



August 2, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! As always, this summer has passed quickly. Many individuals have worked hard to prepare for a successful start to the year and we are very excited to welcome students to the high school.

This year classes will begin on Tuesday, August 21, 2018. Students shall report to their assigned homerooms by 7:40 a.m. Bus students will be dropped off at the side of the school and shall report to the cafeteria until 7:25 a.m. At that time, they will be dismissed to report to homeroom.

Our first day schedule will address the beginning of the year tasks. This will include school pictures, class meetings, and teacher expectations for each course. All students will get their picture taken the first day of school. Students should bring the enclosed picture information with them on the first day of school or preorder online if you would like to purchase pictures.

**Please note information related to each grade level:**

**Freshmen** – Successful freshmen transition has been a goal of the high school for the past several years. This involves smaller homeroom class sizes and will include mini-lessons during homeroom related to transitioning to the high school. On August 14, 2018 we will host our annual 9<sup>th</sup> grade and new student orientation at 6:30 p.m. We will meet in the auditorium to share important information for a smooth transition, review Mission iNSPIRE and the remainder of the time will allow students to walk through their schedules and find their lockers

**Sophomores** – On October 10, 2018 all sophomores will be administered the PSAT at no cost. The PSAT assesses reading, math, and writing skills, while providing excellent practice for the SAT. The high school will receive reports from College Board to help identify skill gaps and improve instruction, which will ultimately improve student performance.

**Juniors** – This is a very important year. Academic success should be a priority as they prepare for post-secondary education and career goals. Students should utilize the counseling office to help accomplish these goals. Enclosed in this mailing is the Armed Services letter. If you do not wish to be on this mailing list, please sign and return this form. **Seniors** – Graduation will come quickly. As in years past, we continue to look for leadership from our senior class. The example they set in the classroom, hallways, and at school events carries across all grade levels. Seniors should return the enclosed diploma information sheet on the first day of school to their homeroom teacher.

**Please take note of the following sources of information:**

The Cocalico School District has transitioned to a fully online enrollment and annual student data collection system for the 2018-2019 school year. This change will affect **ALL** students because annual student information updates will be updated electronically through PowerSchool. This change will mean the following as we move forward:

- **Annual Student Information Verification (SIV) paperwork will NOT be sent home to be completed. Parents will be reminded to update their child's information via an email that contains an embedded link to the PowerSchool Parent Portal.**
- **This procedural change will mean that ALL parents will need to have PowerSchool access to update/verify student information as we move forward.**

**Once parents are able to access the PowerSchool Parent Portal, parents will review, modify (if needed), and submit the student information forms.**

**PowerSchool Parent Access Letter** - Your username and password is enclosed in this letter. PowerSchool can be accessed from the homepage at [www.cocalico.org](http://www.cocalico.org). Please feel free to contact your child's teachers or counselor at any time with concerns or questions. We encourage you to check your child's grades often to keep up to date with what is happening here at school.

**PowerSchool Student Access Letter** - This letter will have a separate username and password for your son or daughter. This username and password will also be used to sign-in on computers at school. **Please have your child print a copy of his or her schedule for the first day of school.** There are still schedule changes being made at this time. To ensure your child's schedule is accurate for the first day of school, please print the schedule just prior to the start of school. Please view your child's schedule and if an error is found, please contact the counseling office at 336-1427 or 336-1442. All schedule changes must be completed by August 24, 2018. If you do not have access to a computer, please contact the counseling office and a copy will be mailed to you or you may pick one up at your convenience.

**Mission iNSPIRE Agreement** - We are in our third year of Mission iNSPIRE. The laptops are very beneficial for our students and they did an excellent job caring for their devices last year. Please complete and return the enclosed agreement along with necessary fees. Student laptops may be brought home starting August 24, 2018.

**A letter from Mrs. Stull explaining student insurance** - Please review your health coverage and consider the purchase of a CHIP plan if you believe you need coverage for co-curricular participation. A link to the CHIP website can be found on the Cocalico School District homepage.

**Student Handbook Acknowledgement letter** - Please review the student handbook at [www.cocalico.org](http://www.cocalico.org) with your son/daughter. It is very important that everyone understands expectations, policies and procedures for the high school. **This form must be signed, dated and returned to your child's homeroom teacher.**

**Keystone Exams**- Recently, several changes to state testing were passed by our state legislators. In relation to Keystone exams, the graduation requirement to pass all three (Algebra, Literature and Biology) Keystone Exams has been pushed back to the class of 2021. There is current legislation being discussed for possible revisions of this requirement. Please encourage your child to take these exams seriously and give them their best effort. Keystone exam scores are put on final transcripts and the results are included in evaluating Cocalico High School.

*Please note: Junior and Senior drivers may get a parking registration form online at [www.cocalico.org](http://www.cocalico.org). Parking tags may be purchased beginning August 6, 2018 in the main office. Full year passes are \$25.00. Seniors who scored proficient or advanced on all three Keystone Exams will be eligible for a free parking tag. Drivers without parking passes may park in the lower lot by the soccer fields.*

Again, we welcome you. Please take part in your child's education by inquiring about time spent at school and checking grades through PowerSchool and Schoology. We also encourage you to download the district's mobile app to receive building and district information. Your involvement with your child's education is invaluable. We are confident that your child will demonstrate greater motivation as you continue to show interest in his/her academic and social experiences.

Please feel free to contact us anytime throughout the year should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Christopher Irvine  
Principal



Scott Bennetch  
Assistant Principal



Whitney Seltzer  
AD/Assistant Principal



Andrea Weaver  
Dean of Students

810 South Fourth Street. P.O. Box 800, Denver PA 17517-0800 · Phone: 717-336-1423 Fax: 717-336-1418

Christopher R. Irvine  
Principal

Scott S. Bennetch  
Assistant Principal

Whitney A. Seltzer  
Assistant Principal  
Athletic Director

Andria L. Weaver  
Dean of Students

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