

October 11, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians of Spaulding Students;

The last week and a half was quite busy, even though students had some time off. One of the reasons for that time off was so that we could have a day for professional development. Here at the high school we wanted to take some time to work on Student Management.

In many respects, student management looks vastly different than it did when we started our teaching careers, and even different than it did in 2019. Students lost out on some important aspects of their development during COVID. Because of their isolation, they missed out on a number of the skills we need to work with others, to process behaviors, and to meet the expectations of the adults in their world. Our students are dealing with more mental health issues than ever before and as educators we need to work to hone our skills to be better able to manage our students and to focus on their educational needs. We spent October 6th working on those skills.

Another area that has been keeping us busy centers around student behavior with athletics. Spaulding High School has wonderful students and strong athletic programs. These students serve as ambassadors from Barre to other communities in Vermont, so it is very important that our athletes and their fans behave appropriately before, during, and after games. This means that we encourage and cheer on both effort and strong play but do not target our opponents, players or their fans, with chants or inappropriate language. Students need to stay in designated "student areas" which are located to allow students to stand up and cheer without impacting the view of spectators who wish to remain seated. As we move into the final portion of the fall season, with playoffs and our winter and spring seasons ahead, we need to all be aware of our behavior and how it impacts our teams and community. With the support of all, we can show the rest of Vermont what we know to be true of our teams and fan base...that Barre has some of the best and that we believe in our teams.

And finally, a quick reminder that Spaulding High School has a requirement for Community Service hours for graduation. Fall is a great time to pick up some of those hours by raking leaves for those who can no longer do so, participating in activities like SHS Student Council's "Trunk or Treat," or seeking other volunteer opportunities, and then submitting <u>this linked form</u> for documentation.

Yours in education, the Spaulding Administration team,

*Luke Aither* Luke Aither, Principal Marlon Maylor Marlon Maylor, Principal *Mari Goodridge Miller* Mari Goodridge Miller, Assistant Principal