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Skowhegan Area High School and Bloomfield Academy

DANIEL F. HYLAN
DIRECTOR OF GUIDANCE

JON CHRISTOPHER
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February 1, 2022

Dear Eighth Grade Parents/Guardians:

It may be difficult to believe that your child will be starting high school this fall. The transition to Skowhegan Area High School is a carefully crafted process designed to support all students as they enter high school and throughout their freshman year. The transition process will begin with an open house at the high school. Like last year, we are preparing a virtual open house experience to welcome our freshman students and their families. Once completed, we will publish the virtual open house on the SAHS webpage and share with our families how to access it. In June, we are planning to have small group in-person tours of SAHS for our incoming freshman students. Additionally, an orientation day exclusively for ninth grade students will be held the day before your child starts their first day of high school.

In early March, Mr. Riley, one of the high school guidance counselors, will present registration information to your child at the middle school during the school day. During these presentations, your child will pick elective courses to complete their schedule. Your child's current teachers will determine course levels for English, math, science and social studies. A copy of your child's courses will be mailed home. If you have questions regarding course level recommendations, please contact your child's current teachers.

The Building Assets Reducing Risks (BARR) program is in its sixth year of implementation at SAHS. Teachers monitor freshman students and meet weekly to discuss student concerns and determine possible interventions to foster student success. Teachers provide activities to build skills and relationships through the BARR curriculum. The BARR program helps students and teachers build positive relationships, while increasing communication among teachers, students, and parents. As a result, teaching becomes more purposeful, instruction becomes more effective, and more students thrive with expanded support. BARR has helped SAHS decrease failure and suspension rates while increasing student attendance.

On behalf of the entire Skowhegan Area High School faculty and staff, welcome to SAHS! We are committed to your child and their successful transition to high school. Please call (474-2403) or email your child's guidance counselor with any questions. Students are assigned a guidance counselor based on the first letter of their last name.

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Sincerely,

SAHS Administrative Team