Dear Westside Families,

I'm Mrs. Hubbard, your 9th grade assistant principal, and I’m so excited to officially welcome you and your student to Westside High School!

This year, we’re introducing **Launch9**, a schoolwide initiative designed to support your child’s transition into high school. Launch9 is all about helping students build identity, find belonging, and gain momentum from the very beginning.

*Why does 9th grade matter so much?*

* Students who finish 9th grade on track are 4x more likely to graduate on time
* 9th grade GPA is a better predictor of college success than test scores
* Students connected to a caring adult at school are twice as likely to stay engaged

*(Sources: UChicago Consortium, Search Institute, The Make or Break Year)*

**Things to Know**

1. ‎ **9th Grade Parent Orientation (flyer attached)**

**Date**: Thursday, July 31

**Time**: 4:00–6:00 PM

**Location**: Westside Gym

This event is different from Open House and is designed just for parents/guardians of freshmen. We’ll talk about what to expect this year, how to support your student, and how to get connected.

If you can't attend in person, no worries! We’ll post the information online afterward so you don’t miss a thing.

**2. Join Our Launch9 Remind**

We’ll use Remind to send quick updates, tips, and reminders throughout the year. To sign up for Westside Launch9 (Cohort 2029) notifications, please visit <https://www.remind.com/join/amandahub>

You can also text @amandahub to 81010 to join.

*Please note:****Remind is not a full communication platform****—just quick tips and updates from me. For full schoolwide announcements, make sure you’re listening to****Dr. Middleton’s Sunday evening calls****, where she shares all the important info each week.*

I’m honored to partner with you and your student during this important first year of high school. If you have questions or need anything along the way, don’t hesitate to reach out.

We’re looking forward to a strong start to help every student take off with confidence.

See you soon!

Mrs. Hubbard