

Dear Manchester High School community,

As we approach the end of the calendar year and the midway point of our school year, it is a great time to reflect on our experiences.

This has been a rewarding school year so far. Our students continue to impress me with their talents, their energy, their attitudes and especially with how they care about each other and take pride in our school. Like any community we have our strengths and weaknesses, but I know that our students are resilient, optimistic and will come through when it matters most. Whether it's in classrooms, on the stage in Bailey Auditorium, on our new turf field or other sports venues, or elsewhere, I am continually seeing students distinguishing themselves in ways that make us all proud. The same is true for our staff and the rest of the MHS community. We have a lot to be both grateful and thankful for.

We continue to celebrate our diversity, recently being named the 2nd most diverse high school in CT. I always say we represent "the best of America." We also celebrate the multiple opportunities our students have to take college courses, whether it is through AP, MCC or UConn ECE courses. UConn just recognized MHS as the high school with the 2nd highest number of students taking ECE courses.

We also can look ahead optimistically. We have been working hard to make sure that students have the chance to personalize their learning, starting with having students be part of a learning community (for example, our academies in grade 10-12 and teams in the Freshman Center), or through the Academy Seminars or other specialized classes. We are excited to give many students, including all of our freshmen, a chance to visit college campuses so that they will be even more motivated to make the most of their abilities as they prepare for life after high school.

As we move into January, we can look forward to mid-year exams then second semester, which always seems to pass quickly. The weather will get warmer and before you know it we will be getting ready for proms and graduation.

For those of you who celebrate holidays this month, I wish you a wonderful holiday season. As we enter the winter break, I hope you find time to rest, have fun, and to spend quality time with your family and friends. Happy New Year everyone!

Principal Jill Krieger