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Good morning Class of 2022 families,

I hope you are enjoying your summer. I wanted to send you a brief update on the opening of school, as well as information from WPI and the Massachusetts Department of Education, as we plan for the upcoming school year.

The keys to this year will be proactivity, flexibility, and community responsibility. As we continue to deal with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and maintaining safety of our community as our top priority, we will ask all of you to be #techtgether in helping us.

It all begins with agreeing to some basic community standards:

- Stay home if you are sick
- Wash your hands (a lot)
- Cover your face
- Watch your space

The faculty has met to discuss scheduling and logistical parameters around classes, classroom spacing, and instructional delivery, and that work continues. We are committed to providing you with an exemplary educational experience. There will be some challenges presented with the ongoing situation, and it will not be business as usual, but together we will find ways to engage and challenge you to make this a tremendous two years.

Examples of some solutions will be phased lunches by section (so there is no crowding in the Brickyard), mask breaks outside in the courtyard, moving classes to larger spaces or dividing sections for worktime (library, brickyard). Because of physical distancing requirements, more collaborative activities may be virtual through Teams or Zoom, even within the building.

As of now, major events that bring together large groups (Junior/Senior orientation, Parent Academy, information sessions) will be redesigned or rescheduled. It is unlikely that we will travel to Camp Bournedale, as WPI is on travel restriction at this time. Alternative activities will be planned to achieve the same goals and objectives.

The Department of Education has also required that we submit several alternate educational plans in case there is a resurgence of the virus (all school districts in Massachusetts are required to do this). We have designed plans that have students in school, that include fully remote learning, and a hybrid model of alternate days and / or weeks in school and remote. We must also be prepared to teach/learn remotely for a period of time if we have a positive test in school. Once again, safety is paramount. That is why it is critical that students self-monitor daily and stay home if they are not well. Students will be able to keep up with their work remotely.

There will be more updates coming from this office in the next few weeks. Again, if there are major changes in the Commonwealth, we will adapt to the conditions and respond accordingly, keeping safety as the priority.

As of now, the first day of school is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing everyone in person on that day!

Enjoy your summer !