Dear Viking Parents,

As principal of Dulles High School, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone back for another great year! We are excited to have students back in our classrooms and hallways full of energy and enthusiasm for learning as we begin the 65th year of a Tradition of Excellence at Dulles!

Our partnership with you and the community is important, and we understand that the education of our children entails all of us working together.  As both a parent and an educator, I envision a place where everyone is valued, engaged in the learning process, safe and enjoying their school environment.  We welcome your ideas throughout the year, so if you have any praises and concerns or would like to volunteer, please feel free to contact myself or Ms. Nancy Thomas, Associate Principal or our Executive Assistant, Mrs. Beth Sanchez.

As we near the start of the school year, we would like to remind you about the expectations regarding cell phone use by students during school hours.  Since implementing our cell phone procedures here at Dulles High School, we have seen a dramatic increase in student performance and engagement. At Dulles High School, we are fortunate our district is providing laptops to every student this school year. More information will be coming soon.  While we recognize that cell phones are a part of our everyday lives, they are not a necessary requirement to meet our curricular outcomes. In order to support student learning, the cell phone expectation is that all students will silence their cell phones and place them in their backpacks during all instructional time. Some teachers may choose to collect and store cell phones for the class period.  Students will continue to be allowed to use their devices before and after school, during lunch as well as in between classes. We hope this continues to have a positive impact on student achievement. Should a situation arise where you need to get in contact with your child during class time, we ask that you call the front office. Please see our student handbook for more details regarding our cell phone procedure.

High school is a special time in our students’ lives in which they form relationships and memories that will last a lifetime.  We ask that you encourage your student to get involved in extra-curricular activities or one of the many clubs and organizations that Dulles has to offer. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child’s education.  As partners, we share the responsibility for our student’s success and want you to know we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities.

Some key points to take note of:

* The first day of school is Thursday August 8, 2024. The daily start time will be 7:30 A.M., and the **dismissal time has changed to 2:50 P.M.**
* All students will report to campus at 7:30 A.M. on August 8. Students may check Skyward beginning August 7th for their schedule.
* Seniors who have 1st and/or 2nd period **Off Campus** need to report to the cafeteria by 7:30 A.M. on the first day of school.
* Students who have classes at the Reese Center will report to the Dulles library during those courses on the 1st
* Lunches cannot be delivered to students at school. We must secure our entry vestibules at the front door. Additionally, students are not permitted to leave campus for lunch.
* Students are not allowed to receive deliveries of any kind during school hours.
* Be certain that your student brings lunch to school or has money in his/her lunch account. Please use the Fort Bend ISD meal payment system to add money to your child’s account.
* Students may not carry medication with them during the school day. Parents/Guardians must deliver all medications to the clinic.
* Traffic will be very busy around the campus during the first few days of school. I encourage you to leave home early, drive slowly, safely and device-free. We have many walkers – please use caution while driving on and near campus.

**Important dates to mark on your calendar**

* Thursday, August 8 – 1st day of school
* Friday, August 9 – Grade-level Student Assemblies
* Tuesday, August 13 – 1st home Volleyball Game
* Friday, August 16 – Senior Sunrise
* Wednesday, August 21 – Meet the Vikes
* Friday, August 30 – 1st Varsity Football Game – Butler Stadium
* Monday, September 2– Student/Staff Holiday
* Friday, September 6 – Coffee and donuts with the principal
* Wednesday, September 11 – Student pictures

**Become a Viking Volunteer**

DHS’s Volunteer in Public Schools (VIPS) is always looking for help.  Your support is greatly appreciated either through making donations, assisting with school events, helping with communication or all of the above! If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please email [beth.sanchez@fortbendisd.com](mailto:beth.sanchez@fortbendisd.com).

As we kick off this new school year, I'm truly grateful for your unwavering support of our students and our school community. Let's bring in the energy and excitement, and make this year one of incredible growth and success for every student, both academically and personally. Let’s Set Sail!

Sincerely,

Mr. Corey Stewart

Principal, John Foster Dulles High School

