

Monday, March 23, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are very excited that your child has been offered an opportunity to attend our **“Jumpstart to Graduation” Summer Bridge Program** for rising 9th graders at Potomac High School. This program is made possible through a Smaller Learning Communities Grant awarded to Prince George’s County Public Schools by the United States Department of Education.

“Jumpstart to Graduation” is designed to help students make a smooth transition from middle school to high school both academically and socially. While some students are prepared to meet the rigors of high school, research shows that many incoming freshmen are ill prepared for high school and that more students fail 9th grade than any other grade level. It is also clear that if a student falls behind academically in 9th grade, they are much less likely to complete high school. Potomac High School is committed to student success and believes that solid freshman foundations will ultimately lead to academic and personal success throughout high school and beyond.

The goals of **“Jumpstart to Graduation”** are to—

- Orient students to the high school facility and provide opportunities for students to begin building relationships with their freshmen teachers, counselors, and administrators.
- Provide spirited and high-energy lessons that preview the 9th grade curriculum in English and math, while embedding study skills and high school performance standards.
- Introduce students to college and career information through a variety of activities, including completion of a career interest inventory, goal setting, and a field trip to a local college or university.

The program will run from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. four days a week (not Fridays) from **July 6 - July 30, 2009**. Breakfast and lunch will be provided as well as school bus transportation with designated pick-up and drop-off locations. If you want your child to receive maximum benefit during the 16 days of the program, we must work together to ensure their attendance and high level of involvement. Attendance will be closely monitored and students will be allowed only one absence, excused or unexcused, throughout the program. Commitment to the program is essential. The Prince George’s County Code of Student Conduct as well as any other school rules will be enforced while students are participating in any of the **“Jumpstart to Graduation”** activities.

Registration for **“Jumpstart to Graduation”** can be obtained from and returned to your child’s present middle school or future high school. There will be a box in the main office of the middle school where you may leave the registration form. Completed forms may also be mailed to the high school marked **“Attention: Jumpstart to Graduation”** or faxed to (301) 702-3886. For information about online registration or any questions about the program, contact the high school at (301)702-3900 ext 2028.

I look forward to meeting your child and getting him or her off to a positive start at Potomac High School.

Sincerely,

Donna Daniel, Principal

“Setting your Sights on 2013”