



US Class Dean Update

September 16, 2026

Dear 9th grade families,

As I'm writing this, the class of 2030 has finished their first week of high school! You know better than anyone else how the week has been for your child. On my end I'm glad to see students finding their way to my office. They are introducing themselves, making casual conversation, and asking if they can "sneak a snack" as someone has coined it. They are also finding their way to their classes. Last week I answered many questions about how to find a building or a room. This week they are pros. Some have already volunteered to assist during the upcoming Back-to-School Night!

Because this memo contains information about our upcoming overnight trip, it is longer than what you can normally expect. Thank you in advance for your time and patience reading all of this information.

Later this week:

This Friday (9/18) will be the Student Activities Fair! This event is a fantastic opportunity for students to explore campus life and discover new passions.

Our Student Activities Program oversees more than 70 student-led clubs categorized into six key areas: Art, Identity, Interest, Social & Political, Publications, and STEM. Grounded in our mission to empower students to "meet the challenges of a changing world and make it better," the program encourages everyone to step outside their comfort zone. Ninth graders will get their own timeslot to visit the club booths and sign up for clubs they are interested in.

Please encourage your child to explore our offerings on the [Student Activities Website](#) this week and try something new!

Looking ahead: next week

Tuesday September 22: Math night from 7 - 8:30 PM in Hajjar Auditorium. Led by the Math Department this is a great opportunity to get to know the math program at D-E. I encourage you all to attend. The presentation solely focuses on IMM 1 CP and IMM 1 Honors. **Hypermath is not part of the presentation.**

Thursday September 24 - Friday September 25: The 9th graders will go on their overnight retreat at [Camp Mason](#). Camp Mason is a YMCA camp, located in Hardwick Township, NJ. We will depart from school on Thursday around 8:30 AM and return on Friday by 3:30 PM. The days

will be filled with activities that focus on team building and team bonding. Students will participate in most of the activities with their advisory. Chaperoned by our enthusiastic team of advisors, Ms. Murphy, Mr. Dargan myself and some volunteer chaperones, students can look forward to a time that will keep them engaged with each other whilst enjoying the outdoors.

Camp Mason staff is prepared to host rain or shine programs.

The trip is a NO PHONES event. Advisors will collect phones when students enter the bus on Thursday and students will get their phones back when we get back to school on Friday.

Encourage your child to bring games!

I've asked all students to complete the [waiver](#). Please check with your child to make sure this is done. Students have also been asked to complete an accommodations form. In this form they indicate their dietary needs, and the housing accommodations that best align with their gender identity.

Contact & address information:

YMCA Camp Mason

[23 Birch Ridge Road](#)

[Hardwick, NJ 07825](#)

In **case of emergency**, please call:

During school hours: Ms. Christine Hazarian, [201-227-3240](#)

After hours: Ms. Murphy, [201-705-7936](#)

A copy of the slideshow I shared with the students, and of the packing list, are attached to this email. Please check the weather forecast and have your child pack accordingly.

Looking further ahead:

Thursday October 1: Back-to-School night from 6:30 - 10:00 PM

Monday November 2: Parent Forum from 8:30 - 10:00 AM

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions or concerns.

Wishing you and yours a good rest of your week!

Kind regards,

Petra van't Slot