

# GETTING STARTED: NINTH GRADE AT BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL

- **Learn the School Mantras:**
  - FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY
  - HARD WORK OVER TIME
  - BRING YOUR BEST SELF TO SCHOOL EACH DAY
  
- **Get to Know People and Ask for Help:**
  - Your teachers
  - Your peers
  - Your counselors and social workers
  - Your deans and headmaster
  - Your homeroom advisors
  - Your junior mentors
  - The secretaries
  
- **Academic Success at BHS:**
  - Keep up with your work
  - Participate in class
  - Everyone can be in National Honor Society: maintain a B+ average
  
- **Breakfast and Lunch in the Cafeteria:**
  - Sit wherever you want
  - Open a cafeteria account; they don't take cash
  - Leave your table clean, even if you didn't make the mess
  - Food must stay in the cafeteria or quad
  
- **Lockers:**
  - All students are assigned a locker
  - If the locker is not convenient, you may check with the Dean's secretary to obtain a new one
  - Use a lock and record your combination. If you use a key, you may store a copy with Ms. Inchierca, rm. 285.
  - See Ms. Inchierca if there is a problem.
  
- **Library:**
  - Open 8:00-4:00 daily
  - Ask the librarians for help!
  - Study quietly here
  - Headphones are allowed
  
- **Important Student Rights:**
  - To be comfortable and safe at school every day
  - To be treated with respect
  - To succeed as a student
  - To receive help
  - To speak with your counselor or your dean if you have concerns
  - To have no more than two major tests or projects due in one day
  - To have religious holidays free from homework
  - To meet confidentially with social workers
  
- **Important rules:**
  - Speak and behave respectfully
  - Give your name when asked
  - Report to your Dean if asked to leave class
  - Use cell phones only in front of the school on Greenough Street
  - Use headphones only in the library, fitness center, and in front of the school
  - Dress appropriately for school
  
- **Time Management**
  - Sometimes being involved in activities helps you to be more organized
  - Ask for help if you need it
  - Stay organized, plan your time

- **Extra-Curricular Activities:**
  - Get involved in something in school or in your community
  - Join one of our 53 Clubs or form a new one that interests you
  - Consider student government, athletic teams, intramurals, music groups, drama, service, art, work, etc.
  - Many clubs meet during X blocks.
  
- **Attendance and AWOLS:**
  - Good attendance improves learning.
  - Absences and tardies must be excused by noon through the Dean's secretary
  - Dismissals during the day must be excused through the Dean's secretary or the nurse
  - Calls and e-mails home occur after each AWOL or unexcused absence
  - If AWOL's are inaccurate, corrections must occur within 5 days with a note or call to the Deans' secretary
  - More than 4 AWOLs during the course of the year result in no-credit for the class.
  
- **Health and Fitness:**
  - Required in ninth grade plus three additional half years
  - Contracting out is possible in grades 10-12 through a sports team
  
- **Open Campus:**
  - Available second semester for night graders with parental permission
  - Must also be in good academic standing and have good attendance
  
- **Midyears and Finals:**
  - Plan ahead! Don't throw out your papers/tests/quizzes.
  - Meet with your teachers. Go to review sessions
  
- **Classes, Levels, and Scheduling:**
  - Know your limits
  - Don't stress
  - It's easier to move down rather than up, but best to make changes early
  - Challenge yourself
  - Don't get behind on your work
  - Copy down your homework
  - Sophomore year scheduling begins in January
  
- **Gossip & Peer Pressure:**
  - Don't listen to rumors
  - Get help before reacting
  - Get what YOU want out of BHS
  
- **School Procedures:**
  - Drop/add forms
  - AWOL clearance
  - Sports contracts
  - Sports clearance process
  - Retrieving electronic devices if used against the rules
  
- **Rumors to set straight:**
  - There is no class cancellation policy if a teacher does not show up. Someone should find an administrator and report that there is no teacher present.
  
- **GET INVOLVED**
  - There are endless opportunities, take advantage of them
  - Activities are a great way to meet people.
  - Don't be afraid to introduce yourself to new people.
  - Figure out what you like to do, not what you think friends or colleges want you to do.
  - Let adults and fellow students help you along the way.

**FRESHMAN YEAR DOES COUNT!!!!**  
**ENJOY IT!!!! It's the only freshman year you will ever have!**