August 5, 2021

Greetings Overlea High School Parents or Guardian:

I am excited to embark on a brand-new year filled with hope, endless possibilities, and bright new horizons. The Overlea High School staff is looking forward to welcoming all of our scholars back for in person instruction. It is my honor and privilege to serve the Overlea High School community as we continue to sustain academic excellence through positive relationships and a genuine partnership between school and the community. As the Overlea High School Principal, it is my mission to motivate, inspire, and support all members of our school family as we continue our journey toward educational excellence and developing the whole child.

We are extremely excited about our returning and new staff and the commitment they exhibit toward maximizing individual student achievement and ensuring school safety. We will continue developing positive connections with our students, parents/guardians and surrounding community. Through consistent communication and shared partnership, we will continue to build lasting relationships that will enhance the learning environment at Overlea High School.

Overlea High School has a rich history of excellence and a supportive community. This year’s focus will be on sustaining instructional accountability at Overlea: Building an intentional culture of high expectations, equitable access for all students and instructional excellence. I pledge that the Overlea faculty and staff will continue to do all we can to ensure that our students are well prepared for the transition for college and/or career. However, we will need the full support of our parents as educational partners in the academic journey. Our students must be committed to achieving excellence through hard work, perseverance, and commitment. Together, we can ensure that our students leave high school with the academic skills and habits of mind necessary to contribute to and excel in a globally competitive society. As a result of last school year’s challenges, the staff and I are prepared to ensure that your scholar receives the socio-emotional and academic support he/she needs. We will work hard to bridge gaps sustained as a result of the COVID epidemic through intentional acceleration and enrichment opportunities. During this upcoming academic year, please do not hesitate to provide ongoing feedback to the Overlea staff about your scholar’s experiences and socio-emotional as well as academic needs. Our staff’s goal is to work in partnership with you and your scholar in order to ensure student success. We are asking for your commitment and assistance in supporting your scholar during this challenging time.

I would like to highlight some exciting changes at Overlea High School for the upcoming year:

- Overlea High School will engage in an A Day/B Day block schedule
- Students will have 4 classes on A Day and 4 classes on B Day.
- 15 minutes will be added to the school day, meaning the instructional day will begin at 7:45 and end at 2:30 p.m.
- All students and staff will be expected to wear a mask in the building each day, no exceptions! A mask will be provided for your child if he/she reports to the building without a mask.
Each assistant principal and school counselor will oversee a caseload of students by last name. Assignments will be the following:

Mr. Kevin Whatley, assistant principal and Ms. Andrew, school counselor (A-G); Mr. Zachary Clark, assistant principal and Ms. Delvisco, school counselor (H-O); and Mrs. Brittney Keith-Charbonnier, assistant principal and Mrs. Kimberly McIntosh, school counselor (P-Z).

This year, Overlea High School will be focused on four primary overarching goals:

1. Building quality and collaborative student-centered instruction via AVID WICOR strategies, effective planning and utilizing formative assessment to drive instruction;
2. Ensuring students are learning in a safe and secure learning environment via restorative practices, equity, and student voice;
3. Ensuring that a growth mindset exists among staff, students and the Overlea community; and
4. Establishing high expectations for all students and staff as well as equitable access for all students via an Instructional Accountability model.

In support of our students’ successful transitions to grades 9 and 10, we invite students to participate in an Early Entry Day program. Overlea High School is excited to announce that it will host a half-day “Early Entry Day” on Friday, August 27, 2021, for students entering grades 9 and 10 for the 2021–2022 school year. Students will participate in a wide variety of activities—designed based on student feedback—to become more familiar with their new school setting prior to the start of school. Students will review their class schedules, visit their lockers, take school tours, and meet all their teachers and the school counselors. Transportation will be provided for those students who are scheduled to take a bus to school. Those students will be picked up at their assigned bus stops at their regularly scheduled times and will be transported home at the end of the half-day schedule. A complimentary lunch will be served to all participating students. More detailed information regarding the Early Entry Day, such as specific bus stops, hours of the morning half-day, student schedules, and the agenda for the day, forthcoming. We are looking forward to welcoming our new 9th and 10th grade Falcon Scholars on Friday, August 27, 2021, and while not required, we hope your child will take advantage of this opportunity.

In addition, please mark your calendars and plan attend Back to School Night, to be held at Overlea High School on Thursday, September 2nd from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

I am extremely excited about the 2021-2022 school year and working with Overlea team members as partners towards a shared commitment of maximizing individual student achievement. Our school goals for the 2021-2022 school year will support Baltimore County Public Schools strategic plan in alignment with BCPS’s student-centered teaching and learning framework. This year will be a year of deliberately ensuring there is a culture of instructional accountability of all stakeholders at Overlea High School. Student academic success and personal responsibility at Overlea High School are truly dependent on a cooperative triangle comprised of the student-teacher-parent/guardian.
I look forward to engaging in a partnership with the Overlea students, families and external supporters of our students; a partnership ensuring the academic success of the whole child. I hope that you continue to have a restful and safe summer.

Sincerely,

Dr. Monica C. Sample
Dr. Monica C. Sample
Principal