

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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G. Bruce West, Principal
Kim Chandler, Director of School Counseling
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Stephen Bartsch, Dean of Students
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Mark Swasey, Athletic Director

August 15, 2017

Welcome, and welcome back!

When we observe the world around us, particularly things in nature, we often see ourselves. I was reminded of this during my vacation last week.

As I paddled my kayak among the islands on a lake north of here, I observed a duck, a common merganser, and her ten ducklings out for an early diving lesson. They swam together in the warmth of the day, some went ahead while others lagged a bit behind. Every minute or so, the mother would dive and a number of her ducklings would follow. A few days later, on a different part of the lake, I came across her again. She and her ducklings swam close by, and when the mother dove, all but one duckling followed.

Observing this family of mergansers resonated with me and confirmed my belief that teaching and learning are deep-seated in our nature. We take on these roles throughout our days, our years, and our lives. Both teaching and learning require us to be active and engaged, to wait for others, to work hard to keep up, and to dive when it is time, knowing that we will pop back up to the surface.

During the upcoming year, the administration, faculty, and staff of ConVal High School will strive to connect with all of our students. We will challenge every one of them to both learn and teach, to remain engaged, and to work hard. We will provide support and will partner with our parents to do the same. We trust that, together, we can inspire students to pursue their passions and take responsibility for their own learning.

To our students, I want to say that the new school year is just that — a time to seek out the parts of the lake you have yet to explore, to be confident when you are swimming ahead, even if you don't yet have the courage to dive. If you fall behind, know that we are committed to your success, and that there are hundreds of opportunities to succeed.

We look forward to seeing you on your first day, be it the 30th for new students, or the 31st for returning students.

Enjoy the warmth of the sun in the last days of summer and come energized for the year ahead!

Sincerely,



Gib West

Mark Your Calendars

- Naviance and Common App Training (seniors and parents) August 23 starting at 10:00 am
- New Student Day (for all students who are new to ConVal) August 30 8:00 am - 12:45 pm*
- First Day of School August 31
- Open House September 12 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
- College Planning for Seniors and Parents September 20 6:30 pm

**Please note the change in ending time.*