Welcome to Saratoga High School! We are looking forward to working with you as partners in your children’s education for the next four years. We hope this document proves to be helpful to you as you prepare your child for the independent life that waits in a few short years.

1. **Remember** that the assessment tools most often used to quantify students (including the grade point average) are not necessarily the most important measures of their success. We hope that our students become self-directed, independent learners and respectful, giving members of the community they will lead.

2. **Encourage** your children to chart their own paths through Saratoga High School. From their first class on our campus, they will find themselves in a different place and on a different pace than many of their middle school friends. Try to honor their individual choices and abilities.

3. **Remind** your children not only to pursue academic excellence, but also to make a long-term commitment to the extracurricular activity(ies) they love. Colleges encourage dedication to, and leadership in, activities more than they encourage broad-based sampling.

4. **Note** that there are times in the day when students are not required to work on their academics or see their teachers for help (tutorial). Nonetheless, these are times students should use to improve their skills, prepare for tests, and seek individual assistance from the people on campus willing to help.

5. **Instill** in your children a desire to learn and a willingness to ask teachers questions. It is our students who must understand the content in the classroom and the expectations for the work associated with it.

6. **Realize** that there is a wealth of information at your fingertips regarding your children’s grades, attendance, and discipline. Please ask your children first about these topics as they have the primary responsibility for their own education. It is the student’s responsibility to address these issues with the adults on our campus.

7. **Expect** homework to increase and to be a part of your children’s weekend routine. Please provide a quiet, non-distracting environment for their learning at home.

8. **Tell** your children that there is no substitute for the learning that takes place in the classroom. Please plan vacations and appointments during non-school hours and holidays.

9. **Model** effective organizational skills for your children. Encourage them to keep an organizer or homework calendar that includes a class schedule, times to get extra help, a listing of assignments and tests, and an extracurricular activity schedule. Your monitoring their work should rely on this planner.

10. **Know** your role in your children’s education. You should supervise their education, not by doing their work, but by checking in to see that all is going well, by offering support and encouragement, and by gently allowing them to assume more and more responsibility for their own education.