



WOOTTON

PATRIOTS

Thomas S. Wootton High School

Freshmen Survival Guide

Be A Part from the Start
Class of One-Three

Greetings Wootton High School Class of 2013 Parents!

Welcome to Wootton High School and I am so excited you are here with us to discuss the exciting things planned for the next four years. You will have the opportunity to discuss all the ways that Wootton will support your students success. We will be providing you with a lot of information to assist you in beginning the school year successfully.

The information provided in this booklet was provided to you by upper classmen. The tips, suggestions, and advice offered will serve as a great resource for you as you help your young person begin high school. Please, read through this booklet and remember what the information they have provided- they have been where you are and they know the school building. Keep this booklet throughout the school year and refer to it as needed. In just a few short years you will be offering your advice to rising freshmen parents. What advice will you give them?

We look forward to working with you this year. If you need assistance or have questions please, don't hesitate to ask, we have student mentors, teachers, staff and administration here to make this a successful experience. We are all here to help you transition to high school.

Best of luck to you as you "Soar into High School!"

Dr. Michael Doran
Principal

Dr. Anthony (A.J.) Nottingham
Assistant Principal- Class of 2013

What Do I Need?

Agenda	Paper	Pencil/Pens
Map of Wootton	Schedule	Student I.D.
Backpack	Good friends	Homework
Sweatshirts	Active social life	Confidence
Breath mints/gum	Student number	Books
A teacher as a friend	Helpful friends	White-Out
A "connection" in the front office		☺ Smile ☺
A few upperclassmen as friends		Binder
Feel comfortable going to guidance counselors		Good hygiene

Who to Go For...

- Sick notes: attendance office
- Late to school: attendance office
- Any type of help: teachers
- Conflicts with others: mentor/guidance
- Schedule change: guidance
- Good laugh: any staff member
- Any type of help: mentor
- Any type of help: friends
- Health issues: nurse
- Anything: Officer Connolly

Things to Avoid

- The principal's office
- Losing your textbooks (\$50+)
- Touching railings (germs=bad)
- Acting hardcore
- Avoid slackers (YOU are the key to your own success)
- People with attitudes are bad influences
- Getting involved with the wrong crowd
- Going to the restroom if you don't actually have to use it
- Getting an attitude with your teachers
- Losing your agenda
- Big hallway crowds
- Losing your homework
- Skipping school

Wish I Had Known...

- Where classes/departments are
- Where nurse, guidance, etc. is
- Note taking is very important
- How to get to lunch on time
- Which lunch lines are better
- Not to be near the main stairwell
- All the nurses can do is give you a band-aid or an ice pack
- Which vending machines are open during the day?
- Class requirements
- Studying really does help
- What staircases to take
- Notes are key to success
- Freshmen year is NOT that bad
- Which bathrooms are never crowded?

-Be conscious of your facial expressions

Wish I Had Done...

- Listened attentively
- Been more of a people person
- Pay more attention
- Enjoy and appreciate 9th grade
- Be more involved in school
- Turn homework, projects in on time
- Homework when assigned (the same day that it was assigned)
- Sports, clubs
- Brought supplies everyday
- Choose better friends
- Passed ninth grade
- Gotten a map of the school
- Learn how to spell

What worked in middle school that still works in high school?

- Having a close friend to talk to
- Being friendly (not TOO friendly)
- Lessons learned from your middle school experiences
- Being "out there" (outgoing)
- Changing for gym and classes
- Dressing appropriately
- Sleeping (at home, of course)
- Writing with pencils
- Doing homework daily
- Knowing your lockers
- Having connections
- Lunch
- Changing classes

How did I have to change from middle school?

- Apply yourself more
- Be more time efficient
- New study skills
- Maturity level boost
- Getting used to a bigger school
- Wakeup time
- Not considered upperclassmen 'til 11th grade, get used to it!
- Accept different people because they can help you a lot
- Be more responsible because the majority of teachers won't "baby" you through your years in high school!
- School becomes more personalized, so have an idea of what you want to get into
- Taking notes
- Grading
- Being better prepared
- More homework
- Classroom activities
- Bedtime

Survival Tips for Freshmen

- Bring a sweatshirt (it gets cold!)
- Binders are your best friend
- Mechanical pencils/pens
- Always have/don't lose your agenda
- Do not use the main stairwell
- It's not all about girlfriends!
- It's not all about boyfriends!
- Lose the attitude and don't be fake
- Your friends are who you will become...choose wisely
- Never EVER stand in the middle of the hallway...you will get pushed
- Be friendly
- Good attitude
- College ruled paper
- Do your best!
- Be yourself
- Organize your work
- Don't push people

How do I manage lunch?

- Pick a table and stick with it because other people don't appreciate you "stealing" their "table"
- Commons → better if you want to chill after eating
- Don't run, walk swiftly!
- If you don't like waiting in line...get your lunch first
- Don't be afraid to go up to random people and say hey! sup!
- Bring your own lunch
- Be the first there
- Finish lunch fast before the bell rings

How to...

*Organize Yourself

- Notes organized into classes
- Divide your binder into sections
- Color-code subjects
- Highlight important info
- Use your agenda
- Schedule your time wisely by doing homework at a certain time

*Study

- Study ahead of time (no cramming, no day before studying)
- Use flash cards
- Be well rested
- Divide study topics by day
- Have a study buddy
- Keep graded work for exams
- Ask for references
- Footnotes are your best friends
- Don't dirty your papers
- Study in a place you can concentrate
- Don't make up excuses for not turning in your work
- Use online references, but don't rely on them
- Don't blame your mentor for your failure

*General Tips

- Keep all supplies/locker organized
- Power nap after school
- Always have extra pens in locker
- Eat an after school snack
- Find out what clubs/sports interest you the most and join
- Get help from teachers before/after school if help is needed
- Use your agenda to write homework assignments
- Label each binder with the appropriate subject
- Do harder homework assignments first, then the easier ones
- Review your notes daily to keep ideas fresh in your mind
- Go to the library during lunch to do homework if it's too much

Suggestions for Freshmen

*What worked in middle school that will work in high school...?

- Dressing appropriately NEVER goes out of style
- Keep the skin and undergarments to a minimum!

*What to change from middle school...

- School becomes more personalized, so have an idea of what you want to get into
- Readjust your mindset because you're no longer at the top

*What you need...

- Upperclassmen friends because they know little secrets of the school and can offer you helpful hints
- Always keep a jacket and pair of comfy shoes in your locker because though it's warm, they keep the temp down so you don't dress too skimpy

*Wish I had...

- Joined clubs/sports to build valuable relationships with those with similar likes
- Taken freshmen year seriously because it sets the tone for the rest of your high school career

How To?

*Be Organized

- Get sticky paper on the side of your binder, so you can keep track of your classes
- Write down homework assignments in agenda and keep track of tests and quizzes
- Color match folders with binders and textbooks
- Use your locker!

*Manage Homework

- Start homework in class if there's extra time
- When you get home, finish homework, and then do other things after
- Start homework the day it was assigned

*Manage Teachers

- Try to be friends with your teachers
- Understand how they run their classroom
- Realize your teachers are there to help you, so talk to them

*Manage Outside Activities

- Make a schedule

- Work first, play later!
- Don't overwhelm yourself

How to?

***Organization**

- Keeping track of all work, completed or not
- Color code notebooks, work and binders
- Have/schedule time for locker breaks and keep a clean locker
- Bring extra clothes
- Keep track of your agenda

***Homework**

- Two hours of homework per day until due date
- Have snacks before or between breaks, never during
- Study thirty minutes to an hour everyday
- Study notes, know vocabulary, study key points, look through textbooks, look through class work for understanding, and look up things you don't know or understand

***Ask For Help**

- Don't be afraid to talk to teachers or others
- Ask for help after school
- Get a tutor
- Ask mentors for help
- Go to a guidance counselor

***Stay focused**

- Do's: Pay attention, Listen, Take notes, Ask questions, Answer questions, Positive attitude, Keep track of due dates and homework, Give your best 100%
- Don'ts: No sleeping, Don't give up, Never disrespect teachers, No notes passing, no talking while teacher is, Never lose agenda, Don't get in trouble

***How to Stay On Task**

- Make sure you outline notes. Keep them neat
- Prioritize your time...least to greatest
- In class, sit where you will be least distracted
- Keep an eye on the clock...make sure you arrive to class on time
- Make sure you have materials for class

- You might have to sacrifice your social life to succeed ☹️
- Study!
- Keep unwanted things in your locker
- To avoid being late on the first day, find ways that are not crowded

How to Overcome Your High School Problems

- Do not turn on the TV when you get home. Lock yourself in quiet place to do homework.
- Do not sit by distractions in class
- Make reminder notes on pillows, mirrors, etc.
- Talk before, after school, or during lunch (not in halls)
- Come to school with an open mind 😊
- Don't classify yourself right off the bat
- Try your hardest not to miss school! It is almost impossible to make up work and keep up with class.
- Keep a homework folder
- Make a schedule that will give you time for school, social life, and athletics/clubs
- Organize binders (color code/papers)
- Keep sweatshirt in locker! But, don't forget to wash it (Axe and perfume don't cover up all smells)
- Make time for studying → set aside at least 30 minutes per class a night
- Don't cram!