STRATFORD HIGH SCHOOL

245 King Street • Stratford, Connecticut 06615-5887 • (203) 385-4230 • Fax: (203) 381-2021 • www.stratfordk12.org/o/shs

August, 2026

# Welcome to the 2026–2027 School Year!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to another exciting school year at Stratford High School. Whether you are returning for another year or joining us for the first time, we are excited to have you as part of the SHS family. A very special welcome to the Class of 2030; we can't wait to watch you begin your high school journey and create your own legacy over the next four years.

Our faculty and staff have spent the summer preparing for your return, and we are eager to begin another year of learning, growth, and achievement. We look forward to partnering with our families to ensure every student has the support, opportunities, and encouragement they need to succeed.

I am also proud to share that Stratford High School has once again been recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of the nation's Best High Schools, marking our eighth consecutive year receiving this distinction. This recognition reflects the dedication of our students, staff, families, and community. While we celebrate this accomplishment, our focus remains on continuous improvement and providing every student with an exceptional educational experience.

At Stratford High School, teaching and learning remain at the center of everything we do. Our goal extends beyond helping students earn a diploma, we are committed to preparing them to thrive in college, careers, military service, and life.

An essential part of that success is consistent attendance. Every day matters. Learning happens through classroom instruction, collaboration with peers, participation in school activities, and meaningful relationships with teachers. Students who attend school regularly are better positioned to reach their full potential.

We encourage every student to arrive each day ready to learn, contribute, and make the most of every opportunity Stratford High School has to offer.

Our work is guided by the Stratford Public Schools' Portrait of a Graduate, a district-wide vision developed in partnership with the BARR Foundation. This initiative defines the knowledge, skills, and dispositions we believe every graduate should possess before leaving Stratford High School.

Throughout their high school experience, students will develop and demonstrate growth in five essential competencies:

- **Communicator**
- **Collaborator**
- **Lifelong Learner**
- **Compassionate and Engaged Community Member**
- **Solution-Driven Problem Solver**

These competencies are intentionally woven throughout students' academic experiences and serve as the foundation for preparing graduates who are ready to succeed in an ever-changing world. As part of our Mastery-Based Credit requirements, students will regularly reflect on their growth in each of these areas.

Student schedules will be available on Friday, August 21st through the Parent Portal at 3 p.m. We encourage students and families to review schedules before the opening of school. Printed schedules will also be distributed during **Advance** on the first day. Families should also log into their parent portal account to update forms that are due. Instructions are provided: Portal Forms

**Advance** is an important part of every student's day. In addition to fostering strong relationships with staff and classmates, it provides students with opportunities to reflect on their learning and complete work connected to our Mastery-Based Credit graduation requirements.

Students should arrive at school by 7:30 a.m**.** each day to ensure a smooth and successful start.

The Stratford High School Student Handbook will be available online and reviewed with students during the opening days of school. We encourage families to review the handbook together so that everyone has a clear understanding of our expectations for safety, responsibility, respect, and academic integrity.

The handbook is available on the Stratford High School website.
https://www.stratfordk12.org/o/shs

Students will also receive a handbook acknowledgment form that must be signed by both the student and a parent or guardian and returned as soon as possible.

One of the greatest predictors of a successful high school experience is involvement. Students who participate in athletics, clubs, music, theater, leadership opportunities, service organizations, and other extracurricular activities often build stronger relationships, develop valuable life skills, and create lasting memories.

My challenge to every student is simple: find something that connects you to Stratford High School. Step outside your comfort zone. Attend a game. Join a club. Audition for a play. Volunteer. Run for student government. Try something new.

Four years pass quickly. We want every graduate to look back with pride, not wishing they had done more, but knowing they embraced every opportunity available to them.

For the 2026-2027 school year both Stratford and Bunnell High school will continue to run an eight drop three (8 drop 3) schedule. We still believe that this rotating schedule will allow both teachers and students to spend more quality time on teaching and learning in a format that allows time for deeper learning and high quality projects and assessments. A more detailed schedule will be sent but below is a chart of our new schedule. Starting each day with our Advance period allows students to transition from home to school on a daily basis. Students are required to attend Advance on a daily basis.

| **Mon - Thurs** | | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7:30-7:43 | 13 min | Advance | Advance | Advance | Advance | Advance |
| 7:47 - 8:54 | 67 min | 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 | |
| 8:58 - 10:05 | 67 min | 2 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| 10:09 - 11:16 | 67 min | 3 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| 11:20- 1:04 | 74 min | 4 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 7 |
| 1:08 - 2:15 | 67 min | 5 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| | **Drop** | **6,7,8** | **3,4,5** | **1,2,8** | **5,6,7** | **1,2,3,4** |

Each student has been assigned a school counselor who will serve as an important source of support throughout their high school journey. During the first full week of school, students will have the opportunity to meet their assigned counselor and learn about the many academic, social emotional, and college and career planning services available to them.

We encourage students to reach out to their counselor whenever they have questions, concerns, or need assistance by contacting them via email. Counselors are also available to meet with students during study hall periods or after school.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to partner with our counseling department and may schedule an appointment with their child's counselor by email or by calling the Counseling Department at 203-385-4235 between 7:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m.

A breakdown of the school counselor split is below:

| Counselor | ALPHA Split |
|---|---|
| **Kobza, Hailey**<br>**kobzah@stratk12.org** | Grade 9 **A - C**<br>Grade 10 **A - Bro**<br>Grade 11 **A - C**<br>Grade 12 **A - Che** |
| **Tyler, Nate**<br>**tylern@stratk12.org** | Grade 9 **D - How**<br>Grade 10 **Bu - Fel**<br>Grade 11 **D - Her**<br>Grade 12 **Co - Gas** |
| **Seperack, Lisa**<br>**seperackl@stratk12.org** | Grade 9 **H - O**<br>Grade 10 **Fig - Law**<br>Grade 11 **How - Mel**<br>Grade 12 **Gla - Mej** |
| **Toth, Betsy**<br>**tothb@stratk12.org** | Grade 9 **P - Sp**<br>Grade 10 **Les - Rob**<br>Grade 11 **Mes - Rey**<br>Grade 12 **Mir - Roc** |
| **DiDonato, Dawn**<br>**didonatod@stratk12.org** | Grade 9 **St - Z**<br>Grade 10 **Roj - Z**<br>Grade 11 **Riv - Z**<br>Grade 12 **Rod - Z** |

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL CLASS RESPONSIBILITIES

| Tabitha Cruz | Samantha Pugh | Jack Petion |
|---|---|---|
| Grade 12<br>Grade 9 (A - G) | Grade 10<br>Grade 9 (P - Z) | Grade 11<br>Grade 9 (H - O) |

## TRANSPORTATION

Bus routes, when finalized, will be posted at: https://www.stratfordk12.org/page/transportation

## CAFETERIA

Students will have the option to purchase both breakfast and lunch on a daily basis. Breakfast will be available from 7:20 a.m. to 7:40 a.m. and will be free for everyone for the 2026-2027 school year. Lunch for the school will cost $3.50; if the student qualifies for reduced meals, then they will also receive free lunch. All students will have a 26 minute lunch period built into their daily schedule. Free and reduced meals are an option for those who qualify. Please take time to fill out this application to help determine eligibility. I have included the link to the Stratford Public Schools website and all relevant information below. https://www.stratfordk12.org/o/sps/page/food-services. A new lunch application must be submitted for each school year if you qualify for free or reduced lunch and should be submitted no later than October 10th (end of carryover period).

## ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in a student's academic success and overall high school experience. Simply put, being in school matters. Every day provides valuable opportunities for learning, collaboration, and building meaningful relationships with teachers and classmates. We encourage all students to make attendance a priority and to come to school every day, ready to learn.

Course credit is awarded only when students meet the minimum attendance requirements for each course, and students are expected to attend all classes in which they are enrolled.

This summer, the Stratford Board of Education adopted a revised Attendance Policy (Policy 5113) outlining expectations and requirements for student attendance. We encourage all families to review the policy carefully. Below are some of the key highlights from Board of Education Policy 5113.

**High School Requirements**

**Full Year Courses:** Eighteen Absence Limit - Students may not receive course credit for a full-year course if they are absent for more than eighteen (18) class periods during the school year.

**Half Year Courses:** Ten Absence Limit - Students may not receive course credit for a half-year course if they are absent for more than ten (10) classes

All absences from class will be included in this total except those absences incurred while students are participating in school-sponsored activities, approved community activities and/or essential administrative business.

**Unexcused Tardies to School**
If a student arrives at school late without notification from their parent or guardian then they will be marked "Tardy Unexcused". Every three (3) unexcused tardies will count as one (1) unexcused absence from school.

**Unexcused Tardies to Class**
Every three (3) unexcused tardies to any scheduled class will count as one (1) class absence. For this purpose, an unexcused absence is defined by any student who arrives without a pass excusing their tardiness by a staff member

Students who exceed the maximum number of allowable days absent may lose credit for the course and have their grade changed to an FA (failure due to absence) and will not be allowed to attend dances, after-school celebrations or school-sponsored activities until the FA is removed. The administration will consider unusual circumstances should a student choose to appeal the FA. The student/family will be responsible for providing documentation to support their appeal. The outcome of the appeal may result in an attendance plan for the student which could include making up time with the teacher of record, community service hours, etc. If the FA remains with no action by the student or family, it can only be removed through the appeal process.

If you are absent from school for any reason, it is necessary that your parent or guardian call to inform the school. Parents may call the school attendance line at 203-385-4234. Excused absences still count toward the maximum number of absences permitted to receive credit in high school courses. Coming to school on a daily basis is fundamental to the success of every student. Please work with us to ensure your child attends school and all scheduled classes, including Advance, on a regular basis.

## TARDY TO SCHOOL

Students will be considered tardy if they arrive after 7:30 a.m. Students who are tardy must sign in at the attendance office. If a student arrives at school late without notification from their parent or guardian, then they will be marked "Tardy Unexcused". Every three (3) unexcused tardies will count as one (1) unexcused absence from school. That absence will count towards the number of absences as defined by the Attendance Policy referenced above.

## BEHAVIOR

A positive, respectful, and safe school climate is essential for effective teaching and learning to occur. For this reason, all members of the Stratford High School community are expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior, respect for others, and personal responsibility at all times, both during the school day and at school sponsored events.

When a student's behavior becomes disruptive, unsafe, or interferes with the learning environment, the school will respond with appropriate support and interventions designed to help the student reflect, make positive choices, and grow. Our teachers, counselors, and administrators will work collaboratively with students and families to address concerns and provide guidance while maintaining high expectations for behavior.

We encourage all families to review Stratford Public Schools' Code of Conduct to ensure a shared understanding of the expectations that help make our school a welcoming, respectful, and successful community for all.

https://www.stratfordk12.org/o/shs/page/code-of-conduct

## CELL PHONES

The Stratford Public Schools recently updated their Cell Phone Policy; please see the highlights of that policy below:

### High School Students

- **Devices OFF and in designated secure storage containers** during ALL class periods
- Storage required for entire class period, including study halls
- Students can use devices **between classes** and **during lunch** only
- Must store devices even when leaving the classroom temporarily (bathroom, etc.)

A copy of all BOE policies can be found here.
https://www.stratfordk12.org/documents/board-of-education/policies/300711

## EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION

This phone based alert service enables the Stratford Public Schools to call two phone numbers to notify students' families concerning important information. If you are interested in receiving emergency notification via phone, email or text message, you must register through Powerschool. Specific registration information will be forthcoming.

## ENTRANCE AND EXIT PROCEDURES

Students should enter the building based on how they arrive at school:

Bus students: Enter the school from the bus loop located in the back of the King Street Campus (where the bus drops the students off)

Walkers and Parent Drop off Students: Enter the school through the main entrance located at the main entrance of the King Street Campus.

Student Drivers: Enter in the North Parade Campus under the arch entryway from the old SHS.

At the end of the day, students should exit the building through the same doors they enter the building.

## EARLY DISMISSAL PROCEDURE

We understand that it is sometimes necessary for a student to leave school before the end of a school day. If you must have your child leave early for an appointment that cannot be scheduled after school hours, please call the main office and provide one of our secretaries with the reason for the request for early dismissal, time of dismissal, your child's full name and grade, and your name. Once verified, your child will receive a pass to exit the building. Calling the school to release your child early should be reserved for emergencies only. The use of cell phones is prohibited during the school day. Parents should not call or text their children on their cell phones while they are in school.

Also, please call school to leave a message for your child only in an emergency. Stratford High School serves about 1100 students. It is not possible, nor in the best interest of education, to disrupt learning in order to give students personal messages.

## STUDENT INFORMATION

If you have changed your telephone number during the summer, please correct the information on the emergency contact form available through your parent portal. The same procedure should be followed if changes occur during the year. If you have any questions, please contact the office and discuss your questions with us. Again, your cooperation is most important in this matter.

## VISITORS

In the event you need to drop something off, please state your intentions at the buzzer located in the front of SHS and we will take the item through the pass through window. All exterior doors are locked. If there are any questions, please feel free to call the school office at 203-385-4230.

IMPORTANT SCHOOL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

| | |
|---|---|
| Main Office | 203-385-4230 (Press 1) |
| Attendance Office (absence line 24 hours) | 203-385-4234 (Press 2) |
| Nurse's Office | 203-385-4233 (Press 6) |
| Guidance Office | 203-385-4235 (Press 4) |
| Athletic Office | 203-385-4240 (Press 7) |

## PTSA

Amy Wiltsie is the PTSA President of the SHS PTSA; she is joined by:
Jaime Farrell & Tralicia Ray- Vice President
Mike Marchetti - Secretary

Brooke Miron - Treasurer
Payton Farrell - Membership Chair

The PTSA gives out scholarships to graduating seniors, contributes to Link Crew, Post Prom, Drama Society, Teacher Appreciation, SHS Spirit Apparel and communicates all info to members related to SHS events. To be eligible for a PTSA senior scholarship, a student or parent must be a member. Look for the insert in the opening school packet being sent to your email. Please get involved and help support the students at Stratford High School.

## STANDARDS OF DRESS

A great variety of dress and grooming are part of the high school scene today; however, at Stratford High School the students must avoid extremes in fashion and dress in good taste.

Parents generally insist that their children be well groomed, and we support them in this regard. Adequate preparation and training in the area of proper dress, public habits and manners are all part of good appearance vital to our young people during and after their formal education.

The Stratford Board of Education is currently receiving their dress code policy and we will share it with you as soon as it is finalized. Until then, we will be operating under the existing policy which can be found here, Dress Code.

## STUDENT PARKING

Students with permits may park their cars in assigned spaces provided in the King Street parking lot. Students may not park in areas designated for staff use. Students are not permitted to park on campus if they do not have a school issued parking pass. The student parking fee is $50.00 annually and will be offered to seniors on a first come first serve basis. If there are remaining spots, they will be made available to juniors. Seniors and their families will be notified in advance of the parking permit sales date. Please check your email.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

A general list of school supplies is posted on the SHS website. Your child's teachers will provide any specific supplies needed for their course when school begins.

Our website https://www.stratfordk12.org/o/shs, is updated often and contains a great deal of valuable information for our families. Please reference it often.

## SCHOOL STORE

We have a small school store with some essentials for students as they begin their high school experience.  Please access the link here.

## SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CLINIC

Once again, we are incredibly grateful for the outstanding work of Angela Matera, RN, who oversees the Stratford High School School-Based Health Center. Angela plays a vital role in supporting the health and well-being of our students by providing accessible, high quality healthcare services right here on campus. As the new school year approaches, we encourage families to take advantage of the School Based Health Center for school physicals, ensuring students meet health requirements and are ready to begin the year. School physicals completed at the health center are convenient, comprehensive, and help eliminate barriers to receiving essential healthcare, allowing students to stay healthy, engaged, and prepared for success. Please scan the QR code on the flier below to register.

Together, let's make the 2026–2027 school year one filled with learning, achievement, kindness, and school pride.

On behalf of our entire faculty and staff, welcome back. We are excited to begin another outstanding year with you. Enjoy the remaining days of summer and we look forward to seeing you on Thursday, August 27, 2026.

Have a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,
Jack Dellapiano
Principal

Community Health Center, Inc.

SBHC

School-Based Health Center

# It's That Time Of Year Again

**Stratford High School**

in partnership with Community Health Center, Inc.'s

**School-Based Health Center**

will be hosting annual

**Back to School Physicals**

*Call your SBHC Operations Coordinator to schedule an appointment Today!*

## 475-231-6978

SCAN ME

