



WEST MORRIS CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

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Summer Greeting August 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student,

Student growth, development of maturity and acceptance of responsibility are goals we are constantly striving to assist our young people to develop. Every day we work to establish a meaningful environment of learning here at West Morris Central. In a true community, people realize their responsibility to each other, contribute to the welfare of all and act in ways to enhance the common good.

With these principles in mind, our total school environment should foster the development of student self-direction and student awareness of his/her social responsibility. School involves more than a series of learning tasks. As young people grow into young adulthood during their high school years, they need the structure of a consistent pattern of expectations in relation to their behavior. We need to foster codes of behavior that mandate that our students constantly examine their actions, behaviors and choices in relation to their impact on themselves and on others.

We are always working to come up with ways to enhance the development of a young person's sense of responsibility. We have been using an approach that allows students to make choices in a personally responsible way about the use of any unassigned school time. This use of unassigned class time has been called Individual Responsibility Time (IRT). In the past, a student who had unassigned class time would automatically be assigned to an IRT.

Individual Responsibility Time (IRT) is a privilege that must be constantly maintained through academic effort and proper behavior; it will be extended to qualified students in grades 10, 11 and 12; it refers to having an opportunity to choose to use unassigned class time in a responsible way.

Qualifications:

- Must be in grades 10, 11, 12
- Must maintain satisfactory attendance/lateness
- Must abide by school discipline rules
- Must carry at least seven courses

IRT Procedures

All students must report to the cafeteria at the beginning of the period for attendance purposes. Students will be given an extra 3 minutes to sign up and go to various student service locations in the building including:

- Guidance
- Library/Media Center
- Resource Centers
- Teacher's Rooms
- Offices

Students are to remain in that location unless they receive a pass from a teacher/counselor to return to the cafeteria.

Consequences:

- Students who violate school rules and IRT rules will be assigned to an academic study hall.
- Students who are in danger of failing a course during a marking period may be assigned to an academic study hall until sufficient progress is shown toward overcoming a particular failing situation.
- Students who are withdrawn failing because of absences, cuts or serious infractions will be assigned to an academic study hall.

We hope this opportunity and these guidelines serve to stimulate an acceptance of personal responsibility on the part of our students. We also hope that this atmosphere of trust and confidence in our young people enhances their academic growth and cultivates the development of a genuine community of learning here at West Morris Central.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Braun". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Ed Braun
Assistant Principal

P.S. If you do not want your son/daughter to have use of Individual Responsibility Time (IRT) and would prefer an assignment to a traditional study hall, please call our counseling office by the last week in August so a study can be assigned.