



Two Rivers High School  
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# NEWSLETTER

[www.trschools.k12.wi.us/TRHS/](http://www.trschools.k12.wi.us/TRHS/)

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SEPTEMBER | 2012

## *Ten Years and Counting*



“Do not pray  
for easy  
lives. Pray to  
be stronger  
men.”

**John F.  
Kennedy**

**P**erhaps not counting. More like multiplying, dividing, solving quadratic equations. As we begin our tenth year in our current building, we also begin a journey that is new to many of us. The new state “No Child Left Behind” waiver, increased accountability, more demands on students are just a few of the challenges that await us.

**W**hile these movements in education are truly challenging, we are committed to meeting those challenges. But, it won't be easy, and we need the help of the public, in particular, parents. You see, the demands on students have just been ratcheted up several notches. We have increased the math requirement for this year's freshmen to include Algebra 2. National reviews of high schools are calling for more AP testing, and when this is viewed as too much, parents and students opt for home schooling or virtual school.

**H**omeschooling aside, my experience with our very new virtual school has not been very good. Most of the students taking courses in this format have

failed to complete the work or earn any credit. Yet, when enrolling in the course, and even after explaining that parents and students will be required to reimburse the district for the cost of the class should they fail, there is still the perception that this is a better option.

In homeschooling, virtual school, or traditional schooling, success is determined by the efforts of the student and the efforts of a teacher.

Unfortunately, in the case of virtual school, there is a teacher, but not one that can stand over the student to provide that personal encouragement or any other motivating influence.

This brings me back to parents. Without question, research indicates that the teacher has the greatest impact on student success. It also suggests that parent involvement plays an important role as well. But, the wrong kind of involvement is more damaging than helpful. Supporting students while making high demands, setting requirements and sticking to them, requiring students to take more rigorous courses, even though they want to take the “easy” one, monitoring their progress on family access, contacting their teachers, counselor, or administrator are all positive ways parents can help their child.

What I’m asking for is your help and your commitment in the aforementioned areas so that we can meet the new demands on public education. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to check out a link on my webpage, “A Letter to Students”. Have a wonderful 2012-2013 school year.

# Important Reminders

Late start Wednesdays are generally the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. During the first Quarter, and depending on performance, freshmen students *do not* have late starts. They will be required to be in school at 8:00 am.

Please refer to the high school calendar for these dates and other dates of interest.

