

June 19, 2009

Dear Students and Parents,

The administration and staff of John Taylor Collegiate are looking forward to a successful 2009-10 school year with your daughter/son. The information in this letter is intended to keep you informed of opening day procedures which will assist in your teen's academic success.

1. The **first day** for the fall term is Wednesday, September 9, 2009. The school hours at John Taylor are 8:30 a.m. - 12:03 p.m. and 1:11 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.; however, our school opening day schedule is as follows:

Morning Schedule – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Orientation Session):

This orientation is only for **grade 9 students and any grade 10-12 students who are “new” to John Taylor Collegiate**. Students are to report to the theatre at 10:00 a.m.

Afternoon Schedule - 1:10 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (All students, grade 9 – grade 12):

1:10 - 1:50 all students proceed to their teacher advisor (listed on timetable)

1:50 - 2:10 period 1 class

2:10 - 2:30 period 2 class

2:30 - 2:50 period 3 class

(Note – The lunch hour is considered period 4)

2:50 - 3:10 period 5 class

3:10 - 3:30 period 6 class

3:30 Dismissal

Students should bring a binder with lined loose-leaf and a pen/pencil in preparation for classes. A supply list is attached for grade 9 students.

Division transportation for opening day will be provided for bussed students and will follow regular hours; however, because of the 10:00 a.m. or 1:10 p.m. start time for opening day, it would be appreciated if alternate arrangements could be made for your son/daughter so that they don't arrive too early.

For those students who must take the bus, there will be supervision provided at the school.

Note - Students provided with division transportation will be returned home at the end of the opening day by school division bus.

2. Reminder that we will also have **Parent/Student Transition Meetings** with you and your son/daughter on **Wednesday, September 2, 2009** to explain what we feel is our important policies or non-negotiable expectations. These are expectations that we have of all our students that ensure our school is a safe, orderly, caring environment where they will be guaranteed the opportunity to do their very best. All incoming grade 9 students and their parent(s) must attend these meetings.

Wednesday, September 2, 2009, starting at 7:30 am, John Taylor Collegiate office.

There are no appointments for these meetings. Simply come to the office any time between 7:30 am and 6:00 pm and you will be seen on a first come first serve basis.

Your son/daughter's timetable will also be available at this time. In order to obtain their timetable you will need to pay the \$40 student fees. **Note:** If you absolutely cannot make it at this time please call the school before Monday, August 31st to make other meeting arrangements for the week of August 31 – September 4.

Timetable Changes: After you have reviewed your timetable, it may be possible to make changes if required.

3. Our second annual Piper All-nighter will take place on Sept 18th. (Note the date change from the previous letter). The Piper All-nighter is a Friday night event where all grade nine students stay overnight in the school and go through motivational and team building activities that will encourage them to become involved in the school and its community. More information will follow.

Student fees at John Taylor are \$40.00 and include a yearbook, agenda calendars, school lock and locker rental, payment of certain school activities such as motivational speakers, student council activities and field trip transportation, etc. We are announcing this procedure well in advance so that you might have an opportunity to obtain the required money during the summer. In the event you are unable to pay the student fee when picking up your timetable, please see one of the administrators.

4. The Attendance Policy for JT will be distributed at the transition meeting. It is very important that the school be informed by the parent or guardian by phone within 24 hours of the student's return to school if the absence is to be considered excused. To keep you informed, attendance letters are sent home as per attendance policy and newsletters are electronically sent home every month. Parents wanting a hard copy of the newsletter can have their son/daughter pick one up in the school's office.

Reporting dates for the 2009/10 school year are as follows:

November 13th	-	Midterm Report Card
February 12th	-	Final/Semester I Report Card
April 9th	-	Midterm Report Card
June 28th	-	Final/Semester II Report Card

5. School Pictures – Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. Students will receive order forms prior to this date. Picture retakes will be Tuesday, October 27th at 1:00 p.m.
6. Staff Meetings – The first staff meeting of the school year is Tuesday, September 15th. Please note, the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month will be staff meeting days resulting in early dismissal. (2:35 p.m.)

If you have questions or require further information, do not hesitate to contact the school. We look forward to meeting all parents at our **Meet the Teacher** scheduled for Thursday, September 24th from 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Join us for a slice of pizza and a drink to start off the 2009-10 school year.

The staff and I hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable summer vacation and that students will be ready to return in the fall, keenly interested in renewing their studies. We look forward to meeting our students on the first day of classes, Wednesday, September 9/09.

S. Lockhart,
Principal.