



Berkshire Waldorf High School

14 Pine Street
Stockbridge
MA 01262
(413) 298-3800

PO Box 905
Great Barrington
MA 01230

berkshirwaldorf.com

August 2018

Dear Students and Parents,

I hope that you are enjoying a good and restful summer! I also hope you are willing to begin to turn your thoughts toward fall and our return to school.

I am happy to say that we are entering the fall of our 17th year with few changes to our Core Faculty. As you may know, Beth Robbins is on partial sabbatical this year, and has chosen to reduce her teaching load. She will teach Dante's *Divine Comedy* to grade 11 to start the year, and her load for the spring has yet to be determined. Similarly, Lee Magadini is interning with NASA this year. Stephen Sagarin, who has taught life science at the high school in the past, will teach several life science blocks in her absence, and we are working on another guest teacher or more for blocks. Otherwise, our excellent Core Faculty returns for the start of our 17th year.

That said, there are some changes to teaching assignments.

In math, Susan Bilodeau will teach grade 12 Calculus and grade 10 Algebra 2. Sarah Blexrud will teach grade 9 Geometry, and Stephen Sagarin will teach grade 11 Precalculus.

In English, Samantha Stier will teach grades 10 and 12; Sarah Blexrud will teach grade 11, and Stephen Sagarin will teach grade 9. (We are fortunate to have several teachers who are qualified and certified in high school math and English!)

This year, chorus will meet once a week for grades 9 and 10 combined, and once a week for grades 11 and 12 combined. As concerts and performances approach, we'll find rehearsal time for the whole chorus.

We'll have more information and schedules available by the time of the Back-to-School Pot-Luck Dinner on August 31.

We look forward to welcoming you—or welcoming you back—to a great school year in September. For now, please read below for a wealth of back-to-school information.

INFORMATION

Our back-to-school information, including this letter, may be found on the school's website, berkshirwaldorf.com. Most information is found under the **Parents** or **Students** tabs in the upper left corner of the home page. You will not receive a paper mailing, but should download the forms you need from the website.

- **School Calendar.** All current calendar information for 2018-2019 is posted in our online calendar: <http://berkshirwaldorf.com/events/>. (Or click on the "News and Events" tab in the upper right corner of our home page.) A brief, refrigerator-worthy calendar is also available under back-to-school information, but please be aware that it is subject to change. Always check the website calendar for current information.
- **Student Book List**—Required books for the coming year. Please obtain before the opening of school! One of the things that makes teachers' jobs hardest is when students don't have required texts in class and on time. New York State residents have most of these provided by their districts. The Book List will specify any book(s) not provided for NY students, or if a teacher is ordering books that will be billed separately.



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- **Student Supply List**—Required items for the start of school and every day after that. Again, we cannot emphasize enough how important it is to have these supplies available every day—even if they are not used for a few weeks at a time, when they are needed, they are needed. Students may keep supplies in lockers or cubbies at the high school so they are there when needed.
- **Orientation at Camp Hi-Rock**, September 5-7, information letter, including packing list.
- **Zoology at Hermit Island**, September 16-21 (Seniors only).
- **Student & Parent Handbook**. Especially if you are new to our school, please read this document. It contains lots of information that will ease your transition to our school community. New and revised sections are highlighted.

FORMS

Also, please find posted the following forms that need to be completed by the first day of school:

- Student information form, including:
 - Emergency contact information
 - Medical information
 - Emergency consent to authorize treatment
 - Dismissal authorization
 - Authorization and release to photograph
 - Field trip authorization.
- Physician's health form. (You may substitute another form and records as long as they have been completed in the calendar year prior to September 5, 2018.) Massachusetts law requires each student athlete to have a physical exam every year; if you plan to play soccer, basketball, or tennis, you need a physical.
- Immunization record.
- Immunization waiver (optional).
- Allergy-Asthma Action Plan.
- Internet acceptable use agreement—Students and Parents.
- Student driver/passenger authorization.
- Soccer team permission and schedule (more information will be posted soon).

Other information—parent, student, and teacher contact information, and seminar, arts, and daily schedules—will be available later in the summer and handed out at the Back-to-School Pot-Luck Dinner at the school on August 31. For those who cannot attend the dinner, this information will also be available on the first day of school.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL DATES AND EVENTS

Here is information about the days leading up to and including the opening of school:

Sat. Aug. 25, 9 a.m. - Noon. School Cleaning and set-up for fall. Join our community as we prepare our school building for the fall. This is a great opportunity to catch up after the summer, meet new families, and help us prepare for the year ahead. We provide cleaning supplies, but feel free to bring your favorites.

Fri., Aug. 31, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Back-to-School Pot-Luck Dinner at the school. Welcome new families and get reacquainted. Please plan for at least one member of each family to attend and



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bring a dish to share; there will be an **all-school meeting (parents, students, teachers) at 6:30 p.m.** Please park on Main Street and walk to the school.

Wed., Sept. 5, First day of school. Academic half day. Students should arrive at school no later than 8:15 a.m. in assembly dress—see the Handbook for details. Please note: This is a school day and students will have a first seminar class; they should be prepared for this with required books and school supplies.

Wed., Sept. 5 - Fri., Sept. 7, Orientation at Camp Hi-Rock. We will leave for Camp Hi-Rock at 1 p.m. Transportation and other details available later this month. (Please note: There is a \$150 per student fee for orientation. Packing list, camp medical form, and other information regarding Orientation is posted online. Medical form is due on or before the first day of school.)

Sun., Sept. 16 - Fri., Sept. 21, Senior Class trip to Hermit Island, Maine, to study tide-pool zoology. Information available online and at school after the school year begins.

Please note: Enrollment contracts for 2018-2019 school year should already be set up and signed within the TADS system. All contracts have been sent via e-mail through TADS. Please contact Penny Saupé, Business Manager, business@berkshirewaldorf.com, with any questions about your contract.

Please call or email if you have questions about this letter or anything else, and enjoy the rest of the summer.

Sincerely,

Stephen Sagarin, Ph.D., Executive Director & Faculty Chair