Western Albemarle High School Auditorium**. We will be discussing graduation requirements as well as the online course registration process. By 7:00 p.m., we will move into the cafeteria so that parents/guardians can explore the WAHS curriculum expo. Parents/Guardians will have the opportunity to ask questions of teachers and students at our Curriculum Expo until 8:00 p.m. Expo displays will highlight our range of course offerings. While your student will have the opportunity to tour the Expo on January 9 during his/her school day visit to Western, we encourage you to visit it as well that evening.

I hope you will be able to join us on **January 8**. I look forward to working with you and your child during this important and exciting transition to high school.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. McLaughlin, Ed.D,
Principal

PM/lb
Cc: Beth Costa, Principal, Henley Middle School
Transition Programs for Entering Ninth Graders

January 8
Rising 9th grade students visit WAHS to experience the curriculum Expo, learn about the high school program / registration process, tour the school. A program for parents/guardians takes place at Western Albemarle to discuss the high school instructional program, graduation requirements, and the registration process. The Curriculum Expo is open to all families in the evening.

January - March
High school and middle school counselors and teachers consult about placement and procedures during registration.

January – February
Families meet with middle school counselors to discuss course requests and register for 9th grade courses. All questions regarding course requests should be directed to the middle school counselors.

June – July
High school and middle school administrators meet to discuss the academic profile of the class, special scheduling needs.

May – August
The high school scheduling team develops the Master Schedule based on student course requests – no courses request changes are allowed during this time.

July – August
Rising ninth graders are invited to WAHS to participate in orientation sessions including team building exercises.

August
Parents are invited to Open House to meet with faculty and see the school building.

September - November
Counselors meet with ninth graders in small groups and individually.

August - June
Counselors monitor student progress and meet individually and through grade levels in order to provide a comprehensive school counseling curriculum.