Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

I hope that you have had a fantastic summer! It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2019-2020 school year at Derby High School. The faculty and staff of Derby High School are ready for an outstanding year.

Building improvements have continued over the summer here at DHS. A special thank you to Mr. Matt Cunningham and his staff for all of their hard work getting the building cleaned and the floors waxed. The Payden sports complex is almost complete and soon we will be able to host home games and meets for all of our sports. There will be an official ribbon cutting in October.

We would like to welcome some new staff to DHS for the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Justin Dionne and Ms. Lauren King will be joining the math department. Mr. Chris Grillo will be joining the English department. Ms. Stacey McCoart will be joining the special education department and Mr. Adam Baker will be joining Mrs. Ostrosky in the counseling department.

For the 2019-2020 school year there are some important changes at Derby High School:

**Schedule:** We will no longer be following a modified block schedule. All classes will meet everyday following a 7 period schedule. An “advisory” period will take place every other Tuesday. The first three days of school will be “homeroom days” to collect paperwork and distribute lockers, forms, etc.

**Use of Headphones:** After meeting with the School Improvement Team and our School Safety Officer, the decision has been made to prohibit the use of headphones during the school day. Headphones are a distraction to the learning environment. In addition, we need to ensure that students can hear any necessary safety announcements or instructions during the school day. Students are asked to remove their headphones once they arrive on campus, students are asked to put their headphones in their lockers or backpacks. Students who do not follow this policy will receive the following consequences:

1st offense: teacher warning
2nd offense: confiscation until the end of the school day
3rd offense: confiscation until a parent/guardian retrieves the item

**MISSION STATEMENT**

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“The ABC’s of DHS”
**Arrival to School:** Please remember school starts **promptly** at **7:30** a.m. All students will enter through the main doors near the gymnasium until 7:25 a.m. Any student arriving after 7:25 a.m. will need to enter through the attendance entrance. Students arriving after 7:30 a.m. will need to enter through the attendance entrance, then sign in to obtain a tardy pass to be delivered to their teacher. The expectation is that students are present in class at the 7:30 a.m. bell. If you are dropping your student off to school, please plan to arrive on campus by 7:25 a.m. as this will give your student adequate time to enter the building and walk to class.

**Laptops:** The expectation is that every student is bringing a fully charged laptop to school everyday. Students will be using Google classroom throughout the school year and will also need to access a variety of online programs including the CollegeBoard website as well as the Common App. and Naviance. Our goal is for every student to have the necessary “one to one” paperwork completed and submitted by the second week of school, this will allow for the timely distribution of laptops and chargers.

**Attendance:** Derby High School decreased the number of students who were chronically absent for the 2018-2019 school year by over 7.5%. Regular school attendance is important for students to be academically successful. Derby High School will continue to enforce the “20 day rule” for the 2019-2020 school year. Any student who has more than twenty unexcused absences in a year-long course (ten unexcused absences in a half-year course) will lose credit and will need to submit an attendance appeal. More information about attendance policies and the “20 day rule” can be found in the student handbook.

**Dress Code:** The Derby High School dress code will be strictly enforced for the 2019-2020 school year. Last year, the School Improvement Team formed a dress code subcommittee. The subcommittee met with students, staff and parents to review the current dress code, a poll was taken with 70.0% of students not wanting uniforms. The full dress code can be found in the student handbook, but here are a few reminders:
- all shirts must have sleeves
- shirts that reveal bare midriffs are not permitted
- hats/hoods should be removed when entering the building
- skirts, shorts, dresses and jumpers must be at the knee - male and female students
- clothes, which are torn, ragged or have holes are not permitted

We understand that jeans which have rips or tears and shirts which are cut to show the midriff are very popular fashion styles, but please refrain from wearing them to school.

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Homework/Late Work Policy: In order to ensure that students are being held accountable consistently for homework, classwork and late work, the following policy was created by the School Improvement Team:

HOMEWORK
1. Homework assignments must be a meaningful experience consistent with the goals and objectives of the daily lesson.
2. Homework should be designed to inform the teacher as to the effectiveness of the instructional process.
3. Homework will never be used to enforce discipline.
4. Samples of student homework will be kept on file by the teachers as reference at parent conferences.

MAKE-UP WORK/LATE WORK POLICY
1. Students who have been absent are required to consult their classroom teachers about work missed as a result of the absence. If absent on one day, the student is responsible for the work previously assigned and due on the day he/she returns (unless excused by the teacher). This policy does not apply to students returning from suspension.
2. Classwork is expected to be completed during the period assigned; work not completed will result in no credit being issued.
3. Homework is expected to be turned in to the teacher on due date upon arrival to class; homework not completed on time will result in no credit being issued.
4. Projects, essays, labs, and other assignments are expected to be completed and turned in on the date due at the designated time. Assignments that are late, will result in the loss of a minimum of 10% or one letter grade per calendar day. Assignments will not be accepted after five calendar days past the due date.
5. Tests, quizzes, labs, and presentations that are missed due to an absence, needs to be made up within three school days (arrangements made with classroom teacher).

Parent/Guardian Contact Information: Over the last three years, Derby High School has made a concerted effort to increase parent/guardian involvement. To continue this practice, please take a moment to verify your information is correct on any first day of school forms. Any changes that may occur throughout the year, can be reported to Mrs. Piscioneri in the attendance office.

Please check www.derbyps.org for the district calendar along with other updates for the school year. Please follow us on twitter @derbyredraider for all updates related to Derby High School including sports.

In closing, we are looking forward to an outstanding school year – GO BIG RED!

Sincerely,
Mr. Pascale and Mr. Coplin

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