



**HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL**  
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August 28, 2019

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Welcome to the 2019-20 school year! I am excited to begin the new year and to welcome each student back to Harrison High School. It is my privilege to lead the team of professionals who will educate your children during the coming school year as our core values of equity, access, rigor and adaptability do not simply exist on paper, but come alive in the actions of our faculty and staff. Every member of the Harrison High School community is committed to supporting your child's success with opportunities to explore, to be challenged and to flourish throughout the coming year.

We have had an active and productive summer at Harrison High School. Students attended summer programs, including: Writers Workshop, College Essay Writing, Extended Essay Research, AP World Institute, and IB Diploma Candidate Orientation. Many members of our faculty and administration have participated in and led professional training throughout the summer, and we are prepared to begin another productive school year.

We are eager to continue implementation of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program (MYP). Harrison High School and LMK launched this curriculum change last year, which provides all students in grades six through 10 with the foundational characteristics of an IB Learner: *Principled, Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Open-Minded, Caring, Risk-Takers, Balanced, and Reflective*. We believe that these attributes are aligned with the district's core values and support our commitment to an inclusive, student-centered learning experience while further supporting The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program Courses for students in grades 11 and 12.

We believe parents are important partners in a student's educational experience and encourage you to be involved and to attend your child's activities as often as you are able. Your support is a critical part of your child's success. This letter includes links to essential documents, additional vital documents will be accessed through the parent/student portal. You should have already received a portal login while in middle school, this login will continue to be used throughout your high school experience. Please go to <https://powerschool.harrisoncsd.org/public/home.html> and follow the prompts to fill out each form. You will find the forms by clicking the icon on the bottom of the column on the left side of the screen. If you need to reset your Powerschool account, or create a new one, [click here for the link](#). The portal will have student schedules available by Friday, August 30th.

**Student Emergency Contact Information:**

In the near future, you receive directions from the Chief Information Officer, Brian Seligman, on how to update your demographic information and emergency contacts through the Parent Portal. Please take a moment and check it for accuracy. If there are any changes needed, please follow the directions you receive to make the changes in the Portal.

**Student Schedules:**

Schedules will be available through the Portal beginning on August 30<sup>th</sup>. We make every effort to fulfill each student's individual course enrollment requests. Student requests are fulfilled based upon course availability, teacher and student schedules, and other considerations, such as room availability. In the event of insufficient or over enrollment, some elective courses may be combined or altered. In cases of elective over enrollment, grade level seniority is considered.

**Transcripts [for seniors only]:**

Transcripts (for seniors only) will be mailed to the address on file along with a "Student Transcript Explanation" letter. Please review carefully. If there are any questions, please contact your child's counselor at 914-630-3101 as soon as possible. Parents and students are asked to sign and return transcripts to the Main Office. Underclassmen will receive their transcripts at a later date.

**Student Email:**

Student Email is available for all high school students. We utilize student email to communicate in a timely fashion important information to students. Students should check their accounts daily.

**Supplies:**

The following link contains a supply list by course:

<http://www.harrisoncsd.org/docs/hhs/SupplyListHHS.pdf> Please be aware that teachers may communicate additional course supplies unique to the classes they teach on the first day of school and will allow ample time for the supplies to be purchased. Please see your school counselor should you require financial assistance. In addition, we are a "BYOD" (Bring Your Own Device) high school. Students will need to have a Chromebook or laptop with them each day as devices are often used to enhance classroom instruction. Chromebooks are available in the library for students to sign-out for a full day, a few weeks, or an entire school year depending on their circumstances.

**Financial Assistance:**

If your child is in need of assistance with the many expenses that can be incurred throughout his/her school experience, please reach out to your child's school counselor. Seniors on free and reduced lunch have their fees waved automatically for the following expenses: Senior portrait sitting fee, senior year yearbook, prom (ticket for student only), graduation cap & gown fee.

**Yearbook Picture Dates**

Yearbook picture dates for underclassmen are being taken in Physical Education classes on **Thursday, September 5th and Friday, September 6th** in the small gymnasium. Retakes will be made in the HPAC on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Lifetouch Studios is in the process of mailing information directly to parents about the procedures to be used, should parents wish to purchase pictures.

### **Senior Portrait Dates:**

Yearbook picture dates for Seniors Are September 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> and October 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the HPAC.

### **Locker Combinations:**

Locker numbers and combinations will be emailed to students at their Harrison Gmail address. Students are encouraged to not share their locker combinations.

### **Harrison High School PTA:**

The Harrison High School PTA is a very active and supportive organization for all students and parents of Harrison. They are extremely helpful in assisting parents with staying current with the activities that occur on a day-to-day basis in the high school. Please consider joining as a member:

<http://www.harrisoncsd.org/docs/hhs/HHSptaInfo.pdf>

### **Senior Parking:**

Senior Parking is now completed through a new online enrollment system available at <https://form.jotform.com/82004208863149> Clicking on the link will take you to the form you must complete in order to start the process. Once the form is complete and submitted online, your parent/guardian will receive an email with further directions and finalization steps to the online process. ***There is a mandatory meeting after school on September 5th in the HPAC for all seniors seeking campus parking.*** Those who have successfully completed the online process will receive their parking passes at the meeting. On the first day of school, you will be given a grace day to park on campus without displaying a parking tag. ***Leave privileges will begin on Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup>.*** Regrettably, there is only enough room for parking for seniors who would like to drive to school.

### **Leave Campus Privileges:**

***All seniors and juniors who are in good standing and have parental and administrative approval*** may leave campus during their lunch. Seniors may also leave during their free periods. Information was recently emailed pertaining to juniors who want permission to leave the campus during their lunch period using our new online enrollment system available at <https://form.jotform.com/82073643463154> You must complete the form in order to start the process. Once the form is complete and submitted online, the parent/guardian will receive an email with further directions and finalization steps to the online process. Those who have successfully completed the online process will be permitted to leave campus beginning on Friday, September 6th. Sophomores and freshman may not leave the campus during school hours. Please note, students who have any obligations to the school will not be able to leave campus until that obligation is rectified. No one may leave campus on foot during the school day unless leaving for the day.

### **Student Attendance Policy:**

Recognizing that regular school attendance is a critical component of academic success, the District has a "Student Attendance Policy," and it is very important that you and your children are familiar with the expectations of the policy. The policy can be found in the District Code of Conduct on the portal at:

<https://powerschool.harrisoncsd.org/public/home.html>

**Harrison's Food Service Information Packet:**

You will be receiving information in the mail in late August pertaining to the Harrison school breakfast and lunch programs. This will include how to enroll and use the lunch prepayment system Myschoolbucks: <https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/login/getmain?requestAction=home>

**Blackboard Connect:**

Our automated phone messaging service will continue to be used for important and timely information. Our HHS website provides readers with a written copy of any Blackboard Connect voice message that is sent.

**The Harrison Chapter of the National Honor Society:**

The Harrison Chapter of the National Honor Society is a very prestigious group of talented young juniors and seniors. There are specific requirements for membership and a specific method in which eligible students need to apply. Information pertaining to the application process and necessary submission dates are located on our website and in the Guidance Office. Eligible candidates will be notified to begin the application process. Eligible students or those interested in the requirements for eligibility should visit the website at: [http://www.harrisoncsd.org/docs/hhs/NHS%20CandidateMember%20Handbook%202017.docx%20\(3\).pdf](http://www.harrisoncsd.org/docs/hhs/NHS%20CandidateMember%20Handbook%202017.docx%20(3).pdf) Meeting deadlines is considered important by the selection committee when they review student applications for acceptance into the NHS.

**Driver Education:**

As in the past, Harrison will continue to offer an after school Driver Education program for eligible students. Refer to HHS announcements for upcoming information pertaining to the program for the 19-20 school year. At that time, the information will be posted on the HHS website if you scroll to the link on left side of the page. Applications for the program (available on the website), along with the fee, will be accepted in the HHS Main Office.

**Harrison Education Foundation:**

"The Harrison Education Foundation encourages excellence in education by generating and distributing funds for enrichment programs to benefit the students of the Harrison Central School District. This fall's fundraiser will be held on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m. Further information can be found at <https://harrisoned.org/> or on the district webpage.

If you have any general questions about what is occurring in school, or specific concerns relative to your son/daughter, please do not delay in contacting our school personnel. Our two Assistant Principals, Mrs. Laurie Griffo (Letters A-K) and Mr. Larry Mastrota (Letters L-Z), will be close partners to you and your child over the next four years along with his/her school counselor. If there are issues that need to be addressed, the earlier we receive the notification, the more effective we can be in providing a resolution to your concern. You can reach me, the other administrators, our teachers, and/or any other of the staff via telephone or email. Concerns will be addressed in a timely, consistent, and confidential manner.

Please accept my warmest wishes for a most successful 2019-20 school year. We look forward to classes beginning for students on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Kimberly Beukema  
Principal