



Dear Holicong Ninth Grader,

The wait is over and next Tuesday you will begin your final year at Holicong. This is an exciting time and we want you to truly embrace what this means in your “life” journey and a member of the Holicong community! Yes, you are now the leaders of the school and as Uncle Ben told Peter, “With great power comes great responsibility.” And as you did not too long ago, the new 7th & 8th grade students will be watching you from schedule pickup day to the first day of school until you leave here in June. It is extremely important that you model our values of the Colonial Cores and demonstrate high levels of character at all times. This is how we continue the culture of kindness and respect at Holicong that makes our community proud! This is our primary message to you as we start the year...but we also know that you are curious about your schedule and everything else that comes with the start of the year, so please pay attention to page 2 of the letter as it includes information and resources that you and parents can access throughout the year!

Student 1st Day – Tuesday, September 5 (A DAY) – Below is a brief overview of your first day.

- If you get to school before 7:20, you will report to the cafeteria. If you come in after 7:20 you will report directly to 1st period where you will get a new hardcopy of your schedule.
- The cafeteria will be your home base for the year if you arrive before 7:20 and will be supervised by Mr. McVey, Mrs. Passerini, and Mr. Simon.
- [How to Read your Schedule 23-24 9th Grade.pptx](#) – Thanks to Mr. Canelli for making these videos so please open this and play as a powerpoint with the audio on. It will help you see the differences between this year and last year. Yes, you have 1st lunch!
- You will have 1st and 2nd period and then we will have our opening assembly for the year with the entire 9th grade. We will welcome you as a class and review all of the information you need to know.
- After the assembly you will go to I & E and follow your schedule. You will get follow-up about specific information during I & E and resource – this year all students will have resource on A days.

The freshman year looks a bit different that 7th and 8th grade and this year in terms of the team assignment. Many of you will be assigned to teachers based on 9A and 9C on your schedules, but you are now considered one team led by the 9th grade team leaders Mr. McVey, Mrs. Smith, and Mr. Kaeser (you read that right...Mr. Kaeser is now teaching 9th grade English!). They have many team-building and other activities in store for the year as you will soon find out with a team building event in September to Camp America!

We will talk about the importance of the freshman year as it pertains to your high school and future goals, but for now we want to stress again how much we value character and integrity at Holicong and are asking you to continue to model the [Colonial Cores](#): *Considerate, Healthy, Respectful, and Responsible*. We noted this above and hope you note the repetition because it is that important to us to note our 7th and 8th grade students will look to you as leaders and this starts at our first Schedule Pickup ...and every day going forward. They will see how you treat others and that will shape many of their behaviors – they are watching even though you may not know it. **We hope you value this role and trust you will represent the Holicong community with pride!**

We will talk to you about legacy this year and the footprint you will leave behind at Holicong. We hope you embrace this idea individually and as a collaborative group as we can build on the work you have started over the past two years. The possibilities for the culture we can continue to grow is inspiring to Mr. Canelli, our staff, and me. And this year it is our goal will continue to be that you feel supported and valued in and out of the

classroom. That is our promise to you. And it wouldn't be an official welcome if we didn't say we are excited for you to..."***Get Back in the Game!***"

Sincerely,

Dr. Kevin T. Shillingford
Principal

Mr. Mike Canelli
Assistant Principal

BACK to SCHOOL QUICK HITS

Bell Schedule & Lunch – 9th Grade Lunch is from 10:40 – 11:10. Please see the bell schedule here (includes half-days): [2023-2024 Holicong Middle School Bell Schedules.docx](#).

Student Handbook – Please visit our Parents and Students page for our cell phone, dress code and attendance policies: [Student Handbook](#).

School Pickup & Dropoff – Please see here for the AM/PM pickup and dropoff procedures. Please make sure that you do not come in the main entrance for pickup & dropoff, as this is for staff and pedestrian traffic: [Parent Pickup/Dropoff](#) and [Overhead Map Pickup/Dropoff](#).

AM Procedures – Doors open for student arrival at 7:05. Bus riders that exit the bus at East will walk up the crosswalk and be directed by staff to the bus platform doors. You will walk back the crosswalk at the end of the day to get back on your bus for PM departure. If you arrive before 7:20 you will report to the cafeteria and stay there until 7:20 and then go to your locker and report to 1st period by 7:30. If you arrive after 7:20, you can report directly to your locker.

Aramark & Cafeteria – Food services are provided by Aramark Education.

- Information about Aramark and daily lunch schedules can be found on the district website here – [Aramark](#).
- Parents can put money in your account on this website - [MySchoolBucks](#) and you can pay with your student account number at the register. We will have a cafeteria orientation on the first day of school.

Athletics & Physical Forms – Please see the Athletics page for information on the Family ID system and turn in Section 6 of the CIPPE form to Mrs. McCusker in the guidance office – 267-893-2710.

Holicong Calendar – Please continue to check our Holicong website and weekly and daily announcements for important dates - we will also have students note these (BTSN, Picture Day, and more) in their new handbooks the first week of school!

CBSD Grading & Reassessment Guidelines – We will highlight these during the year but wanted you to see these now in advance of the year - [CBSD Assessment Grading and Reassessment Practices.docx](#) & [Reassessment Guidelines 2023 - 2024.docx](#).

Parent Resources / Cell Phone/Electronic Device Policy (cbstd.org) – Our cell phone and mobile device policy is always one that students ask about so included this here.

Parent Resources / Attendance Procedures (cbstd.org) – Please see here for the updated attendance letter and procedures!