

August 21, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! We are looking forward to the return of our students, and to a rewarding, enriching year.

This summer we have been busy completing the summer maintenance chores which are best completed when the campus is almost empty. It never is quiet though since the academic, dance, sports, and music programs go on all throughout the summer. As I mentioned in my earlier letter, both gyms have new LED lighting which make it seem like noon on a sunny day, and we have a second bus, Eagle 2 on order which will arrive in the fall after painting and preparation.

Student, faculty, and staff security remains a priority at East Catholic. We continue to review and modify our safety protocols continuously with our school security consultant and this school year we have two changes:

1. Students will be required to wear their picture ID outside their clothing on a lanyard. We find that quick visual authorization of a student allows our daily schedule to function well without interruption. This will go into effect in mid-September when the new ID cards have been issued.
2. In the morning, students will be allowed to go to their locker or to the cafeteria. We believe that this change will enhance the student experience by allowing them to socialize with their friends in the morning, or visit a teacher for extra help. In addition, it may improve the driving experience for all of us in the morning as students will not try and time their arrival right before the bell. However, it is critical that we maintain a single point of entry for the building. Students may not open other doors to let their friends in; all students must enter through the main entrance.

We would like to welcome Robert Link and Elizabeth Bouvier to the East Catholic community. Robert will be the choral instructor in our Fine Arts Department, and will teach social studies. Robert brings 16 years of experience in secondary Catholic education, and has most recently served as a substitute here at East. Elizabeth is joining English Department after previously serving as the Humanities Department Chair at the Bi-Culture Hebrew Academy of Connecticut. She is currently pursuing her Masters in Educational Technology at Fairfield University.

Important Dates

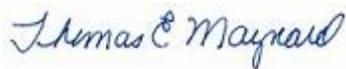
- Welcome New Families Picnic: Our first event is a wonderful way for your student to connect with classmates and teachers and have some fun on **Sunday, August 25th, from 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**, in the cafeteria. Enjoy games, basketball,

volleyball, face painting and more! Meet teachers, and staff as the East Catholic community extends a warm welcome to you and your family. If you are parents of a freshman or a student newly transferring to East, try not to miss this wonderful annual event.

- **Orientation Days:** The first two days of school are orientation days designed to acquaint students with their academic schedules and meet their teachers. Students must be in full uniform on orientation days and comply with the dress code requirements (polo shirt as preferred option). Pictures will be taken for all underclassmen, and concussion testing will be conducted for freshman and juniors. Homeroom begins promptly at 7:32 a.m. *Freshman orientation will run the length of a normal school day. Lunch will be provided for the Class of 2023.*
 - **Seniors, Juniors and Sophomores - Tuesday, September 3rd** 12:30 p.m. dismissal followed by Lady Catherine Cruise for Seniors
 - **Freshman Orientation - Wednesday, September 4th** 2:00 p.m. dismissal
 - **First Full Day of Classes - Thursday, September 5th** with 2:00 p.m. dismissal
 - **Parents Night for Athletics - Thursday, September 5th**
 - **All school Mass - Friday, September 6th** at 9:20 a.m. with 2:00 p.m. dismissal
 - **Back to School Night - Thursday, September 12th,** 6:00 p.m.
 - **Youth Ministry Accompaniment Day - St. Aloysius, Plantsville - Saturday, September 21st.** More information forthcoming.

Please do not hesitate to call or contact me at 860.649.5336 ext. 6203 or maynardt@echs.com if you have any questions. Remember that God loves each and every one of us, and East is Best!

Peace in Christ,



Thomas E. Maynard

Head of School